

IPC ANNUAL REPORT 2005

During the course of this year, five first category events have been organised all of which have produced excellent results from the parachuting sportsmen and women. These were followed by the participation of parachuting in the World Games held in DUISBURG. A 6th first category event, which includes three World Cups, will be held from October 24th and there is no doubt that once again, the results of the Champions will meet expectations.

Representatives of the IPC board were present at each of these competitions and consequently able to take on board all the relevant points and comments.

The dynamics in 2005 are very different to those observed in 2004. More organisers have come forward and some competitions have been planned three years in advance. Last year I mentioned our concern regarding the organisation of competitions but, I am happy to say, the strict application and the respect of the Organisers' Agreement is proving positive.

Obviously the overall organisation has become more precise and detailed which, although not always appreciated by the organisers, has allowed us to better apprehend problems and even avoid them when a competition is hosted by the same country two years running. In spite of these improvements, we still need to be very careful in this world where litigation has become a fact of life. I think we can all trust that if we maintain this direction together with the new document produced by the FAI (OA), we will continue to avoid such problems.

The Olympic Games are now behind us but the FAI/IPC still have a place in the World Games. My personal assessment of these Games, and I stress the word personal, is reserved and is possibly in opposition to the general optimistic tendency that does not see the problems we encounter.

The organisers certainly worked hard and the media coverage in Germany was a big success. However, the way they chose to market the various disciplines is questionable. Parachuting is not accustomed to half-empty stadiums when there are hundreds of spectators still waiting to come in. Parachuting events were held a long way from the main events in order to be able to accommodate Canopy Piloting and consequently did not benefit from the audience they would have had if they have been held in Duisburg itself. The fact that some of the better teams chose not to attend and that there were last minute cancellations are clearly a sign to the organisers.

The IPC must share the responsibility for this and conclusions need to be drawn. The World Games have always been presented to the IPC delegates as an **intermediary** step before our inclusion into the Olympic programme. Now that the Olympic dream is over, we should ask ourselves the question of whether it is necessary, worthwhile or even financially viable to participate in the World Games. We will discuss this point at the next Plenary: the World Games must be considered as an **IPC objective** in their own right or else they should take place without us.

This does not prevent me from most sincerely thanking the German Parachute Federation and particularly its President for his personal implication and his professionalism in organising the parachuting events of the World Games.

Interim actions are being better managed from an administrative point of view but their outcome is only possible thanks to the availability of the IPC board and committee members. Without getting involved in the politics of the different NACs, it is important that a certain degree of continuity in the presence of the IPC delegates is a token for success. As is its custom, the IPC works very democratically and this year, as usual, debates have sometimes been contradictory and often very lively.

Patrice Girardin
IPC President

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