PROPOSAL - CREATE MASTERS CATEGORY IN RECORDS

NAC Slovenia, Chile and Colombia

Background

This is a joint proposal from Chile (Chilean Paragliding Federation - FECHPA), Colombia (Air Sports Federation – FEDEAEROS), Cuba (Club de Aviación de Cuba), Slovenia (LETALSKA ZVEZA SLOVENIJA), and the USA (United States Hang-gliding and Paragliding Association – USHPA) to amend the FAI Sporting Code, Common Section 7, to include a Masters Category. Many pilots over the age of 50 have stopped participating in organized competitions, but have stated they would do so, if there was a category and podium recognition for them. Pilots over 50 have the time and resources to travel, and event organizers would benefit from having this group of pilots participate. Competitions that have included a Senior or Masters category have been enthusiastically well attended by this category of pilots, and feedback has been very positive, with the overwhelming majority of these pilots calling for officially creating the category.

NOTE: The USA has a Masters category, but recently increased the age from 50 to 55, and would prefer FAI CIVL Masters start also at 55. Cuba and Colombia have no age preference for the category. Chile and Slovenia prefer 50 as starting age. USA also wants to discuss the proposal within the hang-gliding committee, as a Masters class for HG may be significantly older, and the committee may opt to exclude HG from this proposal. Similarly, a PG Masters class for Aerobatics may have a younger starting age. So, the first issue for this proposal to discuss and vote by the committee is on having a Masters class, something all the parties agree with (with the aforementioned caveat for HG). If the committee agrees on the category, the second issue then is to determine the starting ages for the different modalities and editing this proposal accordingly.

Proposal

Current rule

FAI Sporting code Section 7 D

3.2.5. Classification of Records

Records listed in 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 may be claimed in the following categories:

- General category - The best performance achieved by a solo pilot.
- Multiplace category - For the best performance in this category, the age of each occupant other than the designated pilot-in-command shall not be less than 14 years. Only the pilot in command need hold an FAI Sporting Licence but only holders of FAI Sporting Licences can be co-holders of a record.
  - Female category - The best performance achieved by a solo woman.
  - Junior category – The best performance achieved by a Junior pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.

Records listed in 3.2.2 may be claimed in the following categories:

- General category - The best performance achieved by a solo pilot.
- Female category - The best performance achieved by a solo woman.
- Junior category – The best performance achieved by a Junior pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.
New rule

3.2.5. Classification of Records

Records listed in 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 may be claimed in the following categories:

- General category - The best performance achieved by a solo pilot.
- Multi-place category - For the best performance in this category, the age of each occupant other than the designated pilot-in-command shall not be less than 14 years. Only the pilot in command needs to hold an FAI Sporting Licence, but only holders of FAI Sporting Licences can be co-holders of a record.
- Female category - The best performance achieved by a solo woman.
- Junior category – The best performance achieved by a Junior pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.
- Masters’ category - The best performance achieved by a Masters pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.

Records listed in 3.2.2 may be claimed in the following categories:

- General category - The best performance achieved by a solo pilot
- Female category - The best performance achieved by a solo woman.
- Junior category – The best performance achieved by a Junior pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.
- Masters’ category - The best performance achieved by a Masters pilot as per S7 Common 2.2.2.

Summary of activity during 2023

Already during the PanAm Accuracy in Colombia we first started with scoring Masters in their own category. It was good and brought a lot of interest to the competing pilots. We also tried it out in some other event, and during all of them it was really a great experience.