



## **IPC ANNUAL REPORT to FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2009**

### **DIRECTION**

The mission of the FAI International Parachuting Commission is the pursuit of excellence in sport parachuting. This was the theme of a draft mission plan that was outlined to the FAI General Conference last year, and was formally adopted at the following IPC Plenary meeting in January 2009.

To fulfil this mission, the International Parachuting Commission has commenced activity by launching initiatives in partnership with the FAI to develop sport parachuting as an attractive and dynamic activity.

The initiatives cover: -

- Competition formats
- Selection process for international events
- Promotion of safety

All competition disciplines except Para-ski were involved in establishing new rules specifically for the two high profile invitational events in 2009 in which parachuting is involved, being the World Air Games, Turin, and the World Games, Kaohsiung. The experience in both these events has led to further reviews with the aim of enhancing the presentation of parachuting as an attractive and dynamic activity.

### **COMPETITIONS**

Except for Para-ski, odd numbered years are set aside for World Cups, which are often used to test changes to World Championship rules. The following is a list of First Category parachuting events for 2009.

<b>LOCATION &amp; DATE</b>	<b>FAI FIRST CATEGORY EVENT</b>
Donnersbachwald, Austria 10 – 15 March	Para-ski World Championships
FAI World Air Games Turin, Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy Piloting</li> <li>• Accuracy Landing</li> <li>• Canopy Formation</li> </ul>
*IWGA World Games Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accuracy Landing</li> <li>• 2 way Canopy Formation</li> <li>• Canopy Piloting</li> <li>• 4 way Formation Skydiving</li> <li>• Freeflying</li> </ul>
European Championships & World Cup Prostejov, Czech Republic 30 August – 6 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation Skydiving</li> <li>• Artistic Events</li> </ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> World Cup Johannesburg, South Africa 2-6 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canopy Piloting</li> </ul>

\*IWGA World Games is not an FAI First Category Event, but ranks highly in IPC as a "best of the best" competition.

In addition to the above, organisers of the 2009 Russian National Championships invited IPC officials to attend and assist in their preparations for the 2010 World Championships in Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation and Artistic Events.

The IPC's First Category Event Sanction Procedures and associated Organiser Agreements continue to provide a good understanding of expectations on behalf of all stakeholders for the successful conduct of premier world parachuting events. The application of sanction fees has assisted the IPC to cover the costs of Jury and Judge travel costs, and to assist IPC to follow its mission plan.

In line with the FAI's vision and mission statements, work in the IPC continues on bringing elite parachuting events to the public, with increasingly timely use of the FAI web site. In particular, experiences gained at the FAI World Air Games and the IWGA World Games, which were both invitational events featuring the best invited athletes, provide a valuable base on which to build for the future.

## **RECORDS**

Records continue to be set as performance levels improve.

In Competition, the IWGA World Games was the venue for a new World Record of 23 formations built in 60 seconds by the USA 2-way Canopy Formation team.

Canadian Jason Moledzki continued to raise the bar in the Canopy Piloting discipline by setting a new speed record of 2.166 seconds (average speed of over 116 kph) over a curved 70-metre course at the Canadian National Championships.

An attempt on the Largest Head-Down Freeflying formation in July 2009 by an International Team resulted in a new Performance Record of 108 persons, breaking the existing record of 51 set in the previous month.

## **SAFETY**

The IPC's Technical and Safety Committee continues to play an important role in monitoring parachuting safety worldwide. It produces an annual safety survey, which identifies trends in parachuting accidents. The T & S Committee also provides an advisory service to those countries that are establishing or updating their regulations and operational procedures for parachuting. In addition, it produces Information Notices to alert parachutists around the world to certain incidents or experiences in the field and to reports from equipment manufacturers.

Work on an incident database, which would collect information from national parachuting organisations utilising the FAI website is on hold because of some incompatibility issues. IPC is hopeful central FAI office will be able to assist with this development in the near future.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

The Asiana Parachute Federation continues to work closely with IPC in developing parachuting activities in the Asiana region. With some assistance through FAI from the Association of Recognised International Sporting Federations, courses have been run which have resulted in an increase in the number of competition judges in the region.

## **CONCLUSION**

I thank the IPC for appointing the IPC Bureau for a two-year term commencing in January 2008. This has provided a better basis for accomplishing some longer-term vision goals, and was a catalyst for IPC introducing a mid term Bureau meeting (in line with many other Commissions) to set the way forward for the IPC and the sport of parachuting, in concert with the FAI's own vision and mission statements.

I wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work by the myriad of volunteers that contribute to the work of the IPC.

Finally, my job, and that of the IPC Bureau, has been made much easier by the dedication and assistance provided by FAI Secretary-General Max Bishop and his staff in Lausanne. In particular, Max has provided exemplary service and good leadership and we will miss him after his planned retirement next January. We are honoured that he plans to spend his last day at work (a Sunday no less!) at the IPC's 2010 Plenary meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Graeme Windsor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Windsor  
President, IPC  
September 14, 2009