



IPC NEWSLETTER

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Web Links:

* Details of IBDs issued can be accessed from here

* IPC Commission

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Preface

As the season draws to a close, it is time for a second newsletter.

The agenda for the 2019 Plenary is almost ready for final publication and you will find information on the different competitions through the Chief Judge reports that are annexed to it. You have also been able to read the daily reports from all our competitions provided by our Media Liaison Officer Susan Dixon or her right hand woman, Fay Kimble. A big thank you to both of them.

It has been a very successful season with high attendance at our different World and European Championships and World Cups and all our thanks go to the six very generous organisers who have excelled themselves to the benefit of our competitors, the public and IPC in general.

Bureau Activities

Since the last Newsletter the bureau has held several meetings using modern technology with one short face-to-face meeting of those of us present in Australia. We are currently testing the Zoom meeting service which is very efficient and easy to use. You really get the feeling that you are all in the same room. We will consider subscribing to this service for the future and consequently not only enabling our own meetings but perhaps making the service available to Committees too.

Since May, we have issued 10 more interim bureau decisions which will be listed at the end of this document and can be found on our IPC web pages : <https://www.fai.org/page/ipc-bureau-ibds>.

In our first meeting, we targeted 7 key action points for our term of office. Below you will find the list and updates on what actions have been taken so far.

1. New Image of IPC to incorporate Indoor Skydiving (review documents, review name and logo)
2. Challenge Committees to review their disciplines in line with FAI objectives to be exciting and audience friendly
3. Female Participation (to align with IOC objective of 50% participation)
4. Olympic Project
5. Media Focus and use of Skydive TV
6. Liaison with Professionals (Swoop Tour, Tunnel Operators)
7. Extended Bureau Workshop to develop a strategic plan for 2019 and beyond.

Preparation of the Extended Bureau Workshop is underway as I write. We will be using a professional facilitator, Cathrin Kolb, who obviously has needed to be briefed on IPC. Elisabet, Doris, Gail and myself will also contribute as facilitators and we have already had one training session with Cathrin, with another booked for early January. All these preparation sessions are done using Zoom.

The new image of IPC and how best to include Indoor Skydiving into FAI/IPC documents has, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, been discussed with the other ASC Presidents and the Executive Board and in October I presented the idea to the General Conference. We now have a clear go-ahead from them all to make major changes if we feel it is suitable and we will discuss options during the next Plenary.

The Committees Challenge was mentioned in our last Newsletter and the related documents were sent to the Committees at the end of May. Female participation in our events falls under this point too. Feedback has unfortunately been minimal but the subject will be addressed during the Workshop that will be held just prior to the Plenary meeting in Lille.

Olympic Project



The work on the Olympic Project has been on-going and all our thanks go to the French Parachute Federation for their investment both financial and providing manpower. Three meetings have been held in Lausanne to ensure that we have full FAI support, I was able to attend two of them. The second meeting was a short workshop to look at what priorities should be made but also what we can expect if we are lucky enough to be selected to participate at the 2024 Olympics.

A guest speaker from the Climbing Federation was present to explain just how the selection of Indoor Climbing into the Tokyo Olympics has impacted the Federation as a whole and what workload and financial commitment have had to be made. Wayne Loxton from IBA was present at this mini workshop as the project includes using the iFly tunnel at La Villette, close to Paris and which will be in the centre of the future Olympic village. The FFP and iFly have signed a MoU. We now have a better idea of what is involved and the Executive Board and the General Conference have expressed their full support. We should have a better idea of our chances by the end of April 2019 but even if we are unlucky this time around, we must not lose the momentum and should immediately start thinking about 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The French Parachute Federation has started exploring different formats that could be suitable for the Olympic games and a test event took place in the La Villette tunnel at the end of November. A number of sport personalities and the media were invited and I was able to attend too. This first test concerned FS using a battle system similar to Dynamic and was judged live using the Dynamar

scoring system. It was a successful test much enjoyed by the athletes but it was quickly apparent that it is not visually suitable for the Games. Other tests will take place early next year and the Dynamic WG has been asked, via Domitille Kiger, to look at simplifying our current rules. We will need to make some decisions at the Plenary as to what our priorities are to be in this matter.

Tentative talks have been engaged with IBA, IPC and FAI about organising an Indoor World Series. No conclusions have been reached since each needs to be clear about what the other can bring to the table. This point and the Olympic Project will both be discussed during the Workshop and then with the Plenary.

Media

This year media coverage has been exceptionally good with live television at several events, TV documentaries, live streaming and press coverage plus the presence of Skydive TV at the multiple World Championships held on the Gold Coast in Australia. Media will be a focus point at our next Plenary and will be part of the Workshop. We need to evolve what we do to adapt to the ever-changing media scene and optimise our media budget and see how to best manage this in the future.

FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships

IPC has continued its collaboration with ASport this year and is currently discussing an update to the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 2017 by my predecessor. Two very successful events were held, in August in Copenhagen where Bjorn Korth was FAI Controller and Jury President and in September in San Diego where Exi Hoenle filled both roles.



I was able to attend the event in Copenhagen and was most impressed by the event itself, the crowds it drew, the media coverage and the exposure of IPC and FAI. The changing sport landscape with more and more professionals organising major events require that the

International Sport Federations become more flexible and ready to adapt to this change. The MoU with ASport was a step in that direction as are the very tentative talks with IBA and iFly.

World Air Games

Elections at the Turkish Aeroclub have been responsible for some change to the programme of the next World Air Games, changes that are for the better in my opinion. They are deferred until 2022 and so will no longer clash with our major event, the Mondial. We now have three years to prepare something grandiose and to ensure that we give our best shot at making them successful. We need to integrate this date into our calendar for the coming years.

FAI News

The General Conference held in Luxor, Egypt was a surprise in that the incumbent President, Frits Brink, was not re-elected as President, nor was he elected to the new Executive Board. He was nominated President of Honour and as such will certainly continue to play a role in the coming years.



The new President, Bob Henderson (left) from New Zealand, has been on the Executive Board for a number of years and prior to that, was President of the IGC (International Gliding Commission). Having worked with him personally, I have faith in him to bring some necessary changes to FAI.

The GC also rejected the proposal to increase the FAI subscription scale which of course impacted heavily on the proposed budget. Finances remain a critical issue for FAI and must be watched closely.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned a short workshop that was held during the mid-term meeting of the Air Sport Presidents and the NAC Presidents. This was followed-up in Lausanne in August by a 2-day workshop to which I was invited. The outcome is somewhat promising in that we were easily able to come up with a definition of the purpose of FAI that we could all agree on regardless of where we are in the FAI organisation chart. So we all seem to want to go in the same direction.

Other more difficult questions have not been resolved and are on-going. A smaller working group is now looking at FAI governance and the decision making process and the FAI Sporting Licence question will require major structural changes to FAI to resolve it. One very positive indirect result of this work is the fact that the ASC Presidents are now working more closely together and have set up a Project Management tool to help us determine common positions. Strength is in numbers and working together will give us that strength. Obviously I am representing IPC and I really need feedback from you all as to what positions you all feel strongly about. This will also be a subject for the Workshop and then the Plenary.

It has been a busy and active summer and parachuting has been in the highlight on many occasions in different parts of the world. It is being discussed in the press as a candidate for the Olympic Games and now has the focus of the Executive Board and the General Conference. None of this would be possible without the continuing support of all our delegates, our competition Organisers, our national parachuting organisations and all the people out there who manage our sport both professionally or as volunteers. A big thank you to all.

In 2019, we will have an important Indoor World Championships together with an 8-way Challenge which will showcase our sport with the spotlight of the Olympic Project upon it and I count on you all to ensure that as many teams take part as possible. We will also have multiple World Cups that are well spread out across the world and not so Europe centric as we are often led to believe. However, before the onslaught of next year I hope you will take the time to enjoy this festive season.

Happy Holidays to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in Lille for our 69th Plenary.



Gillian Rayner – IPC President
December 2018

Summary of Interim Bureau Decisions: (June - Dec 2018)

details of which appear on the IPC Web Site

2018/11: It was decided not to apply Wingsuit Competition rule 5.3.1. this year as it had a negative impact on the organiser and was not in line with the conditions of the accepted bid.

2018/12: Alberto Martin Paracuellos indicated that he would probably not be recovered in time for the World Championships to be held in Australia so a replacement Juror was found and a new Jury President named.

2018/13: The Dynamic Working Group submitted modified rules for approval and immediate implementation following problems at European Championships in Voss.

2018/14: The Chair of the Judges Committee requested that Arnold Hohenegger be included as a member of the Judges Committee to fill the vacancy left by Gillian Rayner, on her election as IPC President.

2018/15: The increase in the number of judges required to judge the Indoor

Artistic Events from 8 to 12, impacted the budget for the 2020 World Cup and the Bureau agreed that the Belgian NAC could adjust the entry fee accordingly, at the same time including the Sanction Fee as presented to the Plenary.

2018/16: The FAI Controller, Aggie Sobczynska Solomon was obliged to resign from her position for professional reasons. It was deemed preferable to move one of the Jury members to the FAI Controller role and consequently seek a replacement for the Jury.

2018/17: Due to the fact that there were not the minimum number of entrants in the disciplines D2W Junior and D4W Open at the 3rd World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, it was decided to cancel them.

2018/18: It was decided to allow the Chief Judge at the 3rd World Cup of Indoor Skydiving to use the Outdoor Formation Skydiving “absolute” rule 5.4.1. as he was using panels of 5 judges rather than the minimum of 3. This followed a request from the Jury that felt this should be an interim bureau decision rather than a Jury decision.

2018/19: The French Parachute Federation requested the possibility to host an FS 8-way Challenge during the 3rd FAI World Indoor Skydiving Championships in Lille in April 2019 and this was accepted

2018/20: In spite of it having been a regular event since 2015, the Indoor Solo Freestyle competition rules do not have a Junior category. The bureau decided to allow this event to go-ahead at the next Indoor World Championships to enable the Organiser to order the FAI medals within the set deadline. The rules will be aligned at the next Plenary.