

Subject:	CF Chief Judge Report, Croatia		Annex:	11
Author(s):	Barry McAuley		Agenda ref.:	12.1
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Chief Judge's Report – Canopy Formation Rijeka, Croatia 2004

I arrived at the competition site on September 15th to supervise equipment set-up and prepare for the Judges' Conference. Although the equipment was on-site it was not assembled—I was assured all would be in order for the beginning of the conference, which was to begin on the 16th. We were able to access the equipment by mid-day.

The weather was uncooperative—resulting in teams being unable to make practice jumps in the days leading up to the competition. Not only that, but high winds destroyed the tent city which had been set up off the taxi-way and scattered other portable facilities around the airport. The organizers remedied the chaos by installing cubicles in the main hanger for each of the nations represented.

No Canopy Formation competition jumps were made on the first day of the scheduled contest. This was due to the organizers last minute decision to use a different aircraft than had been published. Following a jury decision to allow substitution of the aircraft—a TurboLet 410—teams were allowed a free test jump to familiarize themselves with the side-door exit—rather than the tailgate exit of the advertised MI-8 helicopter. This day of test jumps may have been instrumental in bringing the competition to end without the completion of all rounds.

Following is a brief summary of competition days.....

- day one (Saturday) - test jumps – no competition jumps
- day two (Sunday) – 3rds 8way – 3 rounds sequential – new 8way record (23.37 sec.) by Russia
- day three (Monday) – 3 rounds rotation – 4 rounds 8way – transportation problem in AM– 2nd MI-8 arrives
- day four (Tuesday) – 3 rounds sequential – 5/7 round rotation – low clouds after lunch
- day five (Wednesday) – rotations to end of 7th round in AM and early PM under high cloud – video review and rejump (607) due to metrological conditions – final round 8-way – called due to cloud late afternoon – rejump awarded (607) due to possible aircraft overspeed
- day six (Thursday) – morning low cloud – afternoon low cloud – late afternoon 607 rejump and semi-final & final rounds sequential – new record in 8th round by USA – 13 points in time
- day seven (Friday) heavy rain and high winds

Team Data

4-way Rotation – 7 teams competing – 7 rounds completed
 4-way Sequential – 5 teams competing – 8 rounds completed
 8-way Speed – 3 teams competing – 8 rounds completed

Judging Panel

Anders Wallinder – Sweden – Event Judge
 Lindy Rochow – Australia – Principal Judge
 Percy Kristersson – Sweden – Principal Judge

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Faye Cox – Australia – Principal Judge

The judging panel operated with minimum staff account of a number of unforeseen circumstances. First of all, one of the selected judges was hospitalized requiring surgery and therefore was unable to attend. Secondly, Roger Flinn, originally appointed to conduct the CF training judges course and later included as a member of the panel when the course was cancelled, ended up spending most of his time with two trainees judges who had made travel arrangements prior to cancellation of the program. Both of these trainees were assessed and evaluated by Roger and consequently were deemed to have met the requirements of SC5 – therefore we have two new FAI CF Judges!

Equipment and Facilities

OmniSkore™ was used for judging all events. The system operated normally—with the occasional tweak by staff. Although signals from videographer's cameras were downloaded in digital format—to a digital master—the product supplied to the staff for judging purposes was in the standard VHS PAL format. In the opinion of the judges, lose of signal strength and definition by not using a digital signal for all phases of the process must be given immediate attention. With available technology there is no reason a digital tape or DVD cannot be used in the final judging process. The end result would be of benefit to both judges and competitors alike.

For communication, the organizers supplied cellular telephones to all CJs to enable them to be in contact with key support personnel. This proved to be an invaluable tool. Office supplies and a photocopier were stationed in the CJ area.

The judging area was adequate, although crowded, as it was also used as an instructional area for judges in training. Lacking was a lounge area where judges could retire to during rotation periods. The absence of a lounge meant distraction for those judges still involved in the judging process as those off duty clustered around the coffee maker.

Organisation

An organisational glitch, rectified on the second day of competition, whereby the judges were expected to abandon judging duties and attend to lunch in a tent some distance from the judging area, caused some consternation for the Chief Judges. Although there was a designated shut-down period for lunch between noon and one thirty, judges were not able operate on the same time schedule as competitors and staff. Henceforth, lunches were served in the judging area.

An organisational nightmare, moving competitors, judges and other staff from accommodation to sport venues 25 kilometres distant, was on the most part handling very well. Some short-lived problems arose when different disciplines were forced to operate on more diverse time schedules than others. All in all, transportation arrangements were surprisingly effective.

Rejumps

56th FAI/IPC PLENNARY MEETING 2005

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Two rejumps were awarded—both to the same team. The video review panel, after viewing a jump in which atmospheric conditions may have interfered with a fair and equitable evaluation by the judges, awarded one of the rejumps. The other, dealt with by the jury, was awarded after some questions arose as to whether the correct airspeed was maintained before and during exit of the team.

In Summary

My thanks go to the panel of judges, who performed their duties admirably even though operating with minimal numbers. Also, thanks to the organizers and many volunteers who operated under adverse weather conditions for much of the competition but managed to come through with a near complete World Parachuting Competition.

Sincerely,

Barry McAuley – CF Chief Judge