



2014 CIVL Plenary – Annex 12

Review of the 2013 Championships and practice events

Reports from Jury and Stewards are available on request to the Bureau.

19th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 1 Championship, Forbes, Australia.

Date: January 5 to 18, 2013.

Meet Director – Davis Straub.

Safety Director – Bruce Wynne.

Steward – Flip Koetsier (NDL).

Jury – President: John Aldridge (GBR). Members (remote): Brian Harris (GBR), Agust Gudmundsson (ISL).

102 pilots from 23 countries including 8 Women from 7 nations.

10 valid tasks.

Individual – 1: Manfred Ruhmer (AUT) – 2: Alessandro Ploner (ITA) – 3: Filippo Oppici (ITA).

Team – 1: Italy – 2: USA – 3: Great Britain.

Women – 1: Corinna Schweigershausen (DEU) – 2: Kathleen Rigg (GBR) – 3: Tove Heaney (AUS).

The weather was good for a hang gliding competition, giving possibilities for long tasks with few weather related non-flying days. The competition organisation had safety in mind from the start of planning for the competition and this resulted in a good safety record apart from a couple of minor injuries. This championship was well organised and with sufficient staff available for all aspects of the championship.

13th FAI World Paragliding Championships – Sopot, Bulgaria.

Date: July 13 to 26, 2013.

Meet Director – Nikolay Yotov.

Safety Director – Daniel Dimov.

Steward – Leonard Grigorescu (ROM).

Jury – President: Dennis Pagen (USA). Members: Ugljesa Jondzic (SRB) and Peter Brandlehner (AUT)

146 pilots from 38 countries, including 14 Women from 12 nations.

5 valid tasks.

Individual – 1: Jeremie Lager (FRA) – 2: Charles Cazaux (FRA) – 3: Davide Cassetta (ITA).

Team – 1: France – 2: Italy – 3: Venezuela.

Women – 1: Klaudia Bulgakov (POL) – 2: Seiko Fukuoka (FRA) – 3: Nicole Fidele (ITA).

The meet director, Nik Yotov did an excellent job and was congratulated by the team leaders. One thing he did was stop cloud flying by penalizing three pilots. Most of the non-penalized pilots expressed great support for these measures and cloud flying stopped, even though there were many clouds on course. We will try to continue this progress. Also, the Sport Club Shambhala should be thanked for providing everyone with transport to the mountaintop on their chairlift. On most days the flying was spectacular with gains to 3000 meters. The area of Sopot was inexpensive and many pilots appreciated the comparatively low cost of this meet. Sopot should be a good potential site for future high-caliber meets.

1st World Games – Cali, Colombia.

Date: July 29 to August 4, 2013.

Meet Director – Violeta Masteikiene (LTU).

Chief Judge – Anton Tursic (SLO)

Steward – Andy Cowley (GBR)

Jury – President: Graeme Windsor (AUS), Ronald Overdijk (NL), Andy Cowley (GBR)

29 pilots from 15 countries including 7 Women from 7 countries.

6 valid rounds.

Men – 1: Matjaz Feraric (SLO) – 2: Tomas Lednik (CZE) – 3: Tanapat Luangiam (THA).

Women – 1: Jolanta Romanenko (LTU) – 2: Nunnapat Phuchong (THA) – 3: Milica Marinkovic (SRB).

The World Games 2013 was a multi-sport event organised by the International World Games Association (IWGA) and the Cali Local Organising Committee (CLOC) under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The Games comprised over 30 non-Olympic sports located in Cali and the FAI decided that two external air sports would be represented – canopy piloting (a subset discipline of parachuting) and paragliding accuracy: the latter using a winch for launching. These sports were selected due to the fact they could be co-located and provide a continuous visual event with spectator appeal. Because of the lack of an internationally experienced competition team, Violeta was nominated by the FAI as an qualified Meet Director, capably supported by Anton Tursic and his judging team and Huub Coumans (NL) as a Safety Director. There were many challenges due to the necessary security activities, transportation, timings and the fact that the competition was held on a military airfield at the Marco Fidel Suarez Air Force Base. In addition, the wind direction was constantly changeable, usually turning 180° throughout the day, often causing launch problems due to the adjacent and active aircraft runway. Despite these concerns for the organisers, the competitors put on a very good show aided by the commentator Regan Tetlow with Medals awarded by the FAI President Dr. John Grubbstrom (SWE) and Sec General Jean Marc Badan (CH). The closing ceremony at the was truly memorable consisting of a brilliant fire work display and musical event with all the athletes/competitors being applauded by many thousands of spectators.

7rd FAI World Paragliding Accuracy Championships – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Date: August 17 to 25, 2013.

Event Director – Mirvad Zenuni (BIH)

Meet Director – Mirza Hurem (BIH)

Chief Judge – Franko Kuzmic, (HIR)

Event Judge – Dusan Gorenc (SLO)

Steward – Nikki Bodill

Jury – President: Andy Cowley. Members: Ugljesa Jondzic (SRB); Louise Joselyn (FRA) (Remote Juror)

79 pilots from 19 countries including 17 Women from 10 countries.

7 valid rounds.

Individual – 1: Sheng Guangqiang (CHN) – 2: Jaka Gorenc (SLO) – 3: Tomas Lednik (CZE).

Team – 1: Czech Republic – 2: Bulgaria – 3: Serbia.

Women – 1: Milica Marinkovic (SRB) – 2: Jolanta Romanenko (LTU) – 3: Rimante Verbylaite (LTU).

The Target Area was located at Baban Do at the base of the Bjelasnica Mountain (1250m asl), 32km away from Sarajevo centre. The mountain was one of the XIV Winter Olympic Games locations. Two Launch Points were used, Trosjed (1650m asl) and Trosjed East (1620m asl) which were positioned in cleared areas directly above the target. Participants were transported to the Launch Points by a Cable Car that was opened specifically for the

competition. The competition was very close with the weather challenging many pilots due to thermic activity in the middle of the day, which caused the Chief Judge to issue some verbal warnings and the nominated safety committee on occasion to stop the flying. This variability in flying conditions resulted in some complaints because some considered that it may have affected the results and this should be considered by the plenary as a lesson when selecting future competition locations. Other organisational lessons were learnt by the competition management and target teams with the CIVL Steward providing support and guidance to both the Event Director and competitors where required. One other point for plenary discussion is whether a current World Champion has an automatic competition entry to defend his title... whether he has (or not!) been selected as part of his/her National team.

Practice event for the World HG Class 1 Women, 2, 5 and Sport Championships – Annecy, France.

Date: July 3 to 13, 2013.
Meet Director – Richard Walbec.
Safety Director – Raymond Caux.
Steward – Claudia Meija de la Pava (COL).

90 pilots from 10 countries including 6 Women for Class 1, 45 Men for Class 1 (French National), 9 for Class 2, 22 for Class 5, 8 for Class Sport.

This event actually took place in Doussard, a small town near Annecy, where the main landing field and HQ were located. Despite it being a complex event to organize and run due to the 4 different classes it involved, it was a successful event. Moreover, the fact that it was combined with the French Nationals provided a large field of pilots to properly test the area and the organization. Some issues that need to be improved came up were discussed with the key officials. The main concern at this point will be the arrangements with the paragliding pilots, tandem and solo, flying at the site all other issues may be solved in an easier way.

The support from the NAC and local authorities was remarkable. The number of staff involved and the experience of the key officials is another important asset.

Practice event for the 13th European PG Championships, Raska Kopoanik, Serbia.

Date: August 2 to 8, 2013.
Meet Director – Zoran Petrovic.
Safety Director – Predrag Dudic.
Steward – Nicky Moss (GBR) and Nikolay Yotov (BUL) as Trainee Steward.

49 pilots from 14 countries, including 5 Women from 3 countries.

The officials without exception managed the event with enthusiasm from the outset. There has obviously been a lot of preparation amongst the team who worked together well and with a high level of professionalism. The organisers demonstrated that they have the skill, motivation and resources to run a Cat.1 championship.

The practice event was run with a low budget due to the limited number of competitors but the overall impression was of a well-managed and successful event for all pilots.

Practice event for the 4th European PG Accuracy Championships, Vrsac, Serbia.

Date: September 19 to 22, 2013.
Meet Director – Ninko Klukovnica.
Safety Director – Goran Djurkovic.
Steward – Violeta Masteikiene (LTU).

57 pilots from 14 countries, including 8 Women from 6 countries.

Work of the Organization team was effective in generally they are ready to organize FAI 1 cat. event and they were open to suggestions, improvements was made urgent with no delay. The

start place are not large, but safe, high difference about 300 m. (suitable for Accuracy landing competitions). Landing area visible from the start, safe with no obstacles. All infrastructure are suitable for FAI I cat. competitions. Event took 2 days, 3 (plus 1 training round) rounds were flown during this period. The weather conditions for flying were changeable but mostly stable, during all days. There were no incidents or accidents. The results were scored in individual and team categories. Steward recommendations for a next year are discussed with organizers. LR already presented to CIVL.

Practice event for the 2nd Asia PG Accuracy Championships, Ranau, Malaysia.

Date: October 16 to 20, 2013.

Meet Director – Mohd Arif Ibrahim

Safety Director – Mohd Amin Ismail

Steward – Violeta Masteikiene (LTU).

41 pilots from 8 countries, including 10 Women from 5 countries.

Work of the Organization team was effective in generally they are ready to organize FAI 1 cat. event and they were open to suggestions, improvements was made urgent with no delay, no language problems detected. Following the requirements of Section 7c, the new launch site and target area were prepared (with height difference more than 150 m.). It was tested by pilots before the start of the competitions. Safety committee was appointed from pilots of different nations, and officials. The new launch and landing sites were considered suitable for experienced pilots but very much depended on conditions. So the old launch (Start Nr1) was used. For Cat 1 event, the steward recommends using the original launch (Start Nr1) as it is safer for different levels of pilots and more suitable to use in changeable conditions. The new one (start nr3) may be used as reserve.

Event took 2 days 6 rounds were flown during this period. The weather conditions for flying were stable, during all days. There were 3 incidents but no accidents. The results were scored in individual and team categories. Steward recommendations for a next year are discussed with organizers. LR presented to CIVL with delay.

Practice event for the 2nd Pan-American PG Championships, Tucuman, Argentina.

Date: November 2 to 9, 2013.

Meet Director – Sergio Bujazha.

Safety Director –Cristian Poli.

Steward – Dennis Pagen (USA) and Kari Kastle (USA) as Trainee Steward.

64 pilots from 6 countries, including 4 Women from 3 countries.

This meet was well-run by the experienced Sergio, but he tended to do too much himself, not delegating duties. We convinced him he needs more launch personnel for next year. The site can handle 100 pilots that we expect next year. Conditions were fairly good this year with high wind only on one day which stopped flying. Normally this site has more rain days this time of the year. We convinced the organizer to redo his goals with more accurate GPS coordinates. In fact, alternate goal fields were determined to be better than at least one selected. We will check this matter before the meet next year. In general this was a safe and satisfying competition.