



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of the
FAI Air Sport General Commission

held in Dublin, Ireland
on Thursday 7th October 2010

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1. Welcome, Roll Call of Delegates, Apologies, Proxy votes

The President Henk Meertens opened the meeting at 0900 and welcomed all delegates and observers to the meeting. He asked all people present to introduce themselves and an attendance list was circulated.

Present: Australia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, CIA, CIAM, CIG, CIMA, CIVA, CIVL, IPC plus 16 non-voting alternate delegates and observers

There were no apologies for absence and no proxy votes.

A total of 17 voting representatives were present which gave 9 votes required to achieve an absolute majority and 12 votes for a 2/3 majority.

The President passed the floor to the President of the FAI, Mr Pierre Portmann, who thanked delegates for their attendance and highlighted that the Air Sport General Commission seemed to generate increased interest and thanked Henk Meertens for all the work done to achieve this.

The President of the Commission thanked Mr Pierre Portmann for his support and also indicated how pleased he was that financial support to the Commissions that have no revenue had been placed by on the agenda of the General Conference.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No declaration of conflict of interest was made.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Air Sport General Commission meeting held in Incheon, Korea on 8th October 2009

No comments were received. The resolution to approve the minutes was made by the delegate from Sweden and seconded by the President of CIVL and they were adopted unanimously.

4. Greek Proposal regarding Insurance – 2009

The President read out the proposed wording of the additions to the Cl.3.9.6 of the General Section of the Sporting Code:

“Competition organizers that intend to offer insurance cover to competitors, must provide the full terms and conditions of such cover to all competitors, in English and at least six weeks prior to registration. Any such insurance offered must comply with the minimum requirements set by the contest rules.”

The delegate from Germany indicated that it would be impossible to abide by the proposal in Germany since German was the only language accepted by law and any English translation would not be binding. The CIMA President felt that the delay of 6 weeks in advance of the event was too long. The President of CIA proposed that documentation should only be available on request. The cost of a formal translation would be high.

Greece clarified their request and explained their reason for formulating it.

Mr Pierre Portmann drew to the attention of delegates the risk of creating a problem from one particular incident however important it had been. He agreed with the need to ensure that competitors are sufficiently insured at FAI official events.

Following discussion it was resolved that a final resolution be prepared for approval by the Commission to be added to Cl.3.9.6 of the General Section of the Sporting Code generally that:

“where an organiser of an FAI event provides or facilitates insurance for such an event, then any such insurance must comply with the minimum requirements set by the contest rules.”

5. Continental Records Working Group recommendations

The Chair of the Working Group, John Aldridge, presented their report which had been circulated. The report represents the majority view of the Working Group. Two commissions have already implemented Continental Records within the current rules.

The Working Group felt that some latitude was necessary to allow Commissions to set their own terms and conditions within the FAI framework. The proposal allows variations and in line with precedents that have already been set on other matters.

Germany suggested that there should be one FAI rule for all because otherwise it is too difficult for NACs to manage records. The USA expressed the need for basic rules that should apply to all Commissions and Continental records fall within these basics. Variations lead to a loss of credibility and a difficulty for the general public to understand.

The Secretary General explained that as an outsider he finds our rules hard to understand and felt that we need to have rules that enable us to showcase our sport and to give a record the credibility it deserves.

The CASI President resumed the discussion by clarifying that the basic question that still remains to be answered is whether we can accept that one rule fits all or should Commissions be able to adapt the basic rules to their discipline? He noted that the Working Group had put in considerable work and have presented their detailed proposal and that this be put to a vote.

It was resolved that:

Chapter 6 of the General Section of the FAI Sporting Code be amended to read as follows:

6.1.2 To be eligible as an International World Record, the performance must have been recognised as a National record by the NAC concerned, except for international team performances in Class G (Parachutes - Largest Formation Record), and for all performances in Class K (Spacecraft) and Class P (Aerospacecraft). In any case the FAI rules have to be fulfilled.

That the following paragraphs be added to Chapter 6:

6.1.3 A performance may meet the certification criteria for a World Record and/or a Continental Regional record. The certification claim must state whether certification is requested as a World Record, a Continental Regional Record or both. The administration fee charged by FAI for certification of each International Record will be charged only once, even if both World and Continental Regional Records are established.

6.1.4 For record purposes Continental Regions shall be as defined in 3.5.4 of this General Section of the Sporting Code for Continental Regional Championships, with one exception: that a FAI Air Sport Commission may stipulate in its own Specialised Section of the Sporting Code that part of the Russian Federation East of the 61° meridian shall be assigned to Asia.

6.1.5 Each FAI Air Sport Commission shall decide if Continental Regional Records may be established in its activity and, if so, in its own Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, shall set out any specific criteria to be applied to the participants and/or other terms and limitations applicable thereto.

The motion was passed with a 9 to 8 majority.

6. Requirements for World Records

Following discussions on the proposals received from the French Gliding Federation and the IGC and with the concurrence of both proponents it was resolved to amend Cl. 6.1.2 and Cl 6.4.1 in Chapter 6 of the General Section of the FAI Sporting Code as follows:

6.1.2 “To be eligible as an International World record, the performance must have been recognized as a national record by the NAC concerned, except for international team performances in Class G (parachutes largest formation record, Multiseat Gliders and Motorgliders in Class D and all performances in class K (space craft) and class P (aerospace)”

6.4.1 “The NAC which issues the FAI Sporting Licence of any person attempting an International a World record or, in cases of team attempts, the NAC that issued sporting licences to the largest number of team members (the Organising NAC) is responsible for certifying that person’s or the team’s attempt as a National Record (subject to the exceptions mentioned in 6.1.2 above) and for submitting the International Record claim dossier to FAI regardless of where the record attempt took place.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

A resolution was tabled by the IPC and seconded by Germany to set up a Working Group to determine if 6.1.2 remains appropriate and to prepare a proposal for next year. The Working Group members are Buzz Bennett (Chair), Jean-Pierre Delmas, Art Greenfield and Ross McIntyre.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. Request for a new category: Human Powered Flight – Ornithopter

Jack Humphreys from Canada who submitted this request showed a video of the Ornithopter human powered flight carried out by the University of Toronto and highlighted that all press releases went out with the mention of FAI.

Pierluigi Duranti, President of the Amateur Built Aircraft Commission (CIACA) explained that although the Human Powered Aircraft category exists and this particular system does not fall into this category. He congratulated the University of Toronto for their work.

He indicated that there were two possible ways forward:

Modify section 11 for human powered aircraft and introduce a subclass for ornithopters or add ornithopters as a new recognised means of propulsion since he is aware of other similar projects underway including powered ornithopters.

Discussion then ensued regarding this particular flight. The ornithopter was towed up to altitude and flew steady for 20 seconds, no lift was gained. There is no take off protocol involved in this project. Flapping wing technology is being looked at mainly in Universities. The Spanish delegate indicated that an ornithopter flight took place in the 18th century and a memorial stone has been erected to remember this.

Section 11 would be suitable for including this category although currently it only allows for self-powered take off and it only covers records.

This particular flight cannot be considered as a World Record as currently no rules exist to allow that but it does need recognition. The Secretary General indicated the need to recognise achievement and to use them as a showcase of our sports.

CIMA have a web page especially for exceptional events. Such a page could exist on the FAI web site although that could create other problems.

A motion from the IPC and seconded by Sweden to have CIACA come up with wording to recognise the ornithopter category was approved anonymously.

Germany motioned that the Secretary General determine the proper process for recognising this flight immediately with the approval of this General Conference. It is important to show these young people that we acknowledge their efforts now. The CASI President will show the short film during the Commission Presidents Forum on Saturday.

8. Review of General Section 11 update

The review was not completed as only two members out of four contributed. Henk Meertens was excused due to ill health. The work could be progressed but there is a need for real man power. It is difficult to work via e-mail, there is a need to meet and brainstorm ideas which could then be followed up by work via e-mail. A draft document was prepared by Buzz Bennett but it needs to be reviewed and discussed.

The group will be reconsolidated as follows: Buzz Bennett (Chair), John Aldridge, Henk Meertens and Mike Close. They will report back next year.

9. Review of Distance Measurement, General Section 7.3.1.1

The President noted that currently Section 7.3.1.1 made provision for two different methods to measure the same thing with the potential of each coming up with a different result. It is recognised that there are certain situations in some Commissions where either method should be available.

When reviewing each of the Sporting Codes in relation to measurement of distance, not all codes complied with the provision of the General Section. This has the potential to provide the basis for conflict. It is noted that over the last few years the General Commission has had to deal with a number of formal protests which are time consuming and costly. Anything we can do to minimise these would be beneficial to all.

Following discussion it was resolved not amend CI 7.3.1.1 and to request that each Commission review their Section on measurement to ensure compliance with the General Section 7.3.1.1

10. CIMA Proposal for changes to the General Section

CIMA presented two proposals for change to the General Section:

- To reflect changes in definitions following decision made by the CIMA Plenary in 2007.
- To include Microlight Autogyros (up to 450kg gross) in the CIMA remit.

Concern was expressed by the President of CIG, David Hamilton, that his commission, currently managing Autogyros, had not been informed of this decision. It became obvious that there had been a breakdown in communication and the two Presidents were asked to resolve this matter together. The General Commission could not be involved in this.

The US delegate, Art Greenfield, asked where this decision had been documented as it does not appear in any Minutes and it was confirmed that there is no paper trail of this decision.

The General Conference has been asked to approve the change of name to be included in the statutes, if it is approved, the update of General Section becomes almost automatic.

By consensus, The General Commission deems it cannot deal with the first proposal due to the point of order raised regarding the fact that the decision to change the name does not appear in any CIMA minutes.

By consensus, The General Commission deem it is not able to vote on the second proposal and ask that the Commissions consult together and come up with a proposal.

11. CIVL proposal for Change of Representation – 1st Category Events

The proposal on change of Representation – 1st Category Events as notified was presented by the CIVL President.

In order to recognise greater mobility without penalising pilots CIVL proposes the following addition to the General Section of the FAI Sporting Code paragraph 8.1.3.6.4:

“Where a person is able to prove continuous residence for 5 years or more in a country other than the one that person has represented previously, he or she may change representation without suffering the two calendar year penalty specified above; change of representation under this provision may only be made once.”

Discussion ensued and the resolution as notified was put. The resolution was lost - 11 votes to 5 with 1 abstention.

12. Review of “FAI Guidelines – In the event of a casualty or a serious accident at FAI Air Sports”.

Jury recommendations of the 5th FAI World Cup in Canopy Piloting, South Africa. The recommendations followed a fatality during the fore mentioned competition. They were discussed in turn. As one recommendation had medical implications, the President of CIMP, Juergen Knueppel commented and indicated that we need to insist on best practise in the country where a competition is held as every country has its own standards. We need very basic recommendations but he agrees there is a risk that these can become a rule depending on the country that reads them.

The Secretary General confirmed that the Guideline document is now systematically distributed to competition organisers. It is important that the Director of the competition be aware of his responsibility in this question and some guidelines are necessary.

It was resolved to set up a Working Group to review the document and report back to the General Commission.

The Working Group comprises: Graeme Windsor (chair), Jean-Pierre Delmas and Juergen Knueppel (CIMP).

13. Review of the FAI Appeal procedure

The Secretary General and Jean-Claude Weber referred to a process that occurred during the World Air Games in Turin which in turn led to an appeal which was processed by the FAI Appeals Tribunal. The matter was subsequently brought before the Court of Arbitration in Lausanne and then withdrawn.

The whole process had shortcomings which led to a request by the FAI to a review Appeal procedure.

The Secretary General considers that Chapter 9 of the General Section is not sufficiently detailed. Jean-Claude Weber, whose commission was implicated by the appeal, feels that Chapter 9 is clear enough but, in this instance, procedures were not followed correctly.

This incident was probably generated by the fact that at the time of the Appeal, the President of the General Commission was suddenly unavailable due to ill health and the new Secretary General took office during the Appeal process.

Jean-Claude Weber wrote an Appeals Procedure document about 20 years ago but it appears to have disappeared. Consequently there is a need to create new guidelines to assist in procedure.

It was proposed by IPC that § 9.4 be reviewed and make recommendations at the next General Commission Meeting in 2011.

It was resolved that Jean-Claude Weber and Henk Meertens prepare new Guidelines for the FAI Appeals Procedure to be tabled at the 2011 meeting.

14. IPC Proposal for modification of GS 4.2.3

The IPC President spoke to the proposal as presented and explained the reason for the requested addition.

It was resolved that the following be added to C14.2.3 of the General Section of the FAI Sporting Code:

“In the event an FAI Performance is evaluated on video evidence, only one Official Observer need be present to verify the recording and the performance may be evaluated using that recording by the required number of official observers at a later date or through an internet connection.”

The resolution was passed unanimously.

15. Any Other Business

John Aldridge indicated that in the President's report to the 2010 General Conference he had omitted to indicate that John has been Vice-President for the last year. The President apologised for the omission and noted that this would be corrected during the presentation at the General Conference.

The President closed the meeting at 1500 hrs

16. Election of CASI President and Bureau for 2010/2011

The President declared the meeting open at 17h40 on the last day of the General Conference and indicated that the whole Bureau step down to allow new elections be held. He handed the Chair to the Secretary General.

Election results:

President: **Henk Meertens** was nominated for the role of President which he accepted and was duly elected by acclamation.

1st Vice President: **Graeme Windsor** was nominated and seconded and accepted the nomination and was duly elected by acclamation.

Vice Presidents: Three nominations: **Jean-Pierre Delmas, John Aldridge and Thor Johannesson**, all accepted the nominations and were duly elected unanimously by acclamation.

Secretary: **Gillian Winter** was nominated and accepted the nomination which was approved by France and was duly elected by acclamation.

Following the elections the President resumed the Chair and thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 1800hrs.

17. Date and Place of the next annual meeting

The next annual meeting of the FAI Air Sport General Commission will be held on 13th October 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia (the day before the start of the 105th FAI General Conference).