



Mr Henk Meertens
President, CASI
FAI
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23rd August 2010

Submission on FAI Sporting Code General Section Chapter 6

Dear Henk

This letter replaces in full my previous correspondence dated the 5th of August, 2010.

I understand that CASI has recently received an application from the French Gliding Federation (FFVV) to amend clause 6.1.2 of the Sporting Code General Section.

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

I have been told that this amendment proposes the following changes to the clause:

*“To be eligible as an International record, the performance must have been recognized as a national record by the NAC concerned, except for international team performances in Class G (parachutes-largest formation record, **Multiseat Gliders and Motorgliders in Class D** and all performances in class K (space craft) and class P (aerospace)”*

The background to this request is, as far as I am aware, due to internal conflicts within France between the FFVV and pilots seeking to claim World Records in multi-seat gliders.

The IGC Bureau supports this proposal.

However, an internal IGC review of Chapter 6 of the Sporting Code General Section has caused us to consider a wider-reaching amendment to Chapter 6 than that proposed by the FFVV. Our submission is:

1. The existing text of Chapter 6 lumps World and Continental Records into a single category of “International Record”. From the point of view of keeping the text for the Sporting Code simple this is a reasonable grouping.
2. Unfortunately it now means that both World and Continental Records have to first be recognised as National Records by the NAC concerned.
3. We do not believe that this was ever the intention for Continental Records.

4. Further, we believe that this was not necessarily the intention of the amendment to the Sporting Code and that this inappropriate grouping of the two categories of Records can be resolved simply by amending the text in clause 6.1.2 to replace “*International Record*” with the words “*World Record*”. This automatically excludes Continental Records from this clause.
5. However, this then comes to the nub of the FFVV proposal and raises that question as to why a World Record needs to first be recognised as a National Record at all?
6. We do believe that National Records should be set by those holding a valid sporting licence for the country in which the record is claimed. However, the precise requirements for National Records are matters for NACs and not for the FAI.
7. We suggest that there is an inconsistency in the logic requiring a World Record (or Continental Record) to be recognised as a National Record. A World Record is a world-level performance. If the existing World Record is beaten by a Russian flying in the USA, for example, or a New Zealander flying in Argentina, does it matter whether it is a Russian or New Zealand national record?
8. The FIVV proposal specifically addresses the setting of World Records by a team and seeks to extend the exemptions that are already applied to this requirement.
9. Clause 6.3 of the SC-GS already recognises that an International Record (World or Continental) can be held by “*a person, crew, or team*”. The inconsistency is the requirement that these performances be recognised as National Records.
10. We are of the opinion that it is logical and appropriate for a claim for a World or Continental Record to be reviewed by the Organising NAC (clause 6.4.1) to evaluate pertinent aspects of the claim. If such a Record is submitted directly to the FAI, it's likely that some type of NAC review would still be required.
11. This review should include compliance with the "National Regulations" mentioned in SC3 and the General Section and with the aircraft "operating limitations" mentioned in SC3 and on claim forms.
12. In conducting this review on behalf of the FAI it may be reasonable for an NAC to charge a fee for this service.

Summary

We do not believe that World or Continental Records need to be first recognised as National Records. However, claims for World and Continental Records should be scrutinised for compliance with national regulations, airworthiness requirement and SC3 requirement by the NAC within whose jurisdiction the majority of the record is achieved.

Recommendations

1. If the requirement to recognise World and Continental Records as National Records is set aside then we wish to recommend the following amendment to clause 6.1.2, and a consequential amendment to clause 6.4.1 of the Sporting Code General Section:

6.1.2 *“To be eligible as an International Record, the performance must be ~~recognised as a National record~~ **verified** by the NAC concerned, **including ensuring that all** ~~except for international team performances.- in Class G (parachutes largest formation record and all performances in class K (space craft) and class P (aerospace). In any case the FAI rules have to be~~ **been** fulfilled.*

6.4.1 *“The NAC which issues the FAI Sporting Licence of any person attempting an International record or, in cases of team attempts, the NAC that issued sporting licences to the largest number of team members (the Organising NAC) is responsible for ~~certifying~~ **validating** that person’s or the team’s attempt ~~as a National Record (subject to the exceptions mentioned in 6.1.2 above)~~ and for submitting he International Record claim dossier to FAI regardless of where the record attempt took place.*

2. If the decision of CASI is that World Records still need to be recognised as National Records, then we wish to recommend an alternative amendment to clause 6.1.2 and to clause 6.4.1 of the Sporting Code General Section, which encompasses the FFVV proposal and also differentiates between World and Continental Records:


6.1.2 *“To be eligible as ~~an International~~ **World** record, the performance must have been recognized as a national record by the NAC concerned, except for international team performances in Class G (parachutes largest formation record, **Multiseat Gliders and Motorgliders in Class D** and all performances in class K (space craft) and class P (aerospace)”*

6.4.1 *“The NAC which issues the FAI Sporting Licence of any person attempting ~~an International~~ **a World** record or, in cases of team attempts, the NAC that issued sporting licences to the largest number of team members (the Organising NAC) is responsible for certifying that person’s or the team’s attempt as a National Record (subject to the exceptions mentioned in 6.1.2 above) and for submitting he International Record claim dossier to FAI regardless of where the record attempt took place.*

Representation

I request that Mr Ross Macintyre, the Chairman of the IGC Sporting Code Committee, be permitted to attend the CASI meeting in Dublin to present our arguments and to answer any questions that the CASI may have regarding this proposal.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal line.

Bob Henderson
President, IGC

Cc Mr Stephane Desprez, Secretary General, FAI