

## DISCUSSION PAPER FOR AGENDA ITEM 4.8. – FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2005

### RULES FOR MEMBERSHIP

#### Present Statutory Situation

Under our current rules, FAI cannot accept more than two Associate Members, that is, members representing just one air sport, with a right to vote only in the appropriate FAI Commission, not at General Conference.

If a country has three or more air sports, the governing bodies must form a joint organization known as a “National Air-Sport Control” (NAC) which then becomes an Active Member of FAI, with voting rights at the General Conference.

Once a NAC has been formed, no Associate Members from that country are allowed to join FAI, unless the NAC has been found to be in breach of its obligations, notably that of properly representing all air sports in the country concerned.

Temporary Membership can be for one or more air sports, but it is intended only as a transitional category until the organization concerned can transfer to Active or Associate Membership. It confers no voting powers.

#### Comments

The limitation to a maximum of 2 Associate Members has been in force for a long time, and probably pre-dates, in many FAI member countries, the creation of associations for newer air sports such as skydiving, hang gliding, paragliding, micro-lights and rotorcraft. It is arguable that the number of permitted Associate Members should be proportional to the total number of existing air sports (which has now risen to 10).

The Temporary Membership category is not working in the way in which it was originally intended. Countries in this category show no inclination to up-grade. Their sole purpose in becoming members is to obtain FAI Sporting Licences for their competitors, and this they can achieve through Temporary Membership.

Several cases have recently occurred which have focused attention on these FAI membership rules. One NAC freely admitted that it did not wish to be responsible for a particular air sport, and agreed to allow the association governing that sport to join FAI as an Associate Member. Another NAC resigned from FAI. Immediately afterwards, one association from that country applied to join as an Associate Member and another as a Temporary Member, a combination which is not permitted by FAI Statutes. In a further case, FAI has received a petition from a single-sport association in a major country seeking direct Associate Membership of FAI, separately from the NAC. And finally, we are aware of several cases in which highly representative and effective national single-sport organizations are in serious conflict with their NACs and would certainly, if permitted, seek separate FAI membership.

The fundamental FAI principle of “one Active Member per country” is based on very sound principles. But the world is changing rapidly and FAI must adapt so that it can continue to

serve the needs of Air Sport Persons (APs) world-wide. It is debatable whether the current rules allow enough flexibility to enable FAI to reflect the many different organizational models under which air sports are administered in our member countries.

### Proposal

The General Conference will be invited to consider these matters in general terms and to discuss whether or not our present FAI membership rules properly reflect the wishes and requirements of APs around the world.

If the Conference concludes that some adjustments are needed to our membership rules, then it will be invited to give directions to the Executive Board /Statutes Working Group on work to be done in order that detailed proposals for change may be submitted to the General Conference, for approval in 2006.

### References:

FAI Statutes Chapter 2, especially 2.4., 2.5. and 2.7.

FAI By Laws Chapter 2, especially 2.3., 2.6.