

**CIVL PROPOSAL:
Live-Tracking at FAI 1 & FAI 2 competitions.**

The Austrian NAC 'AERO-CLUB' would like to do a proposal about the misuse/doping with live-tracking recording at FAI 1 & FAI 2 competitions.

Since about four years live-tracking transmitters are on the market which are showing the current 'live' position of pilots. No doubt this technical data instrument can be seen as another improvement concerning the safety in hang gliding. After landing the pilot can send text messages from the live tracker if he/she would need help or just saying 'landed safe'.

Also public wise and for the interested audience who would like to follow certain competition events online this technology brings spectators right into the game and therefore the race right into any living room worldwide. Also marketing wise it is a chance to promote this high altitude outdoor sport like hang gliding to a bigger audience or sponsors!

But behind any good side there is also a bad side behind it. Sadly this tool can be also misused for better performances of pilots who are currently racing the competition! With a good technical setup of certain instruments like smartphones, radio and GPS support it gets quite easy to give informations from the ground crew further on to pilots flying the same competition at the same time. This influences tactics, strategies and flying decisions of pilots and therefore the results. Further on it can be also called cheating!

Before this unsportsmanlike and cheating way of competing will get more and more common – certain nationalities and team leaders are practicing this already since years – the Austrian AERO CLUB finally wants to do a big veto against this data misuse!

To solve this problem it should come to a time delay of transmitting the live-tracking. Flying decisions and its outcome of flying positions and current ranking of pilots, especially in between the leading gaggle and the top 10 pilots, result within minutes. Regarding to the average thermal intervals, thermal activity and cloud building (thermal activity also at blue days) in relation to the average speed of competition pilots between 30 to 45 kph at an average day, we suggest to do a standard time delay of **minimum fifteen minutes**. This is also the standard time interval of start gates which are used since many years and got to be the right time interval to split up the field, to make the start procedures fair for every competitor or to choose different tactics concerning an earlier or later race into goal pending on weather conditions.

Like the past has shown the first argument of others are always concerning this safety reason which live tracking is bringing to a competition. Well, before these mobile phones and GPS navigations there have been also held safe competitions and nobody complained! Firstly it is up to the task- and safety committee to put up safe tasks with safe landing options, and not to live tracking at first hand. It is still a nice tool to complete and support a competition but not the main instrument to argue about safety blindly. Conclusion: live-tracking is good to have but neither to smaller safety concernings nor to enlarge doping options at any point!

Thank you!

On behalf of the AUT NAC, CIVL Delegate

