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**INTERNATIONAL SKYDIVING COMMISSION  
FORMATION SKYDIVING COMMITTEE REPORT AND AGENDA  
ORLANDO, 2024**

## **Committee 2023**

Chair: Mark Szulmayer (AUS)

Deputy Chair: David Grauwels (BEL)

Members:

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Matthew Fry (USA)

Claire King (RSA)

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Advisors: Jason Russell (USA)

Kirk Verner (USA)

I would like to thank the committee members for their work through the year.

## **Competitions 2023**

### **4<sup>th</sup> WORLD INDOOR SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia 21-23 Apr 2023

The indoor meet was very well attended with a total of 38 teams across 20 nations. On the whole the meet was very well run, and my thanks go to the organizers for all their efforts.

Unfortunately, the junior FS event only had two nations attend and this was also the case in Belgium last year. A query sent to all delegates indicated that there will be no junior teams planning to attend the 2024 Macau indoor meet. With this level of participation, the event becomes untenable and it is the recommendation of the FS committee that the event be discontinued.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> WORLD CUP OF FORMATION SKYDIVING

Voss, Norway 28 Aug - 02 Sep 2023

Overall, the competition was well attended with 14 nations participating. There were a total of 45 teams, including 24 4-way open teams. As is usually the case, weather played its part in making things challenging but the organizers made the best of what was available, and all events were successfully completed under sometimes difficult conditions.

There was some consternation amongst competitors when two teams received zero scores for not submitting video in the correct format for the first round. Although unfortunate, the change to required frame rate was explicitly raised at the competitors meeting and it is incumbent upon competitors to be aware of the rules. With the heightened awareness of the requirements, it is unlikely that the issue will occur again. The attention to video did however raise discussion regarding the differing wording between disciplines and it has been agreed that video requirements for AE, CF, FS and Wingsuit acro should be standardised.

### **Future competitions:**

#### 5<sup>th</sup> WORLD CUP OF INDOOR SKYDIVING

- Macau, March-April 2024

#### ~~26<sup>th</sup> WORLD FORMATION SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS~~

~~- Dead Sea, Israel 29 Oct - 6 Nov 2024~~

Due to conflict in Israel the proposed World Meet there had to be cancelled and at the time of writing, a bid has been received from the USA to host the meet.

Further information will no doubt be made available prior to the Plenary in Orlando

We currently have no bids for events beyond 2024. Bids from potential hosts would be welcomed.

## Proposed competition rule changes 2024 - Outdoor

### NV definition wording change (housekeeping):

Wording changed to match CF which just reads better...

2.15 NV: Formations, inters, or total separations not visible on screen due to meteorological ~~or solar~~ conditions (such as rain, clouds, sun etc), or factors relating to the Videographer's ~~freefall~~ video equipment that cannot be controlled.

### Exit Altitude wording change:

The wording modifications below just aim to clarify intent as there was some confusion amongst non-english speakers at Voss as to what is permitted by the rules.

3.1.4 For meteorological reasons only, and with the consent of the FAI Controller and the Chief Judge, the Meet Director may ~~change~~ lower (for any event) or raise (for 4-way FS events) the exit altitude and/or working time and continue the competition. In this case the following conditions will apply:

...

...

The reduced working time must be used if the exit altitude is lowered (ref 3.1.1, ~~and~~ 3.1.2 and 3.1.3). ~~The next round must commence if the working time is changed. The exit altitude and/or working time may only be changed for one or more whole rounds.~~

### Remove obsolete outdoor rule regarding exits:

~~4.6.2 The exit will be controlled by radio and commands relayed to the team in the aircraft by the pilot or crew. Exit commands will be made using an appropriate signal system.~~

### Outdoor Video requirements to be standardised and moved to SC5

The AE, CF, FS and WS committees have agreed upon a standard set of video requirements that can be placed in SC5 for these disciplines.

4.5 Video Transmission and Recording.

Details for video transmission and recording can be found in SC5 5.2.6 as they are common across multiple disciplines.

Wording below shows how the proposed wording for SC5 differs from what is currently in the FS CR's. One change to note is that FS will no longer require the use of slates indicating the team and round prior to exit.

5.2.6 Video Transmission and Recording for AE, CF, FS and WS acrobatic

(1) Each team shall provide the video evidence required to judge each round. Each **freefall** Videographer must use the video transmission system if provided by the Organiser.

(2) For the purpose of these rules, "**freefall** video equipment" shall consist of the complete video system(s) used to record the video evidence of the team's performance, including the camera(s), recording media, cables and battery(ies). All video equipment must deliver a High Definition 1080 type digital signal with a minimum frame rate of 50 frames per second, through a memory card. The videographer is responsible for ensuring the compatibility of the **freefall** video equipment with the scoring system. *Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in a score of zero (0) points.*

(3) *The camera must be fixed by a static mount to the helmet. No roll, pitch or yaw movements of the camera, mechanical and/or digital zoom adjustment, or any digital effects (excluding "steady shot" or other image stabilization feature) may be used during competition jumps. Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in a score of zero (0) points.*

(4) As soon as possible after each jump is completed, the **freefall** videographer must deliver the **freefall** video equipment (including the media used to record that jump) for dubbing at the designated dubbing station. The video evidence must remain available for viewing or download until all scores are posted as final.

(5) Only one video recording will be dubbed and judged. *For CF, FS and WS acrobatic secondary video recordings may only be used in NV situations as defined in the relevant competition rules.*

(6) The dubbing station will be as close to the landing area as possible.

(7) A Video Controller will be appointed by the Chief Judge prior to the start of the Judges' Conference. The Video Controller may inspect a team's **freefall** video equipment to verify that it meets the performance requirements as determined by him/her. Inspections may be made at any time during the competition which does not interfere with a team's performance, as determined by the Event Judge. If any **freefall** video equipment does not meet the performance requirements as determined by the Video Controller, this equipment will be deemed to be unusable for the competition.

(8) A Video Review Panel will be established prior to the start of the official training jumps, consisting of the Chief Judge, the President of the Jury, and the FAI Controller. Decisions rendered by the Video Review Panel shall be final and shall not be subject to protest or review by the Jury.

(9) If the Video Review Panel determines that the **freefall** video equipment has been deliberately tampered with *or there has been an intentional abuse of the rules, the team will receive no points for all competition rounds involved. SC5 5.4 will be applied (Unsporting Behaviour)*

(10) *If the Video Review Panel determines the insufficiency of the video evidence is due to a factor that could be controlled by the team, no re-jump will be granted, and the team will receive a score based on the video evidence available.*

*(11) If the Video Review Panel determines the insufficiency of the video evidence is due to weather conditions or a cause beyond the control of the team, a re-jump will be given.*

*(12) For CF, AE and WS acrobatic the Organizer must provide the teams with a way of identification of the team showing the team number/round to be recorded by the Videographer just before exit. The recording of this or other clear identification of the team number and round should continue into with the jump without any stop in recording. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a score of zero (0) points for the relevant round.*

*(13) Cameraflyer, interference and objects in the air*

- (i) A videographer or cameraflyer (other than a videographer who is part of a team) who has been authorised by the MD and the CJ and, for SP and WS Performance only, by the competitor will be permitted to board the aircraft and exit with a team or competitor.*
- (ii) If in the opinion of the CJ, the EJs and the Video Review Panel, a videographer or cameraflyer (other than the team's videographer) interferes with the judgeability of a team's performance or through direct body contact adversely affects a team's performance, a re-jump may be awarded. In this case the videographer or cameraflyer responsible will not be permitted to participate in further video or camera jumps during the competition.*
- (iii) A re-jump may be offered if the CJ, in agreement with the MD and the FAI Controller, concludes that the performance of a team or competitor has been adversely affected by an object in the air (e.g. aircraft, canopies). The CJ's decision is not ground for a protest.*

## Proposed competition rule changes 2024 - Indoor

### Removal of Indoor Junior event from FS competition:

The Junior FS event has been struggling to have enough competitive teams for many years. Only two nations (Czech and France) have been consistent attendees. Over the seven competitions that have been run, only three were able to muster the required 4 nations (never any more) and for the last two events only two nations attended. Enquiries about possible participation for the next indoor competition indicated that there are no junior teams currently planning to go to Macau.

It is difficult to maintain a junior team for any length of time and evidence suggests that many juniors, influenced by the tunnel instructors who are likely to be their mentors are much more inclined to move into dynamic flying.

In accordance our rules it is recommended that it indoor junior FS event be removed from our rules. If enough interest can be demonstrated in the future, the FS committee would be happy to have the event reintroduced.

The few rules specific to FS juniors are shown below and can be made available to any NAC interested in running their own junior events.

Indoor CR's

~~4.8.3 ... Junior performers have priority between 08:00 and 18:00.~~

~~6.2.1 ... 4-Way FS Junior Event~~

~~6.3.2 ... One Junior 4-Way FS team consisting of up to: Five (5) Junior 4-Way FS Competitors~~

~~6.3.6 Junior competitors whose 15th birthday occurs before the official start of competition may, if they choose, enter an open category event. Any competitor may only enter one category.~~

~~6.4.1 ... Up to 8 rounds junior.~~

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

ISC FS 4-Way Dive Pool Adjusted for Tunnel Sizes

12 Foot Tunnel...

~~Junior 4 to 5 A-Q 6,7,9,11,14,15,18,21~~

14 Foot Tunnel or larger...

~~Junior 4 to 5 A-Q 1,2,4,6,7,8,9,11,13,14,15,18,19,20,21,22~~

SC5

~~3.2.11(4) IFS, DY~~

*Junior Category - best performance achieved by a Junior team.*

### 3.2.5.2 Highest average

*The record performance for the highest average is the average number of formations for a completed competition program of 10 rounds (~~8 rounds for the IFS junior category~~) as defined in the current Competition Rules. The average must be calculated by dividing the final total point score (excluding any tie-break jumps/performances) by 10/~~8, as appropriate.~~*

### **Indoor 8-way entrance wording change:**

This change just recognizes that there are now multiple permitted starting formations.

*2.14.3 For FS 8-way Entrance: Teams must enter the tunnel and build ~~the starting formation as~~ a starting formation selected from those shown in Annexe H. The working time will start when the first grip of the starting formation is broken. If the starting formation is omitted or built incorrectly, then working time will start when both feet of any member leave the net and a one (1) point penalty will apply.*

### **Inform competitors of video limitations:**

Competitors at the last indoor meet were unaware that flying too high in the tunnel would take them out of the field of view of the top camera which was mounted outside the chamber.

*4.5.4 The video equipment will be placed in the wind tunnel in such a location as to ensure that all members of the team are visible. The location and field of vision must be approved by the Chief Judge and the FAI Controller. ~~If there are any limitations to the field of view, competitors are to be made aware of such limitations prior to the start of competition.~~*

### **Indoor Participation limits wording change:**

*6.3.4 ~~No Competitor may compete in more than two Formation Skydiving events (including Vertical Formation Skydiving). In addition, No Competitor may compete in both the FS 4-Way Open event and the FS Female 4-Way event~~ but may participate in one FS team and one VFS team.*

Initial indoor rules for participation were written when 8-way was not included. This brings indoor into line with the outdoor rules which then allows for participation in both 8-way and 4-way.

### **Additional FCEAD requirements for indoor competitions**

Following competitor comments at the last indoor event, the additions shown below are suggested.

Annexe 2

2.14 ...

*All equipment required must be ready and operational for all competition jumps/performances and all official training jumps/performances. Conditions for training jumps/performances should be as close as possible to those during competition (including lighting, curtains and signalling for indoor performances)*

2.20 Details of all judging equipment, measuring and scoring system(s) to be provided.

Approved electronic scoring system(s), listed per event. For indoor events provision should also be made for competitors to view video of their performances as soon as possible.

### **Modification to wording in SC5 regarding FS competition records.**

The FS committee feels that even though there have been improvements in gender equality within our sport, there is still worth in recognizing the achievements of all female teams, even if there is no specific female event. To that end FS would like SC5 to be modified for FS as shown below.

#### *3.2.11 Categories of Competition Records*

*The categories of Competition Records shall be:*

(1) AL, ST, CF, ~~FS, VFS, IFS, IVFS~~, PS, SP and WS Acrobatic

*General Category – best performance achieved*

*Female Category – best performance achieved by a woman or a women's team, only if such a team is included in the Competition Rules*

(2) FS, VFS, IFS, IVFS

*General Category – best performance achieved*

*Female Category – best performance achieved by a women's team.*

I leave it to other disciplines as to whether this is something they wish to consider.

### **Pool changes:**

As the upcoming year is a Championship year for outdoor, there are no planned pool changes this year.

There was a suggested VFS pool change for block 12, but the committee felt this should be put in the cycle next year as is usual, rather than change the pool for a championship year.

*Mark Szulmayer*

ISC FS Chair  
20 November 2023