

<i>Subject:</i>	IPC RECORDS OFFICER REPORT FOR 2016	Annex No. -	6
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<i>Date:</i>	30 November 2016	Total Pages -	1

## 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Parachute Commission

Faro, Portugal

Record Liaison Officer

2016 Annual Report

With the establishment of this position at the 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, I endeavored to improve the quality and rate of ratification of International Records throughout 2016. I have met with mixed results.

During 2016, a total of 83 Class G International Records of a large variety of record Types have been claimed with FAI Head Office. Many of the records remain in a status other than "Ratified."

In June, I was able to again visit FAI Head Office and support the work done there as regards ratification of records. This visit was a week long and resulted in the ratification of many long-standing dossiers from 2015 and clarifications involving many more. During this visit, a significant conversation between myself and the Secretary-General has resulted in a proposal to alter the duties of this office. A separate proposal has been submitted which details the changes.

The IPC Bureau undertook to negotiate a change in procedure with FAI Head Office as regards Sub-class 1 (Competition) records. These changes have been published as IBD-04 during 2016 and have been integrated into my recommended changes to SC5, Chapter 3. Results of these changes have been generally positive. However, change is seldom easy or comfortable. Feedback from the use of this new process has resulted in the clear need for some additional clarification of the process. I would like to thank the Bureau for pursuing these changes in the interests of parachutists and skydivers throughout the world.

Through the course of the year, it became clear to me that we have not been properly training and/or educating our judges about the required documents needed for record ratification. I have spoken at length with the International Judge Training Coordinator about this and additions to the training program are in development. In addition to changes in training, my recommendations for changes to SC5, Chapter 3 have sought to make the process easier to understand and easier to implement.

FAI Head Office continues to fall short of expectations in three major areas: speed of ratification, acceptance of electronic documentation, and corrections/changes to the database which drives the record search website. I believe it is in the interests of the Commission to not look to assign blame for this, but to focus on changing the status quo to improve the situation. The recommended changes to SC5, Chapter 3 address each of these issues in a direct fashion.

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IPC Records Liaison Officer