

**Competitors Sub Committee (CSC) Agenda
2018 Meeting – Mallorca, SPA**

- Andrew Baird USA Present Chair
- Paolo Oggioni ITA Present
- Gerald Sturzlinger AUT Present
- Uwe Schneider GER absent (other working group meeting)
- Maury Sullivan USA Present
- Tadas Gegevicus LTU absent
- Hiromori Soejima JPN Present
- Sam Parks USA absent (regrets and explanation sent to the Chair)
- David Strassmann GER absent
- Sylvia Meinel GER Present
- Markus Kalousdian BRA Present
- Tom Miklousic CRO Present

Observers

Sanne	HAARHUIS	NET
Cheri	WHITE	USA
Brigitte	FOUACHE	BEL
Lindsay	MUIR	UK
Hiromi	FURUKAWA	JPN
Debbie	SPAETH	USA
Harold (Bubba)	CLIVER	USA
Mark	SULLIVAN	USA
Ricardo	ARACIL	USA
Steve	IRELAND	AUS
Igor	MIKLOUSIC	CRO
David	BAREFORD	UK
Markus	HAGGENEY	(FAI)
Bengt	STENER	SWE
Marnix	DOBBELAERE	BEL
Martine	BESNAINOU	FRA
Benoit	PELARD	FRA
Juraj	BREEZAN	SVK
Karin	BAREFORD	UK
Michael	SUCHY	CZE
Lynn	SULLIVAN	USA
Branco	AMBROZIC	SLO
Marcel	van de VEEN	NED
Felicity	CLEGG	RSA
Troy	BRADLEY	USA

World Ranking List Keepers

- Gerald Sturzlinger (AUT) - Gerald.Stuerzlinger@rzi.at

- Uwe Schneider (GER) - u.schneider@dfsv.de

1. Roll call, accounting for absences

NEW ITEM: Presentation From NTSC

Claude Weber gave a very informative presentation to the NTSC and CSC regarding current and future logger/scoring technology projects. These will also be presented at the plenary and are not summarized here

2. World Ranking List update

There were no updates to discuss

3. Discussion and Review of 2017 Events

No Issues to discuss. Tom mentioned proposal from safety /scoring regarding vertical speed penalties and a potential for Maximum Climb rate limits. These proposals will be presented in other committee reports, but the CSC should monitor these rule changes and study as needed.

- a. Jury Reports
 - b. Rules
 - c. Scoring
 - d. Safety
 - e. Other
4. EDS: Invitation to chairman of EDS to speak to CSC regarding event issues

No Issues to Discuss

5. Team Competition

- a. *Maury gave a presentation on the team competition concept, highlighting the benefits of team flying in developing new competition pilots.*

6. World Air Games Tour (Light) – Discussion

- a. *Covered in survey results discussion*

7. Scoring Proposal from Ricardo Aracil

Ricardo gave a quick summary of his simplified scoring proposal. No action is necessary at this time. It is likely that to the extent simplified scoring is approved it will be tested at events at upcoming events, and CSC can then gather feedback from competitors

8. CSC pilot questionnaire results

263 Responses

33 countries

The results and comments from the CSC survey were reviewed at length. This survey, in combination with previous surveys continues to highlight some fundamental issues regarding the current style of competition. These are summarized later in this report.

Login credentials will be supplied to the Delegates before the end of this meeting.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-VR6WV9668/>

CSC_2018_results1

9. Competitor Issues for 2019 / Questionnaire topics

The following topics will be included in the CSC's activities for the year and will be included in the next CSC survey

Which pilot skills should we be testing?

Who should we be testing?

Solo vs co-pilot flying (safety, skill testing, fairness)

Identify tasks or task setting that create potentially dangerous flying conditions

Should there be a limit or guidance for directors regarding the number of tasks at an event that

The surveys have been geared towards the worlds top competitors. Can we better reach and develop questions for less experienced pilots in order to better develop the future of our sport.

Optimum size for Cat1 events

Need to host competition workshops for new competitors

Need to develop tutorials (e.g. youtube) regarding: specific competition and safety issues

10. Old Business

- a. Bidding Procedures – any follow-up to 2017 agenda item

This commission should consider sporting code changes regarding the invitation process to address smaller events where 2 (or more) first round invitations per NAC could (a) exceed the number of competitors the organizer is prepared to accept, or (b) result in such as small number of 2nd round invitations that the event does not have a desirable balance of countries represented and the best competitors from around the world.

11. New Business

There was a discussion regarding rules (specifically about making a flight invalid if 50% or more of the pilots do not take off) for smaller events where this rule could potentially be manipulated. It was decided that a conflict does not exist and no action is necessary at this time.

12. Summary of CSC-Working Group recommendations and Proposed Motions to the CIA Plenary Meeting

Summary

This committee has previously reported that it is important to remember that this commission's very existence is driven by the need to facilitate competitors and competition. If there are no competitors, there is no reason for this organization to exist.

For the first 30+ years of balloon competition, rules, policies, and procedures were developed and refined in an evolutionary way responding to small changes in the way we fly. Over the last 10 years we have seen a radical shift in the style of competition driven by two factors: (a) limited budgets, specifically affecting the use of observers, and (b) the availability of technology such as loggers to try to replace functions formerly performed by observers.

New technology has allowed us to compete in ways never possible before. However, in exploring this new territory, it is clear that there has been a fundamental shift in the way

we compete such that (a) we are not testing and developing skills that directly relate to enhancing everyday flying skills, and (b) for many competitors, competition is far less enjoyable today than it was 10+ years ago. It is critical that we consider these unintended consequences or we may be limiting the future of our sport.

The challenge is that so many interdependent factors determine how we are able to set and execute tasks. The following is just one example.

An important skill and source of satisfaction is related to the pilot being able to select his own goals. This is only possible if there is a way to create a declaration (which can be accomplished with loggers / phone apps). However, the ability to score declared tasks such as a PDG is limited by GPS accuracy, making them a lower quality task. Also flying 'numerically' (i.e. flying only by watching the numbers in the GPS display instead of watching an object on the ground), creates only limited satisfaction for the pilot and makes a ground crew unnecessary and unengaged.

The fundamental difference today is that an increasing number of tasks either do not require or are impossible to achieve by flying visually. The result is that these tasks (a) are far less enjoyable/rewarding, (b) can create potentially dangerous distractions (c) are not testing or fostering skills that relate to everyday flying, and (d) do not engage the crew thereby potentially limiting the number of new people entering the sport.

The members, committees, and working groups of this body should not lose sight of these fundamental issues when developing its rules, policies, procedures, and technologies.

Recommendations

- *CSC asks the members, committees, and working groups of this commission not lose sight of the fundamental issues described in this report when developing its rules, policies, procedures and technologies, including:*
 - *Develop guidance and training for Directors regarding appropriate use of tasks, especially to prevent overuse of tasks that cannot be flown visually, in accordance with the feedback from the CSC annual surveys*
 - *More specifically, the CSC believe there is a weakness in our current rules by not defining who may manipulate the controls and/or throw markers. The CSC asks the other committees and working groups to consider this issue in their work this year.*

Motions

NONE

13. CSC Members and Chairperson for 2018/2019

These are the proposed members and chair for CSC from the coming year.

- Andrew Baird USA Chair
- Paolo Oggioni ITA
- Gerald Sturzlinger AUT
- Uwe Schneider GER
- Maury Sullivan USA
- Tadas Gegevicus LTU

- Hiromori Soejima JPN
- Sam Parks USA
- David Strassmann GER
- Sylvia Meinel GER
- Markus Kalousdian BRA
- Igor Miklousic CRO

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00