

CASI 4 Tier Working Group Interim ReportFor ASC Presidents Meeting May 2014

As you will recall about a year ago the Executive Board (EB) tasked CASI to undertake the redrafting of part of the General Section (GS) to incorporate a 4 tier competition structure. This was to expand the existing 2 tier structure and specifically to include high profile special events. This had been the subject within the EB and with others, including at the ASC May 2012 ASC Presidents Meeting. When the CASI President consulted with CASI members there was a general view that consideration of changes to the GS should be delayed until further experience had been obtained on the impact of events involving FAME and some clear justification had emerged. The response to this was a directive from the EB for CASI to provide a proposal. A Working Group was set up to propose the necessary changes to the GS. This consisted of myself, Bengt Lindgren, Patrice Girardin.

The EB requirement was obtained from the FAI Central Office with further advice from Bob Henderson, as EB Member responsible for FAME. This resulted in a draft change. This was completed shortly before the CASI Plenary Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Details of the current wording of the relevant part of the GS and the proposed version based on the information obtained from the FAI Office and RH are included as an Annex.

At the CASI Meeting the most charitable conclusion was that there was no enthusiasm for this proposal. I believe I made the comment don't shoot the messenger. It was sent back to the Working Party for further consideration. At my request the Working Group was strengthened by the addition of an ASC President and Richard Meredith-Hardy kindly volunteered to take that role.

The Working Group has now considered the matter again, including considering the reaction from the CASI Meeting. Based on this we are unable to see any advantages of a change at this stage from the current arrangement and alternatives all seem to have disadvantages, including the diminishing of the status of current Cat 1 and Cat 2 events which are held in large numbers worldwide. The use of these varies between Commissions and has known status to offer valuable opportunities for sponsorship and funding for the organisers. Recent special events have been able to be held by individual or collective Sports Commissions within this structure. This position is compounded by the current uncertain policy direction of FAME and if any new strategy is to be developed by the new Secretary General and Sports and Marketing Director for consideration by EB and General Conference, and subsequent approval. This means that any short term proposal to change the competition and event structure, even if justified, could be subject to further change in the short term.

We believe that within CASI it is the ASC Presidents who have the primary interest in the FAI competition and event structure. We have not been able to obtain any great enthusiasm for an immediate change to the present content of the GS. It is almost impossible to believe that CASI would agree to any GS change on this issue if it did not have the full support of the ASC Presidents.

It is intended to add this issue to the Agenda of the forthcoming May meeting of the ASC Presidents and we would like a decision to be made at it: Either reject the 4 tier idea completely at this stage - or to continue with it in some form.

Should the decision be to continue with the task then the Working Group needs further guidance on the requirement. This would need more detail in the end, to which the Working Group could contribute, but initially would include

- How many levels are required?
- What is included at each Level?
- Do we retain current terminology of Cat 1 and Cat 2 within it?

- Is there a need for an event classification without assigning a defined status (level) relative to other events?

The Working Group would of course then liaise further with both the ASC Presidents and the NAC Members within CASI to obtain and expound on their views, and at a suitable time also consult with the EB to avoid surprises at the next CASI Meeting.

Mike Close

Chairman CASI 4 Tier Working Group

23rd April 2014

ANNEX

The current event structure within the GS is

First Category Events

- World Air Games, as approved by the General Conference.
- World and Continental Regional Championships, as approved by the FAI Air Sport Commissions concerned and confirmed by the Executive Board as part of their approval of the FAI Sporting Calendar (Statute 4.2.2.11 refers).
- International Sporting Events approved by the FAI Air Sport Commissions concerned.

Second Category Events

- Other international sporting events organized by or under the authorisation of NACs.

The new requirement as put forward from the FAI Central Office with further advice from Bob Henderson resulted in a draft change to the following structure.

Tier/Level 1 Events

- World Air Games, as approved by the General Conference.
- World Multi Sport Events as approved by the FAI Executive Board

Tier/Level 2 Events

- FAI First Category Events
- World and Continental Regional Championships, as approved by the FAI Air Sport Commissions concerned and confirmed by the Executive Board as part of their approval of the FAI Sporting Calendar
- International Sporting Events approved by the FAI Air Sport Commissions concerned.

Tier/Level 3 Events

- Marquee Events whether organised as a single event or a series of events held using the same rules.

Tier/Level 4 Events

- FAI Second Category Events
- Other international sporting events organized by or under the authorisation of NACs