INTERNATIONAL WORLD GAMES 2025

The IWG are probably the one multisport event, after the Olympic Games, that has the most media exposure. The 2025 venue will be in Chengdu, China.

In January 2023, the FAI Executive Board presented 3 sports: Drones, Paragliding Aerobatic and Canopy piloting.

As reported in the Executive Board minutes…

- May – International World Games Association has accepted two disciplines – Paragliding and Drones. The EB is now invited to accept the IWGA invitation, there is a meeting at the end of June. The FAI Secretary General reported there were technical issues to discuss. The Secretary General to inform Commissions concerned
- August – The FAI Secretary General recapped that IWGA chose Drones and Paragliding Acro and then explained the current situation with paragliding acrobatics as there was not a suitable means of launching and helicopters were excluded.

If the CIVL was informed of the selection of PG Aerobatic, it was not informed of whatever the technical issues were nor invited to participate in discussions or meetings concerning them.

If there were technical issues to be discussed, why CIVL technicians were not invited?

Helicopter launch being excluded is not a problem. There are many ways to launch pilots: on foot from a mountain, by towing on land or on water (river or lake). Also, aerobatic on land is now allowed (and not only on water).

So who decided and on what ground that “there was not a suitable means of launching”?

We requested from the FAI explanations and updates.

The FAI Secretary General answered:

I kept CIVL informed in various conversations, last time with the CIVL President along the FAI General Conference 2023... I also discussed briefly with the chair of your Acro-Committee when thinking we would be able to meet in person in Villeneuve. Further, I asked FAI's member in CHN, the ASFC, on their view to check suitable mountains in the area. I had several
conversations with IWGA on the matter who are aware of the technical specifications (in writing) and from observing (accro show in Villeneuve).
There are no mountains high enough for foot-launched methods.
Mountains in the area and over the lake are far too low (few hundreds).
Mountains that are high enough are far away (> 2 hours driving one way into extremely remote area) and without water/lakes
The host city of Chengdu does not allow planes/helicopters which are fossil-fuel powered.
You can be rest assured that - based on CIVL’s input - IWGA was approached to do their best, but for the reasons above, not possible. Please also note that IWGA had a strong interest to include the CIVL discipline and were surely not trying to find ways out or ‘cheap excuses’.