

Agenda item 15.4 - The Leon Biancotto Aerobatics Diploma

CIVA will be asked to approve the award of the Leon Biancotto Diploma at its plenary meeting in November 2016.

There has been one nomination received this year, from the Aerobatic Committee of the Hungarian Aeronautical Association to **Péter Besenyei**.

The description and criteria for the Diploma are as follows from the FAI ByLaws 2016:



7.8. AWARDS FOR AEROBATICS

THE LEON BIANCOTTO AEROBATICS DIPLOMA

7.8.1.1. History. This Diploma was established in February 1993 upon the proposal of the FAI Aerobatics Commission. Widely regarded as one of the finest aerobatics pilots of all time, Léon Biancotto was a member of the French aerobatics team. He lost his life practising for the first FAI World Aerobatic Championships in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in 1960. Biancotto won the famous Lockheed Aerobatics Trophy in England on three of the six occasions it was held. In 1965, a competition known as the Biancotto Trophy was started and this eventually developed into the European Aerobatics Championships.

7.8.1.2. Eligibility. The Diploma may be awarded to individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly to the sport of aerobatics.

7.8.1.3. Frequency and Number. Only one Biancotto Diploma may be awarded each year.

7.8.1.4. Nomination and Approval. Procedure for selecting recipients of the Diploma shall be as set out in Chapter 9 of the Statutes.

Voting is in accordance with Chapter 9 of the FAI Statutes 2016 as follows:

9.1.4. Recommendation and Approval Procedures. When considering nominations for Medals and Diplomas, Commissions shall adopt the two-stage procedure described below. Before the procedure begins, any delegate present who is a candidate for the award in question shall be asked to leave the room for the duration of the discussion and voting. Any such person shall be deemed to have voted for himself.

9.1.4.1. A vote shall first be taken on whether or not to approve or recommend the award of the Medal or Diploma concerned in the year in question. This vote shall be open unless any Delegate requires a secret ballot.

9.1.4.2. If the result of the vote in 9.1.4.1. is positive, and if more than one nominee is under consideration, a secret ballot shall be held to determine the recipient of the award, following full discussion in closed session, with no written or taped record of the proceedings.

9.1.4.4. Unless otherwise specified, all results shall be determined by a simple majority.

9.1.4.5. No proxy voting shall be accepted.



FAI Individual Discipline Awards 2016

Nomination Form

Name of the Award:

The Leon Biancotto Aerobatics Diploma

Submitted by:

NAC : Aerobatic Committee of the Hungarian
Aeronautical Association

Nomination for:

Péter Besenyei



Peter is one of the best known aerobatic pilot and world champion air racer. He lived near the airport of Budaörs and became interested in flying when he was a child. From watching 1962 World Aerobatic Championships he decided to become a pilot. At 15 years of age he flew a glider for the first time. In 1976 Péter entered his first flying competition^[1] by piloting a glider and showed his talent, finishing in second place.

In 1981 Péter Besenyei became an aerobatic pilot and till today won several titles in competitions and flew more than 1000 airshows around the world. He has more than 100 trophies on national and international championships and He was on the podium more than 30 times on FAI World-and European Championships and World Grand Prix. Beside several state awards He voted 21 times as "Sportman of the Year" in his sport. His specialty is free-style aerobatics. He invented the "knife-edge spin" in 1983. In 2001 Besenyei flew upside down under the Széchenyi Chain Bridge, that spans the river Danube in Budapest, a maneuver that became a standard in air races today.

Besenyei is sometimes referred to as the godfather of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship . He was asked, in 2001 by Austrian energy-drink company Red Bull, to help develop the concept of an air racing competition. With enthusiasm he helped set up the rules and concept and carefully selected the most daring pilots, with skills and courage, to handle the extreme physical and mental challenges of the air race. The first race was held in 2003 in Zeltweg, Austria. After two years the competition became a worldwide organization of Red Bull Air Race World Series and became an FAI event.

With his life-work Peter has contributed to increase the popularity of aerobatic sports worldwide.