

AEROBATIC PARAGLIDING

Season 2019 report



CAT 2 COMPETITIONS

In 2019 we had 4 cat. 2 events (6 in 2018, 3 in 2017): 3 in Italy and 1 in France.

2 cat. 2 events counted for the **Acro World Tour 2019: 38 pilots** (49 in 2018, 52 in 2017) from **15 nations** (16 in 2018, 13 in 2017) took part to the **AWT. 3 of them were ladies (6 in 2018, 4 in 2017).**

All planned events took place normally and were only marginally affected by meteorological issues.

Event	Location	Date	AWT	Solo pilots	Synchro teams	Nations
Idroland Acro Games	Bondone (ITA)	14-16.06	No	10	N/A	5
Open de France	Rouen (FRA)	4-7.7	No	20	N/A	2
King of Brenta	Molveno (ITA)	11-14.07	Yes	33	N/A	14
AcroMax Pre-Worlds	Trasaghis (ITA)	11-15.08	Yes	29	N/A	13



2019 AWT FINAL STANDINGS

The title of **winner of the AWT 2019** was assigned to **Theo de Blic (FRA)**.

SOLO OVERALL

- 1st: Theo de Blic (FRA)
- 2nd: Victor Carrera (CHI)
- 3rd: Cesar Arevalo Urrego (COL)

LADIES

- 1st: Kristyna Takacova (CZE)
- 2nd: Anne Schmidinger (AUT)
- 3rd: Christina Metaxia (GER)

SYNCHRO

N/A

JUDGES SEMINARS

A very successful training seminar took place in Organyà (Spain) involving 16 trainees, 3 instructors and several pilots. The seminar resulted in the immediate qualification of 2 candidates while 2 more were qualified after live practice during the competitions of the season. For additional information refer to the specific report.

SAFETY

Throughout the 2019 season hundreds of competition runs were flown. One accident occurred at King of Brenta, resulting in a minor injury of the pilot who completely recovered in two months. No serious or fatal accident happened since the APWT was created in 2003. This is a success we are proud of. The aerobatic paragliding discipline has demonstrated over the years that it has reached a very high level of safety. Nevertheless, in the last years some young pilots (who never took part to any FAI competition) had fatal accidents while performing manoeuvres during training or aerobatic shows. The situation should be monitored.



FROM APWT TO AWT

The discipline is experiencing a period of stagnation, organisers are hard to find. The efforts made in 2018 to promote the Acro World Tour, with audiovisual products of different lengths and formats produced and distribution worldwide, were successful in terms of TV and internet visibility, but unfortunately this didn't bring any new sponsor yet.



Synchro competitions - the most exciting expression of aerobatic paragliding – had unfortunately to be frozen during the last two seasons due to the lack of competing teams. In 2020 synchro will come back to life, thanks to the WPAC in Italy.

PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF THE AEROBATIC ANNEX

The aerobatic committee will discuss all modifications needed during the next weeks and a complete proposal will be presented during the plenary meeting



NEEDS

Judges training

Judging an aerobatic competition is a very hard job, and it's always very difficult to scrape together the minimum number of judges required for a competition. We have been training some new judges during the last seasons, but just enough to replace the ones who retired.

→ **Latin American judge seminar in December 2020, Colombia**

South America has a very active aerobatic community. From that part of the World are coming 3 out of the top 4 pilots of the last season ranking, but there's not one single judge. Colombia made itself available to organise a seminar in cooperation with all other federations of the continent. Planning in progress.

Additionally, a very old project, for which a budget has been repeatedly voted and accepted, but never realized due to the lack of volunteers:

→ **Standardization of the formation process of new judges**

The best way to achieve this goal has been identified in the **production of a tutorial video** that would explain in detail the criteria for judgment and illustrate the manoeuvres one by one. Such a tool would simplify greatly the training process, making possible the holding of seminars outside of the competition while improving consistency of judgment and reducing costs. A budget had already been approved four (4!!!) years ago and was finally planned for September 2019. Unfortunately the video shooting had to be cancelled after Horacio Llorens' accident. We'll try again and harder in 2020...

Organisers

Organising an aerobatic paragliding competition is very demanding and expensive. During the last years the number of organizers willing to take an important financial risk constantly decreased. In 2018, the advent of the Acro World Tour concept provided new impetus, but in 2019 we were back to square one.

→ **Acquisition of a modular inflatable landing raft**

CIVL could encourage much organisers by financing the acquisition of 4 PVC floating modules (4x4 meters each) needed to compose the floating landing rafts necessary for aerobatic competitions. These would be managed by the aerobatic committee and would be available for free (except shipping costs) for the AWT events and all other FAI events that might need them.

Scoring software

The Acropyx scoring system adopted in 2012 has already proved its effectiveness: it is now imperative to continue improving it and updating it constantly. Additionally, the system must now be adapted to the new battle competition concept.

→ **Development of a specific software with display interface for battle competitions - further development of the acropyx scoring software**

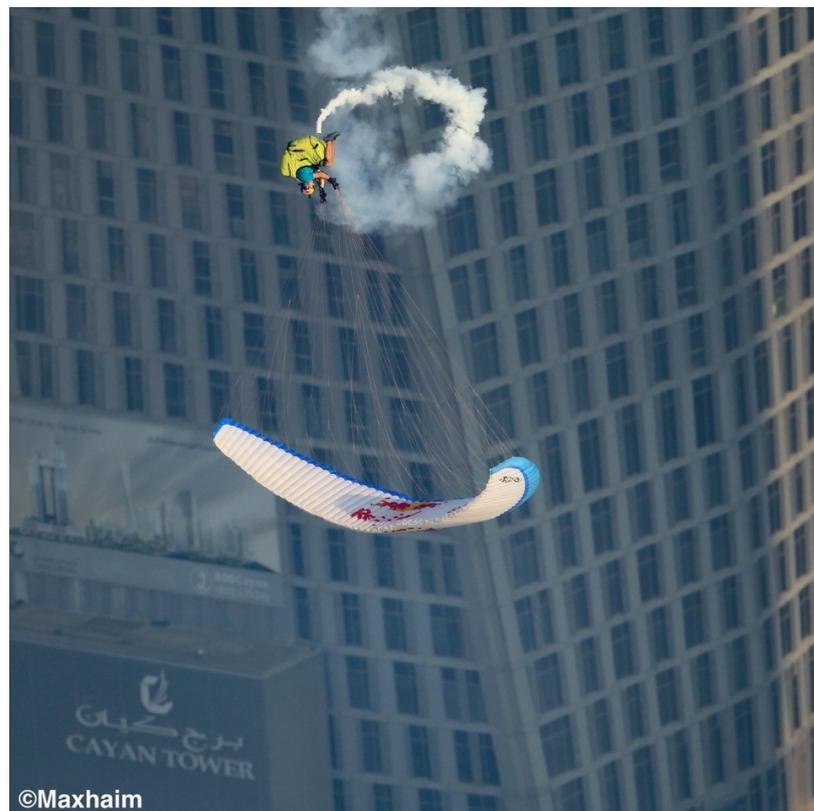
Keeping the costs within acceptable limits has been, and will be possible only thanks to the commitment of two Cuban paraglider pilots and programmers who have provided an enormous effort, demonstrating great availability over the entire season, on a highly competitive price compared to western standards.

BUDGET REQUEST

To achieve the objectives set out above, the financial needs for 2020 are the following:

- 3'000.- € for live judge training during competitions in Europe
- 3'000.- € for the acquisition of 4 PVC floating landing rafts modules (4x4 meters)
- 2'000.- € for the production of a judging tutorial video
- 1'000.- € for the further development of the Acropyx scoring software

Additionally, a specific budget for a judge seminar in Colombia will be drawn up and presented in the next month.



On behalf of the Aerobatic subcommittee
Claudio Cattaneo - Chairman