

2006/7 Report Sporting Code Committee.

The majority of the committee's work has been development of the major proposals for change to the Sporting Code put to the committee from the 2006 meeting by the FFVV. As noted in the committee's proposals for this year, it became clear that the changes asked for were a significant part of Chapters 1 and 4 of the code. But these were not the only changes that were imminent. One of last year's proposals was to introduce COTS GPS units for position verification on early badge flights and for some years now we had signalled the deletion of photographic evidence in favour of Flight Recorder evidence. When first published, the committee had considered a period of 5 years should be sufficient notice before implementation. Making a year 1 proposal in 2007 would give implementation in 2008 only 4 years from first publication of the intention, so it is proposed that the rules to be deleted should be gathered into an appendix to Chapter 4 with a note to say they are still valid until the expiry date of 30th September 2009. Naturally, should the Plenary meeting so decide, the deletion could take place in 2008. All of which amounts to a major rewrite of the code during 2007. This course of action was accepted by the Bureau in their September meeting.

A first look at the changes envisaged deleting all of SC3 - 4.6.3 which directly cover photographic evidence. There are other rules which are partly or wholly dealing with photographic evidence and will need to be amended. It may not be immediately apparent, but 1.4.7 "**Loss of height – alternate calculation for distance flights**" was specifically designed to cater for the difficulty of getting position and height evidence using photographic evidence. There will be no need for it in future. As part of the revision each definition in chapter 1 and the rules in Chapter 4 will all need to be examined and amended where necessary. The object will be to simplify the code as much as possible as well as removing redundant rules. We ask that we be given indications from the plenary meeting on aspects of the re-write which will indicate how radical the changes should be.

The proposal to introduce COTS GPS units has the intention to replace the camera with recording GPS units for position verification ONLY. Security will not be as good as would be appropriate for the higher level badges or records, so the intention is to limit the use of this to flights only up to Gold badge level. As GPS units are made by over 500 manufacturers, and not all units would be able to do what is required of them, it is proposed that they should not be approved by GFAC for IGC use, but by the NACs as part of their normal approval of badge claims. Guidelines have been put forward by the Chairman of GFAC to give the NACs help in deciding which units they should be prepared to allow for this work. This will be published on the website when agreed to by the Bureau and others concerned. It should be noted however, that should IGC decide not to accept this part of the proposals, the remaining amendments to the Sporting Code still amount to a major re-write.

I have to thank the members of the Sporting Code committee for the work they have put in this year. The committee consists of Ross Macintyre, (NZ) chairman, Tony Burton (Canada), Tor Johannessen, (Norway) Axel Reich (Germany) and Judy Ruprecht, (USA). All are available for re-election, a brave decision considering the workload envisaged for 2007. It is intended that where necessary, others with the requisite knowledge of the code will be asked for opinions on aspects of the work where they can help.

Ross Macintyre
Sporting Code Committee.