

Subject:	Report of the Chief Judge on 9 th FAI WCCP, Dubai	Annex No.:	30
Author:	Craig Bennett, Chief Judge	Agenda Ref:	15.2.1
Date:	01 December 2017	Total pages:	4

Chief Judges Report

9th FAI World Cup of Canopy Piloting 2017 (9th FAI WC CP 2017) in Dubai

I arrived on the 23rd, Event Judges 24th, panel Judges on the 25th.
Judges conference on 26th, including the 3 trainees.

Judging Staff:

Chief Judge	Craig Bennett
Event Judges Speed	Bernard Nicolas
Distance	Marylou Laughlin
Accuracy	Bjorn Korth
Panel Judges	Neil McGrath
	Christina Zacho
	Julia Sotnikova
Additional Judges	Gundel Klement
	Nina Engel

94 competitors, from 24 Countries. 2 withdrew during competition.

Competition time window was 7:30am – 11am each morning. Rejumps were allocated to normal tandem operations aircraft, maximum of 2 per load.

The Competition period was:

28/11/17	Speed (3 rounds)
29/11/17	Drag Distance (2 rounds)
30/11/17	Zone Accuracy (3 rounds)
1/12/17	Max Distance (Rd3 distance event)
	2 x rounds Freestyle

2 Yellow cards were given during the competition. One for not exiting the course in a timely manner (rule 5.6.1), and one for erratic canopy handling (rule 5.6.2). One protest was handed to the Jury, and was denied.

Summary:

The Event was run well, and all assistance that could be provided from the organizer generally was provided. Communications with the Meet Director/Assistant Meet Director were excellent, and all decisions regarding the scheduling of the competition were consultative.

The Technical Course Director supplied an excellent course for the judges, and requests from the judges were handled quickly and efficiently. Course maintenance staff were also excellent.

Subject:	Report of the Chief Judge on 9 th FAI WCCP, Dubai	Annex No.:	30
Author:	Craig Bennett, Chief Judge	Agenda Ref:	15.2.1
Date:	01 December 2017	Total pages:	4

The weather was the major contributing factor to getting this competition completed, given the short time window we were allotted for competition.

2 World Records were set during the competition, and several Continental/NAC records.

Results:

Results were handed to the Jury and Media Liason as soon as possible after the completion of events, with live updates of unconfirmed scores being posted directly to the internet where possible. This worked well.

Overall results:

2017 Gold Medal Winner	Nicholas Batsch	USA
Silver	Cornelia Mihai	UAE
Bronze	Mohammed Baker	UAE

Event Summaries:

Speed:

The Speed Event was run well, with a cutaway giving some delays. The competitors canopy was lost, and the rejump/jumps were done on normal operation tandem loads with a borrowed canopy.

A bird strike within the course resulted in a rejump being awarded.

The fastest time set on the course was 2.054 seconds by Cedric Veiga Rios (FRA) in round 2.

Distance:

Another well run event, with another bird strike within the course resulting in a rejump. Two cutaways gave some delays. The competitors canopies were lost for a few hours, and the rejump/jumps were done on normal operation tandem loads.

The maximum distance set on the course was 175.99metres by Cedric Veiga Rios (FRA) in round 1.

The Max Distance Event caused some safety concerns amongst the judging staff, as this event had not been run for some years, and not with the canopies now in use. These concerns were handled constructively by the Meet Director and Technical Course Director, and steps were taken to provide addition barriers and surface management.

<i>Subject:</i>	Report of the Chief Judge on 9 th FAI WCCP, Dubai	Annex No.:	30
<i>Author:</i>	Craig Bennett, Chief Judge	Agenda Ref:	15.2.1
<i>Date:</i>	01 December 2017	Total pages:	4

The maximum distance set in Max Distance was 160.11metres by Sven Jseppi (CAN).

There is some confusion in the FAI records for the different categories of the Distance records. This needs to be addressed and rectified.

Zone Accuracy:

3 rounds were completed in the single morning, mostly at 2-5 knots into wind.

Excellent Course Management staff assisted hugely during this event. Zone Accuracy (along with Distance) is the most demanding on judge numbers.

The new 1metre Centre Box rule was used, which definitely tightened up the competition. 8 standup centre were still performed during the event.

Judge numbers:

The seven judges at the competition (Chief Judge, 3 x Event Judges, and 3 Panel Judges), could not have judged this competition, and the results provided (in my opinion) would not be accurate. We were able to run this competition successfully due to the 2 Additional Judges from Germany (Gundel Klements and Nina Engel) being there, and the 3 Trainee Judges being of an acceptable level, so that they could be used on the course, sometimes in positions without direct supervision. The 4 additional persons that were to be supplied by the organizer (rule 7.1.3.1) were not supplied, and the trainees and accompanying judges were used to fill these numbers.

I don't think that the current number of judges are adequate to run a World class competition properly, and that there should be a minimum panel level set at 5 panel judges at least, so that judges attending at their own costs are not relied upon.

The Judge Training Course was run well, and all trainees gained their FAI ratings. All trainees were put into judges roles during the competition, with supervision. The COJT seemed to have too many responsibilities during the competition however, and was also called on to judge/assist during competition.

Course Closings:

The Practice Course Closing (rule 5.4.4) was attended and received well by the competitors.

The course was closed three times during competition.

The Chief Judges briefing could have been clearer with regard to out landing procedures and areas for the competitors.

<i>Subject:</i>	Report of the Chief Judge on 9 th FAI WCCP, Dubai	<i>Annex No.:</i>	30
<i>Author:</i>	Craig Bennett, Chief Judge	<i>Agenda Ref:</i>	15.2.1
<i>Date:</i>	01 December 2017	<i>Total pages:</i>	4

Judging Conditions:

Toilets needed to be provided close to the course for judges. We were out at the pond some days for 3 hours without pause. This was an issue, especially given the low numbers of judges available at the competition.

The transport arrangements provided to the judges were excellent. The Trainee Judges being accommodated at the competitors hotel was an issue at times. They would have been better to be accommodated at the same hotel as the Judges. The same for Jury members I believe.

Records set during the event:

The Jury handled this process during the Competition. The new requirement that requires records to be submitted by the Chief Judge during the competition is onerous, and unclear. It requires additional work, which I believe is unnecessary, as all results are being posted as ratified and correct. This role would perhaps be better placed with either the Jury, or the FAI controller.

Summary of recommendations:

There is some confusion in the FAI records for the different categories of the Distance records. This needs to be addressed and rectified.

The minimum panel level should be set at 5 panel judges at least.

Toilets needed to be provided close to the course for judges. This should be checked in the bid documents.

The process of claiming records on behalf of the competitors would be better handled by the Jury, or FAI Controller.

Craig Bennett, Chief Judge
13/12/2017