

58th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett
Vichy, France 27th August 2014 to 4th September 2014

Jury Report, Performance Bond refund

Several parts of the preparations and execution of this event were either late or below expected standard or both. The contract signed by the organiser February 26, 2014, stipulates deadlines and penalties for late action. In addition, the CIA has decided on the deadlines for other elements of the preparation of FAI Category 1 ballooning events. Below is a list of penalties to be withheld from the Performance Bond.

SUMMARY OF AMOUNT TO BE RETAINED FROM PERFORMANCE BOND

Item	Ref. below	Days late	Penalty	Rule ref.	Amount CHF	Note
Sanction fee payment	1	116	10 CHF/day, max 10% of PB	OA Schedule 1.1	700	CIA President proposal
Performance Bond payment	1	127	10 CHF/day, max 10% of PB	OA Schedule 1.2	700	Jury proposal
Rules submitted	2	60	10 CHF/day	OA Schedule 1, (vi)-b	Waived	Jury proposal
Rules published	2	15	10 CHF/day	Sporting Code I, 5.7.4	150	According to rule
Web site	3	62	10 CHF/day	OA Schedule 1, (vi)-c	620	According to rule
Facilities	4		Jury proposal	OA Schedule 2-(vii) and 3-(ii)	100	Jury proposal
FAI/CIA logos	5		Jury proposal	OA Schedule 4.3	50	Jury proposal
Protocol	6		Jury proposal	CIA & FAI Protocol	100	Jury proposal
Travel allowance	7			CIA Jury Handbook	Waived	Jury proposal
Total CHF					2 420	EUR equivalent ~2 000

DETAILS

Key dates

Sanction Application (SA) was submitted 2013, updated March 17, 2014, Sanction granted March 21, 2014

Organiser Agreement, (OA) signed: February 26, 2014

CIA 2014 plenary: March 20/21, 2014

Start of the event: August 28, 2014

Documents

CIA Sporting Code March 21, 2014

CIA 2014 Plenary meeting minutes March 21, 2014

Protocol for FAI and CIA Sanctioned Events March 2005

Protocol for Award-Giving and Closing Ceremonies at FAI Championships October 2009

Organisers

FAI member: Aeroclub de France through Fédération Française d'Aérostation (FFA)

Local organiser (LOC): Société des Courses de Vichy (in official rules)

Note: The OA is an agreement between FAI/CIA and the organiser/FFA. In the OA, the organiser's name is:

A: "COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION DES CHAMPIONNATS DU MONDE JUNIOR ET DE LA COUPE GORDON BENNETT 2014"

(This organisation is also mentioned in the Sanction Application v130116 and in the rules for the Junior World Championship.)

An organisation with the above name does not seem to exist but on April 8, 2013 an organisation was formed with the object to organize the two events at the Hippodrome in Bellerive, Vichy. The official name is:

B: "COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION DE LA GORDON BENNETT ET DES CHAMPIONNATS DU MONDE JUNIOR DE MONTGOLFIÈRES 2014", 11, rue Alquié, 03200 Vichy

Another organisation is mentioned in the rules as organiser together with the FFA:

"SOCIÉTÉ DES COURSES DE VICHY", 11, rue Alquié, 03200 Vichy

This seems to be the owner of the Hippodrome and is mentioned as organiser in the Sanction Application v14.

It is understandable and not unusual that a special organisation is formed for an event to reduce the liability and risk for the "real" organiser. But they should know their own name.

Another observation is that the signatures under the OA are unidentifiable. The signatures should be accompanied by names in clear text.

1. Sanction fee and Performance Bond

The Sanction fee (SF) of 1 500 CHF should have been paid at the signing of the OA but was paid 116 days later, on June 22, 2014.

Ref Organiser Agreement 1.1

The Performance Bond (PB) of 7 000 CHF should have been paid before the start of the invitation process. The first round of the invitation started February 15, 2014. The PB was paid 127 days late, on June 22, 2014.

Ref: Sanction Application and Organiser Agreement 1.2.

FFA comment:

Sanction Fee and Performance Bond: same as for the WJ

1/ The french federation paid the Sanction Fee and Performance Bond in lieu of the organizing committee who had his own idea about deadline.

Unfortunately for the FFA, we have now to pay penalties when we tried to help and to respect the rules.

Jury President comment:

The full penalty for lateness of payment should have been 2430 CHF according to the Organiser Agreement. After many reminders SF and PB was finally paid 4 months late. I proposed to reduce it to maximum 10% of PB for each so the penalty was reduced by more than 1000 CHF to 1400. The OA was signed by the FFA and someone from the local organizer so both FFA and the LOC are responsible for fulfilling the contract. Payment should have been made clear to the LOC long before.

2. Rules

The proposed rules for the event should have been submitted 60 days before the CIA plenary 2014 but was submitted at the plenary, 60 days late.

Ref: Organiser Agreement, Schedule 1, (vi)-b.

The rules submitted were based on an old version of the model rules and contained many errors.

The chairman of the CIA rules subcommittee (RSC) confirm that the rules were submitted late. However model event rules are discussed at the meetings 2 days before the plenary, and there, changes are made that event organisers may or may not want to incorporate in their rules. The RSC also has been delegated the power to approve event rules which therefore do not need to be approved by the CIA plenary. The penalty, 10 CHF/day late, could therefore be reduced, and/or be applied to the publication of the rules.

Due to severe problems to communicate with the organiser, approval of the rules was delayed and the rules was finally approved June 8, 2014. The organiser was instructed to publish them immediately. They were published on the CIA web and information was sent by the CIA secretary on CIA mailing lists June 11, 2014. The rules were then sent by email to the pilots the following day and published on the event web, probably June 13, 2014.

Rules shall be published 3 months before the event, May 28, 2014. The publication to pilots was 15 days late. There was probably too many cooks in this obscure soup.

Ref: Sporting Code, Section 1, 5.7.4.

Note: Special rules for GB shall be published at least six months before the date of the Coupe. A list of potentially open countries must be published 60 days before the event. The list was published July 21, 2014, 38 days before the event.

To get answers from all possible countries is a long process. The 60 day limit is desirable but maybe not realistic for a final version

Ref: GB rules, articles 10 and 11.

FFA comment:

Was supposed to be given to the Rules SC by the ED. No one can ignore that at the last minute, Markus Haggenny was withdrawn as our usual and competent ED as he got appointed at the FAI.

Jury President comment:

Yes, we know the problem with a change of the ED. After consultation with the Rules SC Chairman I decided not to prose any penalty for this.

The rules were also published late and sent out late to the pilots. Therefore I proposed a penalty here instead.

3a. Web site general

For a long time, the website was static with very little information. Pilots and officials had to request information by e-mail that many times were not answered promptly as the organiser did not have the requested information. Probable cause was lack of communication between the FAI member and the local organiser. This caused high workload for the FFA and inconvenience to the teams and officials. The website started slowly to be updated about one month before the start of the event.

The website shall be created and maintained 30 days after the sanction is granted and contain current information for competitors, officials, sponsors, media and the public. Maintaining and updating the website started about 92 days late.

Ref: OA, Schedule 1, (vi)-c.

FFA Comment

3a/ Website general: Yes. it was weak and late

3b. Web site format

The tracking page was excellent and worked well but sponsor logos covered the altitude diagram. Moving the logos just a little bit would have helped and was requested without any remedy. Sponsor logos also covered a part of the heading of each page. The logos could have been displayed on both sides of the screen. Unprofessional.

FFA comment:

3b/ The mention "unprofessional" is not appropriate. We are all volunteers. Saying that "The tracking page was excellent and worked well" can cover some "unprofessional" display!

Jury President comment:

Yes I agree that the tracking worked well except the it was partly blocked by advertising. But the main problem was that the website had almost no information before the event. This was a clear breach of OA.

4. Facilities

Facilities were adequate until the morning of the day of the launch, August 29. Then we were brutally expelled from the jury room and the operations room. They were needed for LOC VIP guests. On the day of the launch, the competition centre had to move to another building with all equipment including wireless network hub. After that, Internet access was limited.

Ref: Organiser Agreement, Schedule 2-(vii) and Schedule 3-(ii)

FFA comment: Right.

5. FAI/CIA logos

There was no FAI/CIA logo on the official rules for the event.

The FAI/CIA logo on the website was only shown 20% of the time (rolling display with 4 other logos)

Ref: Organiser Agreement, Schedule 4.3

FFA comment: Right

6. Protocol

The CIA president was not invited until 4 days after the start of the event and 3 days after the launching of the balloons. Note that payment of travel and hotel expenses is not mandatory.

Ref: e-mails August 28, 2014 and September 1, 2014

The competitors and officials oaths were not read at the opening ceremony.

The national anthems usually played for each balloon taking off were not available until downloaded from Internet 15 minutes before launch by an FAI official.

The national anthem of the host country and the FAI anthem were not played at the start of the Awards Ceremonies.

Ref: Protocol for FAI and CIA sanctioned events, version 2005 and Protocol for Award-Giving and Closing Ceremonies at FAI Championships, version 2009.

FFA comment:

Idem Junior. see attached email. It's not the business of CIA to say that the anthems have been downloaded. They have been played, thats enough.

Jury President comment:

The problems with the anthems was just one of several problems with protocol and should have been right long before the launching of the balloons.

Yes they were played after much work by several persons outside the organization.

The CIA President told me (Hans) that he had not heard anything from any of the organisers. I asked you several times for a copy of your invitation. On September 1st you finally sent a copy of his invitation sent by you the same day (Sep 1st). A bit late considering that the CIA president had told you that he intended to be there from Aug 29 to September 1.

The Jury report listed 4 cases of breeches of protocol and the penalty proposed was only 25 CHF for each.

7. Travel allowance

As far as the event jury know, all officials were paid for travel and hotel costs but payment did not fully cover expenses. It was agreed in advance when costs were not fully known but accepted by the officials. Payment was made several days after arrival.

FFA comment :

They should cover full expense for the jury. Not for all officials. They are allowances.

Jury President comment:

The travel allowance did not fully cover the expenses for the jury. I do not know about how much it covered for other officials but those I asked were fairly satisfied. One problem was however that it was paid very late and after several reminders.

That said, we had a good time and we accepted, in advance, the payment without fully knowing our costs.

There was no Performance Bond penalty for this.

Initial Report to CIA President prepared by the Event Jury

September 24, 2014

Hans Åkerstedt, Johann Fuerstner, Lindsay Muir

2014 Coupe Gordon Bennett jury

Note:

*OA 2.4: Organizer will be informed by the CIA President, about Performance Bond retained, in writing within 20 days of receipt of Jury report
Organizer may then, within 30 days of receiving the notification by the CIA President, in writing to the FAI or the CIA President, request a review by the next CIA Plenary.*