Formation Skydiving rule changes 2023

FCEAD changes

Make additions to FCEAD to indicate to bidder additional information required.

FCEAD annexe 2

2.14: ...Wind Tunnel details: chamber diameter, wind speed settings including maximum sustained wind speed available to a VFS team during competition, height, door measurements, cameras (position and screen image), music system. Provision of information to spectators about competitors currently flying.

2.25: Details of on-site communications (radios, telephone, etc.) and method(s) of information dissemination to competitors/delegations.

VFS competitors, need to know what maximum sustained windspeed will actually be available during the whole of the competition, not just a theoretical figure. Information about who is in the currently in the chamber and those following soon should be made easily available for spectators as well as competitors.

Competition Rule Changes

Clarify the definition of a grip:

2.2 Grip: consists of a handhold stationary contact between any part of the palm side of the hand and/or fingers, and an arm leg or foot of another jumper as shown in 7.2. As a minimum, a grip requires stationary contact.

Following judge’s discussions about the validity or not of stationary contact from the back of the hand, tips of fingers, or portion of the hand as grip (“handhold”), the Judges committee has suggested the new wording to clarify the situation.

Housekeeping - Rectify typographical error in definition of terms (outdoor):

2.18 VFS Orientation Zenith: Point of the celestial sphere located vertically above the head of an observer.

VFS Sun interference (outdoor):

2.15 NV: Formations, inters, or total separations not visible on screen due to meteorological or solar conditions, or factors relating to the Videographer’s freefall video equipment that can not be controlled.

3.1.5 Where possible the Meet Director will attempt to schedule VFS rounds at times when the sun is not within 20 degrees of the zenith to allow the team videographer to clearly video their
team. Consideration should also be given to aircraft run in for all events to minimise sun interference on exit.

Issues continue for VFS especially on exit. It is suggested that provision be made for the meet director be able to modify aircraft run in heading to ensure that the sun is not directly in front of the VFS videographer on exit. If the sun is directly in the line of sight then this could also be deemed a pertinent reason for a second run in or aborting the jump per GS5 5.2.8(4). It is thought solar flaring due to sun angle should be considered a NV, not a penalty. This can also be an issue in FS for run in directly into the sun early or late in the day.

**Update video requirements (both indoor and outdoor):**

**Outdoor:**

4.5.2 ... All video equipment must deliver a High Definition 1080 type digital signal with a minimum frame rate of 25-50 frames per second, through a memory card (minimum class 10). The videographer is responsible for ensuring the compatibility of the freefall video equipment with the scoring system.

**Indoor:**

4.5.5 The recording (camera), playback, and all auxiliary equipment must be full High Definition input and full High Definition output with a minimum frame rate of 50 frames per second and must provide viewing for the judges.

The old frame rate of 25fps was specified long before we went to half speed judging and with improvements of video equipment it is time to update the requirements to 50fps. It also seems superfluous to specify the card class these days.

**Allow Event Judge to change order of judging (outdoor)**

5.2 Order of Judging

The judging will, as far as practical circumstances allow (landings out, re-jumps etc), be judged in the reverse order of placing. The Event Judge may vary this to attempt to ensure that teams receive their scores prior to performing their next rounds.

Changing the order of judging may allow teams that are in a close contest to receive their scores prior to going up for their next round.

**Allow partial viewing of video on the second viewing (indoor and outdoor):**

5.4 ... The Judges will watch the video evidence of each jump (1) one time at normal speed to determine points in time. The moment of freeze frame at the end of working time will be determined at the first viewing. If a judgement call occurs, a second viewing of the jump or part(s) of the jump will be conducted at normal or reduced speed between 50-90 percent of normal speed. At the request of the Event Judge a (3rd) third view of part(s) of the jump can
be conducted at normal or reduced speed. The speed of the second- and third viewings (normal or reduced) will be determined by the Event Judge. The Chief Judge will decide prior to the start of each round the percentage of reduced speed to be used for the round. The freeze frame from the first viewing will be applied on each viewing.

It is proposed that partial viewing be allowed on second viewing in an attempt to help speed up judging.

Status of Videographer (outdoor):

6.3.4 Videographers must be entered for each team as part of the delegation and must be a member of the Delegation’s NAC. A Videographer may be replaced at any time during the competition, (with the agreement of the FAI Controller). The evaluation process for the video evidence will be the same for any Videographer. Videographers may be one of the following:

A. One person in addition to the team composition in 6.3.2. This competitor is to be considered as a team member for the purposes of awards and medals.

B. Any other person (ref 6.3.5). This Videographer is not eligible to receive awards and medals. This Videographer may jump only as a Videographer and is subject to the same regulations as other competitors on the team.

The current rules were put in place to allow an extra cameraperson from outside a team’s NAC to take the place of the current cameraperson in the case of illness or injury. This option has not been exercised for over 20 years and it is time to ensure that a national team is comprised of competitors from the same NAC.

Junior flying time (indoor)

6.4.4 Where possible, junior events are to be run at a separate time to open events e.g. morning vs afternoon. Preferred flying time for juniors is late morning or early afternoon.

A request was received from junior competitors that they not be the first event of the day.
Pool changes:

4-Way FS pool – NO CHANGES

Suggestions were put forward for changes to the 4-way pool, but the committee felt there was no real advantage to accepting the suggestions put forward at this time.

VFS pool:

Block12 “pinwheel” - change the accordion piece move from 180° to 540° to ensure the original intent of a slot switch.

Random B “Gulley” requirement for foot grips to be removed as the current requirement is difficult to both perform and judge.
The changes allow the indoor dive pool to have a full complement of 22 blocks and add some interesting variations that have not been seen in the 8-way pool before. There are no ISC 8-way competitions currently scheduled so there is no problem making a large number of changes to the pool.
It was felt that implementing all the 8-way suggestions was too large a change for the outdoor pool in one year, so it is recommended that only the three blocks above be changed as well as random K for the outdoor pool.