



IPC ANNUAL REPORT 2008

COMPETITIONS

Being an even numbered year, 2008 is a year in which World Championships in all parachuting events, except Para-ski, occur. Odd numbered years are set aside for World Cups, often being used to trial changes to WPC rules. The following is a list of parachuting World Championships for 2008.

LOCATION & DATE	FAI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Maubeuge, France 9 – 15 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formation Skydiving• Freestyle and Skysurfing• Freeflying• Women's Formation Skydiving
Lucenec, Slovakia 26 July -2 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freefall Style• Accuracy Landing
Teuge, Netherlands 8 – 14 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canopy Formation
Pretoria, South Africa 12-23 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canopy Piloting

In addition, a World Cup and European Championships was held in Para-ski, in Styria, Austria, 5 – 9 March 2008.

Strict application of the IPC's First Category Event Sanction Procedures and associated Organiser Agreements has led to much better understanding of expectations on behalf of all stakeholders for the successful conduct of premier world skydiving events. The application of sanction fees has assisted the IPC to cover the costs of Jury and Judge travel costs.

In line with the FAI's vision and mission statements, work in the IPC continues on bringing our events to the public, with increasingly timely use of the FAI web site.

RECORDS

The most significant and outstanding record for the year was the successful attempt to link 100 parachutes in a diamond formation. The record jump, involving multiple aircraft occurred on 21 November 2007 at Lake Wales in Florida. The practice period leading up to the successful jump was marred by the death of a skydiver following a canopy entanglement.

The IPC is aware of some serious attempts being made to establish an altitude world record. In 1960, Capt. J Kittinger of the USA jumped from a balloon from 102,800 feet. At that time the FAI apparently could not recognise the jump as a record as it was not regarded as a free fall because a drogue parachute was used to stabilise the fall. The IPC this year has moved to create a new category of altitude record that allows the use of a drogue as a stabilisation device.

SAFETY

The IPC's Technical and Safety Committee continue to play an important role in monitoring parachuting safety worldwide. It produces an annual safety survey, which identifies trends in parachuting accidents, and is establishing an incident database, with the assistance of national parachuting organisations. The T & S Committee also provides an advisory service to those countries who are establishing or updating their regulations and operational procedures for skydiving.

WORLD GAMES 2009

Parachuting is again scheduled as part of the World Games, an event held under the patronage the IOC every 4 years, comprising over 30 sports. The next World Games is scheduled for July 2009 in Kaohsiung City, Chinese Taipei. This country has no civilian skydiving, which in itself provides a number of challenges in planning and running a skydiving competition with 5 disciplines. A limited test event was run at the proposed venue in July 2008, which provided valuable experience and assisted in identifying areas requiring further attention for 2009. Of course, the weather is always a factor, and a typhoon that passed through the area in the lead up to the event caused some delays, but all planned jumps were completed in time.

WORLD AIR GAMES 2009

Parachuting was part of a test event, which finished on 2 June 2008. Again weather had an impact on the parachuting event, and not all planned jumps could be completed. Issues in respect of aircraft, communication and co-ordination were identified and reported on.


CONCLUSION

I thank my commission for appointing the IPC Bureau for a two-year term commencing last January. This provides a better basis for accomplishing some longer-term vision, and has been a catalyst for IPC introducing a mid term Bureau meeting to set the way forward for the IPC and the sport of skydiving, in concert with the FAI's own vision and mission statements.

IPC is looking forward to the revitalised World Air Games concept in 2009 at Turin. It is also dealing with the challenges of hosting parachuting events at the World Games in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei in 2009, a country where parachute competition is virtually non-existent.

I wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work by the myriad of volunteers that contribute to the work of the IPC.

Finally, my job, and that of the IPC Bureau, has been made much easier by the dedication and assistance provided by FAI Secretary- General Max Bishop and his staff in Lausanne.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Windsor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Windsor
President , IPC