

<i>Subject:</i>	USA PROPOSAL TO AMEND CANOPY FORMATION CR 2.3.2	<i>Annex No. -</i>	33
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Proposal: CF competition rule change – definition of airstep

Respectfully submitted by the United States

Motion: to amend Competition Rules for Canopy Formation, section 2.3.2 to read as follows:

2.3.2. **Stair/step:** The shoulder of the upper jumper must be above the upper surface of the lower canopy. The grip must ~~only~~ be on the outside "A" line of the end cell. The grip must be taken with the inside leg or foot; this may include an additional handhold, if desired.

Commentary:

At the December 6, 2012 competitors' meeting with judges at the Mondial, competitors unanimously agreed that the rule change from the IPC Plenary meeting of January 29-30, 2011 which inserted this word into the FAI CF Competition Rules should be reversed for the following reasons:

- 1. It makes judging more difficult and error-prone, as it forces judges not only to ascertain that the "A" line grip has been taken, but also that additional lines have not been gripped.** The "A" lines are normally brightly colored for visibility on CF canopies in part because these are the critical lines for judges to see; the non-scoring "A" lines are not. Furthermore, on many of the high-performance CF canopies of today, the "A" lines are Dacron-sheathed, but the other lines are not and are therefore harder to see on video due to their smaller diameter.
- 2. In that vein, the rule as written unfairly penalizes those teams that cannot afford the multiple modifications that must be made to a stock CF canopy to most clearly show the difference between an "A" line and a non-"A" line (Dacron sheathing vs. Vectran; custom colors, etc.).** This one word creates an uneven playing field wherein sponsored teams can afford to make more distinct the difference between their "A" and non-"A" lines while other teams cannot. This can only serve to discourage fledgling teams and perpetuate any advantages already held by sponsored teams.
- 3. Picking up additional lines besides the "A" line is a self-penalizing error,** as it causes the bottom canopy to behave less predictably upon the release of the grip and also fails to provide the top jumper with a stable "launch" to the next point.