



CIVL 2024 PLENARY – ANNEXE 15 REPORT OF PGA COMMITTEE

Summary of Activity Since Last Plenary

Since the last plenary meeting in Porto, implementation of the biggest change in accuracy competitions was made. This implementation of the Knock-out rule had huge impact to the sport, especially to World Championship event organised in Bulgaria.

The number of competitions in 2023 showed a slight growth compared to the previous year. A total of 71 FAI category 2 and one FAI category 1 competitions were organised.

12th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy Championships, Sopot, Bulgaria, BUL

The competition was held at the end of October 2023. The sporting level of the competition was extremely high. Implementation of the Knock-out rule was successful and was accepted by the majority of competitors and national teams. The organisation team had many problems including: a problem of providing last-moment allocations outside of the rules: lack of management staff and support in the case of accidents. Fortunately, the good weather, the implementation of the Knock-out rule and the introduction of a very experienced Cat1 Meet Director saved the competition. A full 12 rounds were successfully completed even with 129 competitors from 31 countries.

Pre PGA European Championships 2024, Gjirokaster, Albania

The test event for this year's European Championship was held with 34 pilots from 10 countries and because of the close distance and time before World Event, there were really top pilots taking part. The conditions were good enough to complete 8 rounds and the event was a good test of the organisation. The flight site is good enough for the actual event with a detailed discussion with Alket (the MD) to resolve the challenges identified before the event.

Subcommittee tasks 2023

We have spent a lot of time preparing the most precise elimination rules before the World Championship events to avoid endless discussions during the championships. This was done with the help of the Bureau, which confirmed our proposal for a solution to the junior and women's competitions that allows the top 6 competitors in these categories to compete for medals in a full round robin. It is considered that if we had not prepared these rules, it would have reduced the attractiveness of the competition. It is a unfortunate that we did not also modify the rules for the team competition and this is the most important task we have to now address.

Scoring system development

The past year has seen the development of a new system to electronically measure the results of pilots who land off the electronic target. Unfortunately, the person from the university involved in the project left the university unexpectedly and did not hand over any of the distributed work to us. Consequently, we have had to take the development back in-house in order to finish the associated software.

Timewise, we couldn't finish the software in time for the championship to be able to measure directly from the live footage of the landing, therefore we ended up using the cameras for standard video footage from three directions to determine which foot touched first and seat touch falls. The system has proven itself in this. We will complete the system during this year so that it can be fully used during the Europeans event in Albania.

The system also includes a new anemometer that uses an ultrasonic sensor and a display unit that shows the maximum wind speed for the last 30s. The wind speed is visible to everyone on the landing field and is recorded within the software so it can be displayed for each landing. The results were displayed on portable LED panels so everyone was informed of the results. The results were also displayed as online on the internet.

New rules discussions

During the competition in Bulgaria, we had a meeting with pilots and teamleaders, where we tried to explain the rule changes and to get the pilots' opinion and requests for changes. The most frequently mentioned requirements were:

- keeping the team competition until the end of the competition
- allocation process under CIVL control
- continuing the development of the scoring system

Other problems that were noted during the season:

- We fully support the increase in steward powers during Cat. 1 competitions.
- We need to define and clearly set the obligations of the organiser towards the CIVL officials. This year brought complications that are very unpleasant. In our opinion, the costs of officials (stipends + travel) appointed by the CIVL should be paid directly by the CIVL. We would suggest a return to the old model where the top 3 nations in the ranking pay into the CIVL account and the officials would be paid directly from these funds rather than by the organisers.

Proposals to the Plenary:

- SC 7C changes
- Serial competition scoring formula

Upcoming Category 1 Competitions:

8th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy Championships, Gjirokaster, ALB

1st FAI Pan-American Paragliding Accuracy Championship, Palmira, COL

Bids:

Bid by Romania for the European Paragliding Accuracy Championships in 2026

Bid by Chile for the Pan-American Paragliding Accuracy Championships in 2026

Bid by Thailand for the Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championships in 2026