

In This Issue

- Competitions
- World Air Games 2022
- Records
- Name Change
- IPC Strategy Workshop
- FAI News
- Summary of IBDs

Web Links:

* Details of IBDs issued can be accessed from here

* IPC Commission

Click the link of choice

Spring is upon us in Europe and the 2019 skydiving season is well underway thanks to some excellent weather.

COMPETITIONS

Our first major event of the year, the 17th FAI World Para-ski Championships, was held in Vrchlabi, Czech Republic from February 27th to March 2nd. You can read a very detailed report on <https://www.fai.org/ipc-vrchlabi2019>.



There were 52 male competitors and 11 female competitors. **Magdalena Schwertl** won the Female title whereas **Sebastien Graser** won both the Male and the Junior titles. The Masters title went to **Thomas Saurer**. Austria took the Team title with the host country, the Czech Republic, taking third place.

The second event was the 3rd FAI World Indoor Skydiving Championships, held in Lille, France. It has been said that if you want to get over a drought, all you have to do is organise a skydiving competition as it is bound to rain. So what happens when you organise an indoor competition? The sun shines and it is hot. Lille enjoyed a mini heat wave during the event with temperatures reaching 25°C and thanks to the large gardens around the hotel opposite the tunnel, competitors and fans were able to laze on the grass while preparing their next flight.

The event was a roaring success, proving that Indoor Skydiving is definitely a growing sport. There were 31 countries represented against 23 in 2017. The most significant increase was in Solo Freestyle with a total of 37 participants (all categories) against 19 in 2017. Dynamic 4 way had a slight increase (6 to 9) and Open FS (14 to 18), the other events were stable.

The whole event was live streamed representing 41 hours of viewing.



A big thank you to **Domi Kiger** and **Hårvard Flaatt** who anchored the whole show bringing in a number of guest speakers to help out. I helped a little too and added a new skill set to my CV: TV interviewer - it was fun although the first interview was a bit nerve racking, I needn't have worried though; everyone loves to talk of their experiences.

The French Parachute Federation really pulled out all the stops and the organisation was very good. Not many tunnels have sufficient space to cope with the number of people involved in a WISC but the space was optimised with marquees and Portakabins. It helped that the hotel, where many people stayed, was so close.

Next year for our Indoor Skydiving World Cup we will be in Belgium, just over the border from Lille. I'm sure it will be just as much of a success. Good luck to the organisers in their preparation.

Many of our competitions take place in Europe or North America and next year will be the same, Belgium and Russia.

However, there have also been some exciting events held in the southern hemisphere, last year we saw the superb FS, AE, Speed and CF World Championships held on the Gold Coast in Australia.



The most recent major competition, the FAI Freefall Style and Accuracy World Cup was held south of the Equator, in the town of Cordoba in Argentina. This was the first 1st Category Event ever to be held in Argentina although not the first IPC event, since the 2012 IPC Plenary meeting was successfully held in Buenos Aires. The competition was successful in spite of the challenge of holding a competition on a military base. All rounds were completed with the exception of Male Style. The weather was a little different to that expected with some very cold mornings, ice on the tuffet and a smattering of snow on the surrounding hills.

All the other competitions scheduled for 2019 are on track and I thank the FAI Controllers for the work they are doing with the Competition organisers to ensure that everything is ready for our competitors when they arrive.

WORLD AIR GAMES 2022

As announced during the Plenary, the World Air Games organised by the THK, the Turkish NAC, have been moved from 2020 to September 2022 and for IPC, following a decision by the Executive Board, will be World Championships. There



will be more than one sport per location so we will probably be sharing the drop zone/airfield in Ephesus (Selçuk) with Aerobatics and Microlights. Consequently, it is not possible to organise the equivalent of a Parachuting Mondial and THK have indicated which disciplines they would like to see take place there. These will probably be Style & Accuracy, Speed and Wingsuit Flying. It has also been confirmed that a pond will be built so Canopy Piloting will be held too. We did hope that a tunnel would be built in the neighbouring town of Kusadasi but have recently learned that this will not happen.

We now need to start seeking bidders for the 2022 World Championships in Formation Skydiving, Artistic Events and Canopy Formation.

RECORDS

At the Plenary in January, in spite of the cost to IPC, it was decided to continue this year handling both World and Continental competition records. During the WISC 2019, the Jury handled 30 record claims of which 22 were Continental.

During the Style & Accuracy competition the Jury handled 15 Records of which 4 were World and 11 were Continental. A new category in S&A "Junior Female" is partly the reason for this high number but also the fact that Continental records had almost never been claimed in the past.

So the question raised at the Plenary remains the same, should we continue handling Continental records? In two competitions a total of 33 records which will cost IPC about 2500€. Most of these records would never have been claimed if we had not done the work. Although obviously the record holders are pleased (and also rather surprised that their performance warranted a record), we have to ask ourselves what this brings to us collectively and whether the result justifies the work and the cost.

NAME CHANGE

International Skydiving Commission

You will recall that at the last Plenary, we decided to change our name. I am pleased to report that this has been accepted by the Executive Board and will be submitted to CASI and then the General Conference for final approval. We should be able to introduce the new name and logo at our next Plenary meeting in Moscow.

IPC STRATEGY WORKSHOP

As most of the readers will know, we held a very successful Workshop prior to the IPC Plenary last January. Four major themes were discussed: Indoor Skydiving, Communication, Governance and Disciplines. Here is the follow-up so far:

Indoor Skydiving: After the disappointment of seeing Breakdance preferred over Indoor Skydiving for Olympics 2024, we are still convinced that the discipline is worthy of being part of other major multi-sport events and there is still 2028 and Los Angeles as a target. The increase in the number of participants is very encouraging but it is obvious that certain things need to change to improve how we present the discipline.

Several competitions are to take place later this year using an instant scoring system that has been developed and the Judges Committee has been asked to take a look at this and see if it can be developed/implemented in IPC competitions. Consequently, the Bureau has approved a small budget for the Judges Committee to manage this.

The idea that was brought up during the Workshop regarding holding an Indoor Skydiving/Tunnel Conference has been approved by the FAI Executive Board and work is now underway to make that happen.

Agust Gudmundsson, EB member designated as our point of contact, will be working on this with us and we are considering working with an outside consultant.



The four discipline Committee chairs concerned with Indoor Skydiving have been asked for input on this and also asked to look at how the format of their disciplines performed Indoors could evolve in the future (particularly FS).

Representatives from iFly were present in Lille and talks were held with them, Agust (in the absence of **Susanne Schödel**) and myself. iFly is undergoing some management change and we have agreed to have regular updates on sport development in the coming months.

Communication: During the Plenary, the Media and Promotions Working Group was reactivated and they have been very busy under the leadership of **Elisabet Mikaelsson** and the guidance of **Susan Dixon**.

We announced in the Plenary that we have bought a domain name that we are busy making our main “go to” site. There will still be a page on the FAI web site but it will be populated with information taken from our domain rather than the other way around.

The first use of this domain was for our new results application developed with Namespace Technologies. Please take a look: <https://www.worldskydiving.org>



In parallel with this, the WG has been looking at Social Media and with the help of **Mari Roznatovskava** from Russia (and a big thank you to her for what she did in Lille) and now from the Edge, we hope to improve our image and increase our number of followers. This will also be a subject that will be addressed at the next Plenary meeting. There are about 3.5 million people using Facebook, most of them aged between 20 and 80 years old which is our target group. We need to set up a solid strategy and content plan in order to promote who we are and what is our brand: IPC (soon to be **ISC**).

Disciplines: A lot of what came out of the workshop was already in the Strategic Plan that was introduced back in 2009: better bids, live scoring, etc. however, they need to be reactivated and I have already mentioned the work requested of the Judges Committee on Instant Scoring.

We also looked at ways of improving attendance in the disciplines that historically only have a small number of participants. The CF Committee decided to increase the number of 4-way teams per NAC in line with 2-way; unfortunately, it looks as though this has not had the desired effect and it is likely that there will be no 4-way event at the upcoming World Cup in Romania. It is not too late to register so please think about it if you have not already done so.

Governance: How newcomers find their way within IPC was a question that was raised and Gail Bradley is working on one of the proposals made. She is writing a "Guide to IPC". This will be available as soon as possible and definitely before the next Plenary. Other ideas included cross fertilisation between Committees, harmonisation (again) of our rules, and an update to our Internal Regulations concerning Committee selection and responsibilities.

To facilitate bureau work but also to help Committees, we have taken a subscription for a meeting application called ZOOM. It is very user-friendly and we would like Committees to use it for their work during the year. We have one access id only so please contact me (ipcgillian@gmail.com) with the date and time of your proposed meeting so it can be set up and made readily available to you.

Other things were also highlighted and are being looked at for the next Plenary. More in the next Newsletter.

FAI NEWS

On the subject of Governance, the mid-term meeting of Air Sport Commission Presidents with the Executive Board was held in Lausanne at the end of April.

Various subjects were covered, the main ones being the following:

World Air Games: The Turkish Organiser was present and explained some of the reasons for the rescheduled date. There has been a change in senior THK management and the new board needed time to understand all the implications of organising a WAG. Although the principle of holding World Championships as part of the WAG is accepted, this is not feasible for all Air Sports. This may be because of their calendar (i.e. helicopters only hold a World Championship every 3 years) or because of the way the events are run). As I have mentioned above, for IPC, we will hold World Championships. There will be an organising committee at each site and it will be chaired by the Mayor of the closest town (for us Selçuk). In the coming months a meeting will be held on site with the liaison officers (Patrice Girardin in our case) possibly extended to other ASC representatives. We now have the challenge of sharing the site with other sports, especially Aerobatics and this has to be reviewed.

The FAI will be putting the question to the General Conference in October as to whether it is worth pursuing the World Air Games concept. It has been 25 years and there is still no regularity in the event. If you have an opinion on the matter, make sure you share it with your FAI delegate so he/she can put it forwards when appropriate.

International Olympic Committee: Kit McConnell and Andrew Hofer of the IOC Sports Department made a presentation on the role of their department. It was extremely interesting and covered various points including what sports are included in the OG. It is obvious that the 28 current sports are not inclined to leave their place to any other sport.



The IOC needs to modernise its image and has challenged those sports to make changes and the new sports included in 2020 and 2024 are definitely aimed at a younger generation. Unfortunately for us, Breakdance was selected over Indoor Skydiving for 2020 along with three other sports that are already in the Tokyo Olympics. In reality, I don't think we stood a chance as Breakdance had already been identified at the Youth Games held in Brazil in 2018. I did ask whether it

was worth pursuing the dream for 2028. Although he did not discourage me, he indicated that there were other multi-sport events where we should try our hand first.

The IOC now spends a lot of time and money on the Olympic athletes. They are looked after mentally and physically and they are prepared for whatever might follow after their sports career. IOC is very aware that the athletes are their “product” and although it does not have the direct management of any sport, it provides all the services directly or through the subsidies given to the International Federations. FAI is an IOC recognised Federation and as such does receive support from the IOC.

NACs: A discussion around the support given to athletes by NACs highlighted the difficulties that some people encounter. The Malaysian FS 4-way team that was unable to participate in the WISC because the NAC did not issue Sporting Licences in time. This usually only occurs in countries where only a few air sports are practised and the relationship between the different sports is limited or non-existent. The FAI will be investigating this matter.

One FAI Project: This project started in 2018 at the mid-term meeting and was followed by a workshop in August. The results, mentioned during the IPC Strategy Workshop, kicked off a working group to look at how ASCs could be better involved in FAI strategic decision making. The question was raised as to whether FAI is still fit for purpose? The WG has not made much progress so far and the objectives were clarified by the President.

The next meeting with the Executive Board and the ASC Presidents will take place just prior to the General Conference in October 2019.

INTERIM BUREAU DECISIONS

So far this year, the bureau has taken five interim decisions.

01: A request from the Wingsuit Committee to modify 5.8.8. of the 2019 Wingsuit Flying rules.

02: 14th FAI World Cup of Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing, Cordoba, Argentina, 19-25 May 2019: Following the illness of **Gunter Berendt**, the bureau decided that **Exi Hoenle** would replace him as FAI Controller and **Gillian Rayner**, who was to be present in Argentina anyway, would replace **Exi** as Jury President.

03: Following a request from the Rules & Regulations Committee regarding the competition naming policy (which followed a request from FAI) and after being unable to come to an agreement with the Canopy Piloting Committee, the bureau decided that the Canopy Piloting Freestyle event being run concurrently with other Canopy Piloting disciplines would not be numbered separately. Consequently, all the events that take place in South Africa in November will come under the title of 10th FAI World Cup of Canopy Piloting.

04: Following a request from the Wingsuit Committee, the bureau agreed to a modification of the rules so that all official Speed task scores will be scored and displayed in kilometres per hour (km/h).

05: After discussion with the Indoor Skydiving Committee regarding instant scoring, the bureau decided to allocate a small budget to the Judges Committee to further investigate this matter.

It has been a busy time for our Organisers working hard to achieve competition excellence. As always, we remain grateful to them for their commitment of resources and time. A big thank you to them and for skydivers all over the world, glorious blue skies for successful competitions.

Have fun – and don't forget to follow us on worldskydiving.org, on [Instagram](#) and on [Facebook](#)!



Gillian Rayner – IPC President

June 2019