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FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION

ARTISTIC EVENTS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2010

The IPC Artistic Events Committee (Freestyle Skydiving & Freeflying) had several activities this year. You will find a summary below.

Competition Rules

Proposed changes to the competition rules 2009 were discussed and accepted at the IPC Plenary Meeting 2010 in Lausanne, Switzerland. In general, changes were relatively small, with some fine-tuning and clarification. No new compulsories were introduced as this was an 'on' year with a WPC. All proposed changes, which were merely fine-tuning, housekeeping and updating the scoring guidelines and judging criteria were accepted.

8th World Parachuting Championships AE, Menzelinsk, Russia

This competition, august 9-14, was better attended than expected. A show of hands at the 2010 IPC meeting for the intention to send AE teams to Russia was disappointing to say the least. The actual attendance was not too bad considering the location of the venue and the fact that severe AE teams had stopped competing after the 2009 World Games. There were 12 teams in freeflying from 10 nations and 8 teams freestyle from 6 nations, a total of 20 artistic event teams and 52 athletes. This is on par with the World Cup 2009. There were however less teams in freestyle skydiving. Several teams have stopped, while it is unclear in how far the combination of the male and female into one category has affected attendance.

The competition was well organised and the 2 artistic events were fully completed. A new world record in freeflying of 24 points was made by team USA 1 on round 2. This record was repeated by team UK 1 on round 5. Congratulations to both teams.

Windtunnel training has considerable influence on these performances. The committee has to reconsider this world record category.

The electronic scoring system used for AE was not functioning nor were the current AE rules updated in the system. The current AE rules however do not state that such a system is compulsory, implicitly assuming an organiser would arrange this. This will be corrected in the 2011 rules as a proposal. The report from the IPC controller Judging & Scoring elaborates on this matter.

Elisabet Pettersson conducted the Open Meeting for AE at the WPC. The report from this meeting is in a separate document, and parts can be seen in the proposals for changes 2011 in this agenda.

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World Games 2013

The next World Games will take place in Cali, Colombia in 2013. The artistic events will not be a discipline on this event.

Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS), influence on AE attendance

VFS had its third year as official event with World Cups in 2008 (Eloy), 2009 (Prostejov) and the 1st WPC in Menzelinsk. Although the level of performance is really high, the number of teams attending is not. There were 6 teams. Possibly, the pool of competitive vertical flying performers for AE and VFS is too small to generate enough teams for both disciplines. At the open meeting the suggestion was done to create a separate VFS2 way event. While this idea might seem tempting there are of course negative aspects too. It will create yet another event. Also, will this not impact negatively on the attendance of freeflying? Furthermore, VFS is part of the FS committee, and freeflying from the AE committee. More discussion on this idea is needed.

Again and again, we as a committee emphasize the uniqueness of AE, being “freedom of creation”! There is no such thing in any other parachuting discipline, yet.

Teamwork with the Committee

My appreciation goes to the current members and advisers of the AE Committee for their time and work: Deputy Elisabet Pettersson (Sweden), member Niels-Christian Levin Hansen, advisors Ray Williams (Australia), Sylvia Wagner (Austria), Stéphane Fardel (France) Phillipe Schorno (France) and Alya Ananina. The committee is always welcoming new members to join the committee.

Ronald Overdijk
Chairman IPC Artistic Events Committee

Barendrecht, November 15th, 2010