

Ranking system

(up-date November 12, 2001)

1. BACKGROUND

Parachuting sports developed through its history from "adventure with a high risk to performer" into a pure sporting event, with a numerous of different disciplines.

At the beginning IPC had only one kind of World Championships (Accuracy landings). Later the Freefall style was added. Lack of "attractive events" in the early stages, added disciplines like jumping into water, skiing and in so called "air relay". Parachuting sport evolved and especially freefall disciplines. Air relay developed into the "relative work" - today's Formation skydiving, Freefall style evolved into Freestyle and a number of new disciplines emerged, based on new sophisticated and hi-tech equipment (Canopy formation, Skysurfing) and way of life (Freeflying).

The same did evolve the competition system, determined by IPC. The first WPC was held in Bled (Slovenia) in the year 1951 and some 20 years later the "Relative work" WPC followed. The latest one will actually be the Freely WPC in Granada next year.

Today we have following WPC:

1. Accuracy Landings and Freefall Style
 - a. Individual accuracy landing
 - b. Team accuracy landing
 - c. Individual freefall style
2. Formation skydiving
 - a. 4- way
 - b. 8-way
 - c. 16-way
3. Canopy Formation
 - a. 4-way rotation
 - b. 4-way sequential
 - c. 8-way speed formation
4. Freestyle
5. Skysurfing
6. Freeflying
7. Para-ski (combination of accuracy landing and alpine skiing)

2. WHY DO WE NEED RANKING SYSTEM

2.1. Answer to this question is crucial, if we want to determine the ranking system by itself and if we want to implement.

2.1.1. Lesson learned by now tells us that the present WPCs are (just main points):

- a. Free to participate for all members of IPC in good standing (only limitation is paid subscription)
- b. Time consuming (usually 10 days, over 2 weekends)
- c. Expensive to participate (entry fees, travel costs, etc)
- d. Expensive to organize (WPC is not a marketable product) – usually shortfall for organizers
- e. Unattractive for general public and media

2.1.2. If IPC want to make present WPC and other parachuting competitions attractive we have to:

- a. Limit participation at the category I. Events (World Championships, World Air Games)
- b. Introduce larger number of smaller competitions (World & Continental cups)
- c. Shorten the competitions to a maximum "long weekend"
- d. Lower the entry fees for participants
- e. Work-out a marketable product for organizers
- f. Make it attractive for media

2.2. Ranking system is only one part of the complex project, which IPC Task force has taken-on and which will hopefully bring us towards the goal(s), set by the same force.

Ranking system, when fully developed and implemented into the IPC structure will result in:

- a. *Developing of more competitions world-wide*
 - *Ranking system will require more competitors to compete at more competitions*
 - *Competitions will be on different levels*
 - i. *National level (National championships)*
 - ii. *International level (Open national Championships, International championships)*
 - iii. *Continental level (Continental championships, Continental Cups)*
 - iv. *World level (World Championships, World Cups)*
 - v. *World Air Games*
- b. *Completely integrated and IPC controlled system of parachuting competitions world-wide*
 - *Organizers will be interested to be in the "Official IPC Calendar" as only so the event will be eligible for ranking system*
 - *Organizers will (must) have benefits out of the IPC sanctioning event system in terms of attracting top IPC athletes and income (marketing, PR, media)*
- c. *Quality level of IPC competitions*
 - *Higher the level of competitions will be, higher the requirements for teams and individuals to qualify/participate must be*
 - *Limited participation, based on quality requirements (ranking system)*
- d. *Events cheaper to participate*
 - *Limited participation → shorter competitions → lower costs → lower entry fees → lower subsidy costs*
 - *Organizers/IPC financial contribution towards participation (level of subsidy related to the quality level of competitors/teams)*
- e. *Events cheaper to organize*
 - *Limited participation → shorter competitions → lower costs*
 - *Media friendly → acquisition friendly → marketable product → surplus generating*
 - *IPC support to organizers by expertise, experts, technical equipment*
 - *IPC contribution towards organization costs (IPC central marketing) in addition to local organizers' marketing possibilities*
- f. *Media more attractive events*
 - *Limited participation → shorter competitions → higher quality level → easier to understand → easier to present/produce – TV rights → media covered by (IPC) organizers agreements*
 - *IPC support to organizers in PR*

3. RANKING SYSTEM

3.1. Basic principles for ranking system

- *Separate for teams and separate for individuals (men – women)*
- *Must determine an individual and/or team quality level*
- *Should be used as one of the requirements/filters for Category I. IPC competitions (World Championships, World Air Games, World Games; IPC should use it to determine the next World Games (World Air Games) participants in 2005. Based on that experience and IPC policy for Category I. Events, ranking system could be used as the qualification criteria for the World Championships as well.*

3.2. Ranking system:

- *Must have predetermined goal*
 - *To have regular up-date of world's best parachuting teams and individuals*
- *Will have to be developed for each IPC discipline separately (specifics)*
 - *Basic principles are the same for all disciplines*
 - *Each discipline's characteristics must be incorporated into the ranking system*
- *Must include most competitors world-wide (on all levels)*
 - *IPC need to sanction as many competitions world-wide as possible and on all levels to make ranking system credible and legitimate*
- *Must determine the quality of individual competitor/team achieving (score) based on:*
 - *Number of competitions team or individual is taking part in (a minimum number of competitions should be determined as well as maximum number of results to count for ranking system (total)*

- Quality levels of competition (competitions from national, international championships, cups. Leagues, up-to the Category I. Championships should count for ranking)
- Other requirements (minimum required number of competitors/teams) and limitation (only certain number of competitions count for final ranking)
- Must be media tool for parachuting
 - Regular up-dates should be released to media with background information

3.3. Ranking system – implementation

- To be able to implement the “IPC ranking system” IPC need to:
 - Determine and approve “the goals” of ranking system as listed above
 - Establish a competition calendar, covering all levels of competitions which should count for ranking
 - Sanction all competitions included in the IPC ranking system (Sanction fees for lower level of championships should be only symbolic – i.e. 100 SFR while and than a sanction fees scale for higher levels of competitions should be approved)
 - Centralized administration of ranking system (IPC need to appoint a person with framework of authorities to take care of the system and to co-ordinate the IPC calendar)

4. RANKING SYSTEM – Proposal

- Points system – points awarded according to ranking after completed competition for the best 30 competitors / 15 teams
- Correction factor – for each level of competition there must be a correction factor to be able to distinguished between lower and higher level of competitions, and give higher level of competitions an adequate higher basic number of points (higher Correction factor)
- Selection of events to count for the ranking system (Each event on the IPC calendar should count for the ranking – IPV should start sanctioning competitions on national championships level already)
- Regular ranking up-date (after each competition an organizer should submit official results to the person in charge)
- Regular media up-date
 - IPC Media person should regularly release information

4.1. Proposal

4.1.2. Classification of competitions included in the IPC ranking system:

1 st level	National championships	correction factor	0,5
2 nd level	Open National Championships		0,7
3 rd level	International Championships –up to 5 countries		1,0
4 th level	International Championships – above 5 countries		1,5
5 th level	Continental Championships and Cups		2,0
6 th level	World Championships and Cups		2,5
7 th level	World Air Games and World Games (Olympic Games)		3,0

4.1.3. Ranking – points for individuals (Classical events, Para-ski)

1 st	100 points	16 th	14
2 nd	80	17 th	13
3 rd	60	18 th	12
4 th	40	19 th	11
5 th	30	20 th	10
6 th	28	21 st	9
7 th	26	22 nd	8
8 th	24	23 rd	7
9 th	22	24 th	6
10 th	20	25 th	5
11 th	19	27 th	4
12 th	18	28 th	3
13 th	17	29 th	2
14 th	16	30 th	1
15 th	15		

4.1.3. Ranking – point for teams (Vertical events, Canopy Formation)

1 st	100 points	9 th	22
2 nd	80	10 th	20
3 rd	60	11 th	19
4 th	40	12 th	18
5 th	30	13 th	17
6 th	28	14 th	16
7 th	26	15 th	15
8 th	24		

4.1.4. Ranking – basic calculation principle of totals

- Only 10 (ten) best results (points) are taking into account for a total score
- In S&A event each individual discipline is counted and ranked separately (no overall)
- In Para-ski only overall rank is counted for ranking

Schedule:

- January 2002 (IPC Meeting)
 - Decision on “IPC Ranking System”
 - Approval of IPC Calendar (should include all Nationals, International and Category I. Events for 2002; IPC must ask all delegates to bring basic information on all events in their countries with contact names and numbers)
 - Appointment of administrator
 - IPC must determine Sanction fees scale for all events that are going to be included in the ranking system (i.e. Nationals 100 SFR; International up-to 5 counties 200 SFR, International above 5 counties 300 SFR,...; need to see if IPC has to revise present sanction fees structure)
- April 2002
 - Administrator should have all relevant information concerning competitions that are going to be included in the IPC ranking system
 - IPC releases the “Final IPC Calendar for 2002” (only events that count for IPC Ranking system should be included)
 - Regular updates (ones per 2 weeks or shorter)
- November 2002
 - IPC Calendar for 2003 (first draft); NACs should inform IPC on their national and other events for 2003, which should (wold) be included in the IPC Ranking system (IPC Calendar 2003)
- January 2003 (IPC Meeting)
 - Approval of IPC Calendar (should include all Nationals, International and Category I. Events for 2003;
 - Announcement of the best IPC teams/individuals for 2002

This is just a “basic point-by-point” paper. It needs a comprehensive and detailed discussion by each of the IPC Committee, before IPC can make it one of its tools.

As it is obvious, IPC must put in place a lot of requirements, before we will be able to implement it in real life and before it will serve the purpose. If IPC wants to have it ready for 2002, than it's essential to get consensus by all IPC delegates (IPC member countries) to include their Nationals and other international events organized by respective countries in the system (payment of sanction fess will be major obstacle therefore IPC has to decide if and how much will it be and for what it will be used).

I hope that this paper makes sense and that could serve the purpose.

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