

CIVL 2023 Fall Bureau Meeting

The 2023 Fall Bureau meeting took place in Mungyeong, South Korea from October 15-17, right after the Asian-Oceanic Paragliding Championship test event. This was done for efficiency and cost savings, as several bureau members were already there to work at the test event, and a significant portion of the expenses were, with much gratitude from CIVL, covered by the KPGA and Championship organizer. It also enabled us to confirm the suitability of the competition venue and organization.

The competition was very successful, and the quality of the event itself was fantastic, even though this was only a test event. Everything including the opening and closing ceremonies, pilot transportation, food, and activities were top notch, and the actual championship next year will certainly be a prestigious international event, as appropriate for a FAI Cat 1 championship. Many government officials were in attendance and supporting the event.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

Review of 2023 Category 1 Events

The bureau reviewed all of the Category 1 events and test events held thus far in 2023, and discussed successes and challenges both from a sporting standpoint as well as from an event organization and quality standpoint. While there were many positive highlights, there were also many areas identified for improvement. Some of the actions decided include:

- In order to ensure a higher level of consistency among Cat 1 events and to improve CIVL's ability to play a more active and value-added role, the Bureau has decided to strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Steward. As defined currently they are an advisor. In 2024 they will be given executive power to step in and take action when required, and will be given the added responsibility of earlier and more in-depth quality checks and planning with the Organizers.
- To reduce administrative hassle for both the Organizers and CIVL officials, CIVL will now organize all aspects of officials travel, lodging, and expenses. The Steward will finalize the details and financing with the organizers during the test event. This has no net financial impact to CIVL or Organizers, it merely simplifies the process.
- A more in-depth report, including analysis, of incidents and accidents will be done post-event by the jury. This was one of the outputs from a discussion around the ways that the jury members can add additional value beyond simply being available to adjudicate complaints.

Category 2 Events Review

At the 2023 Plenary, several of the working groups requested consideration of adjusting sanction fees based on event size or discipline. This was discussed and found to be infeasible for Category 1 events, which already at best break even, and not be appropriate or impactful in any meaningful way for Category 2 events.

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Throughout the year, the CIVL bureau is contacted to deal with pilot and organizer issues and complaints for CAT 2 events. Previously these were dealt with ad-hoc, and the decision was made to define a process and a specific role for ensuring that these get dealt with properly.

The 2024 revision of the General Section of the Sporting Code now has an addition allowing events in countries with no NAC, which will be useful in building the sport in new regions.

CIVL will create a forum for direct communication and collaboration with NACs on a variety of topics.

Paragliding XC

Following discussions at the 2023 Plenary, a working group was formed to develop a new standard for Competition Harnesses. Significant discussions and progress have been made, with the goal of a draft standard being presented to the Plenary in 2024. The Bureau reviewed the work this far, and discussed next steps.

The Bureau discussed and will share with the PG XC committee a proposal to limit the maximum number of pilots per nation to a flat number, with all members of the team scoring. This is seen as a way to increase fairness.

A comprehensive guideline document and/or video will be published to cover task setting principles, race philosophy, scoring and parameter setting, and safety. This is to improve the level and consistency across events.

Airscore has been used successfully in a number of events and will be fully rolled out in 2024, including education and documentation. FS will be officially retired during 2024.

Following the proposal and approval at the 2023 Plenary, Real Leading Points will be tested in a series of high level (PWCA) events in 2024. It will be made available as a standard option in the scoring software, and the description added to S7 in 2025.

Following the proposal and approval at the 2023 Plenary, the new “line” turnpoint option will be added to S7 so that instrument manufacturers can begin implementation and discuss any subsequent issues or recommendations with CIVL.

The Bureau discussed the growing interest in PG Sport Class competitions. They are already happening, so the Bureau believes that CIVL should establish a framework for Sport Class competitions, a separate WPRS ranking system for Sport Class, and explore holding a single Cat 1 Sport Class competition to gauge interest. A working group will be formed to explore the ideas further, and bids will be sought for a potential 2025 competition should the 2024 Plenary approve the idea.

Hang Gliding

Jamie facilitated a discussion on what role CIVL can play to boost attendance and interest in Hang Gliding competition. The consensus is that federations and manufacturers are the stakeholders in the best position to take action, and that in general, lack of schools is the main factor in the decline.

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Paragliding Accuracy

Section 7C has been clean-up and updated with the harnesses allowed, use of CCC gliders, the number of judges, and more. To ensure that good judges can be secured, the Chief Judge will receive a nominal daily stipend, similar to Stewards and Jury members.

Paragliding Aerobatics

2023 had six events, the most in a long time. The new scoring system is satisfactory. The Super Final in Turkey was a success, and the organizers are bidding for a World Championship in 2024. The bid is circulated within the Committee and the Bureau will support the decision of the Committee.

Hike and Fly

A working group was formed after the last plenary, and has made considerable progress. Thomas (the Committee chair) led a review of the drafts for the new part of Section 7, including rules and a new WPRS for Hike and Fly. Work continues within the committee.

Records

The bureau discussed the change in the General Section of the sporting code that will allow us to redefine the rule regarding multiple records.

Safety

A safety officer (Fabio Loro) was added to the Bureau at the 2023 Plenary. Cat 1 incident reporting has been inconsistent and sometimes missing needed details. It was decided to add collection and analysis of incident reports to the duties of the jurors. SafePro Tandem needs to be reviewed by EHPU and CIVL so that the different schemes (CIVL, EHPU, APPI) are coherent.

Environment

An environment officer (Thomas Senac) was added to the Bureau at the 2023 Plenary. The draft of a new Environmental Policy was presented and discussed. The goal is to present it at the upcoming plenary for formal adoption.

WPRS

Ways to improve the Pq calculation were discussed.

Event Management System (EMS)

The new system was in use by many organizers in 2023. The current system was reviewed and discussed, as well as the list of features to be added in the future. The API is available for testing and the goal is to roll it out in 2024. A proper “roll-out” of the system will be done in 2024, including an awareness and education campaign.

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Finance

2023 results to date were reviewed as well as expectations for 2024. The idea of adjusting Cat 2 sanction fees by event size or discipline (brought up during the 2023 Plenary) was discussed but determined not to be appropriate.

The minimum sanction fee will be raised to CHF100. Primarily this will only affect very small events, particularly accuracy events. The accuracy discipline is currently spending more than it takes in, and this is a step towards correcting that.

Stipends for Jury, Steward, and Accuracy Chief Judge will be updated in Section 7K Schedule of Fees to take effect in 2024.

The FAI switch to processing CIVL volunteer reimbursements for travel and other expenses has resulted in volunteers actually losing money due to bank charges for currency conversion. 5% will be added systematically to all claims from volunteers to cover the charges.

Miscellaneous

Many other discussions took place, including how the Bureau can be more effective. More frequent meetings (on-line) were decided, as well as a revamp of the Basecamp structure and discussions, which has grown unwieldy over time. Stef discussed his considerable work on creating the CIVL Archives. Proposals being put forth at the CASI plenary were discussed, as well as the current activities of the Commission President Group (CPG). The Jury and Steward Assignments for 2024 were discussed and set, and the Bureau agreed that for PG events, the Steward and Jury should be experts in the particular discipline (accuracy or cross country).