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Inspired by Benedict Saury

Proposal: Introducing a new allocation procedure for female pilots in cat. 1 events.

I decided to put together this proposal as I'm concerned about the decreasing number of female pilots participating in the first category events. Obviously, it is connected with higher requirements for selection, general situation in competition scene (the insecurity about gliders and changes in gliders we use in competitions, problems with small gliders and so on).

The proposal:

We propose to separate the selection process of female pilots from the selection of male pilots.

Qualification criteria:

Experience requirements the same as for male pilots. Currently: ranked in top 400 of WPRS or 45 points for achieved result for a comp in WPRS.

Selection process:

The selection continues as described in 3.2.1 of SC7B **until the teams reach the number of pilots constituting a national team** (defined in the Local Regulations of a given comp, recently 4+1). Then the next allocation round is reserved for female pilots. The place allocated to the female pilot in this round cannot be filled by a male pilot. Then the allocation continues as before (without gender-specific places) until the maximum number of pilots is reached or until 60 days before the first planned flying day of the Championship.

Explanation:

This way a first category event will probably include all top ranked female pilots and make the competition more interesting for them. With a higher quality for the winner.

Due to a low number of participants the significance of the female podium is not as high as in the past years.

In some countries like Poland if there are no 10 participants in the European or World Championship, achieved result doesn't count for the Ministry of Sports.

On the other hand, organisers often struggle with filling up the comps. My proposal offers a possibility to help both the pilots and the organisers.

Currently some countries, like France, Italy or Germany need to choose if to send another top performing guy or a girl. Proposed allocation system will eliminate this hesitation.

I believe with this proposal the number of high level female participants in cat.1 competitions can be increased, simultaneously motivating women from further places in national ranking to train harder, improve their level and compete to reach top 400 WPRS.

Right now if there is one top girl in the country often there is no more support or space for another one. I believe that introduction of this proposal will create more interest in supporting female paragliding from national organizations side, since it will improve both the performance and number of female pilots.

Another reason for changing current rules is that some countries, like France, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic have two female pilots competing on equal level and sometimes just luck in one event decides which one will represent the country.

Finally, the social atmosphere is better when there are more women around.

Some statistics:

European Champs 2014 - only 9 female participants.

Worlds 2015 - only 11 female participants.

Analysis of the FAI female ranking

By 01.11.2013	by 01.11.2014	by 01.11.2015
17	21 women in top 400 WPRS	13 women in top 400 WPRS
	France 2	2
	Switzerland 1	0
	Italy 2	2
	Germany 2	2
	UK 2	1
	Colombia 1	0
	Poland 1	1
	Japan 4	3
	Russia 2	1
	Venezuela 2	0
	Czech Republic 1	1

I wasn't looking if there are girls with 45 WPRS points for a single event, but probably in the last 3 years there will be some.

As you can see above, there is significant decrease in number of female pilots present in the top 400 WPRS. It is hard for me to analyse why it happened. In past years the number was about 16 pilots.

As a conclusion from above we see that with current rule there will probably be only 7 female pilots representing their countries in Europeans in Macedonia.

Therefore, I would like you to introduce the proposed change in the selection process.

Kind regards
Klaudia Bulgakow