CIVL 2020 PLENARY – ANNEE 15
REPORT FROM PARAGLIDING ACCURACY COMMITTEE

By Riikka Vilkuna

General development during 2019

Paragliding accuracy continues to attract new countries and competition numbers are growing. This provides both possibilities and challenges to the discipline.

There was one category 1 event, the 10th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy Championship in September 2019 in Vršac, Serbia. We also had two test-events, one for the 4th FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championships and for the 7th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy Championship.

84 category 2 events were held (71 in 2018) in 32 countries (29 in 2018). In the World Pilot Ranking System (WPRS) there are 1970 pilots (at Nov 29th 2019) compared to 2034 pilots in 2018. 15.1% percent of the pilots are female, 5.9% are juniors and the pilots come from 57 countries.

Several North and South American countries are now working together and will launch a Pan-American Accuracy Cup in 2020.

Judging training is still in focus and seminars were held by the PGA committee members in Russia, Korea, Turkey, Romania, Kazakhstan, Serbia and in the UK. Material has been provided to countries where the discipline is relatively new.

Safety record of paragliding accuracy remains very good.

The CIVL’s target system was used at the World championships in Serbia. Automatic measuring devices will be in focus next year and the competitions as they are today are challenging to our target equipment robustness.

The Committee

27 people representing 18 countries are participating in paragliding accuracy discussions on Basecamp, the FAI’s web-based project management tool. The committee has been very active during the year and discussed issues such as the upcoming rule change proposals, diverse issues with scoring principles, size of measuring field, development in new countries and judging.

The committee continues to organise Pilots’ meetings at category 1 events and otherwise at category 2 events when possible. These meetings provide a platform to inform and to have a dialogue with the people who are involved in the sport as competitors, team leaders, organizers or officials.
Summary of activity since last Plenary

The CIVL PG committee representatives organised a judging seminar in conjunction with the World Championships. Training material has been distributed to people who can train judges at national level. There have also been several national training seminars in conjunction with category 2 competitions.

The 11th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy Championships was held in Vršac, Serbia 15th-25th of September 2019. The event with 131 pilots from 28 nations was successful. For the first time, a nation from the Americas (Colombia) took a medal in a Category 1 event.

The test event for the 4th FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championship in Tekeli, Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan was completed successfully. Some work needs to be done on communication and organisational issues before the event next year.

The test event for the 7th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy championship was run by an experienced team, but with a small number of competitors. Two take off methods will be used next year which means the rules need to be adjusted. Otherwise the organisation is well equipped for the category 1 event.

The committee has discussed changes to Section 7C during autumn and a proposal is put forward to the Plenary 2020. The proposal does not include big changes for next season but the committee has identified a need to start a discussion on future rules during 2020 flying and competition season.

The CIVL has invested in a whole paragliding accuracy target system from the company Texair. Some modifications will be done together with the manufacturer before the next competition season.

There is a growing interest in organizing Category 2 and Category 1 events in newer PGA countries and there is a need to focus on helping and training new organisers and officials.

CIVL has had problems with the PGAWC since 2015, the latest one being with the 2019 Wasserkuppe, which has not been ranked because Cat 2 rules were not followed.