

11th FAI World Advanced Aerobatic Championships

Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovakia

August 7th – 16th, 2014



Item Agenda 8.2c

Chief Judges Report

J L Gaillard

General Comment and Summary

This contest had many different facets; the contest was completed with all four programmes flown and despite a couple of incidents it was also flown safely, the contest site was well prepared and suitable for the purpose and the accommodation was outstanding. The Contest Director and his staff were very efficient and friendly, specially appreciated were those dedicated to the Judging Line.

On the downside this was the first time in my experience that we have had cause to remove a judge from the line and at the same time removed from the International Judges list, the same judge also had received an official warning for a separate incident from the International Jury and had caused the Chief Judge to react twice to other occurrences.

It is perhaps the nature of the separate incidents when viewed together, which poses the question, is there an attempt being made to manipulate or collude to influence the scoring on the judging line. There is perhaps a common thread associated with the incidents as noted later in this report,

- a) Collusion on scores (programme 1) – resulting in the repositioning of the Ukrainian Judge away from the proximity of the Russian Judge
- b) The warnings (twice in programme 3) by the Chief Judge to the Ukrainian Judging Team for giving hand signals in the direction of the Russian Judging Team (I did not see the Russians sending any hand signals in reply)
- c) The Official warning (programme 3) issued to the Ukrainian Judge for hand signals by the International Jury Member (who received the signals was not noted by the International jury)
- d) The removal of the Ukrainian Judge for procuring a starting order (prior to the commencement of programme 4)

Another aspect was that a couple of issues arose with the contest paperwork, which could have had a major impact on the final results for the pilots concerned, this has highlighted the need to modify our systems to avoid such future occurrences.

The standard of judging was quite high and consistent throughout, with the resultant RIs being in a fairly narrow band, with the best being 14.32 and the worst 19.28 a spread of only 5, so in my view the technical quality was good with none blown out of the analysis as being way out of line with the other judges.

Judge Selection

The Judges had been selected by the Judging Sub-Committee and verified by the CIVA Bureau, the final judging line was as follows: -

Auger Guy	-	France
Denton Bill	-	USA
Gedminaitė Violeta	-	Lithuania
Liskay Laszlo	-	RSA
Seibitz Sabine	-	Germany
Shpolyanskiy Oleg	-	Russia
Virtanen Kimmo	-	Finland
Zelenina Lyudmyla	-	Ukraine

Chief Judges Assistants

My two assistants were Nick Buckenham of the UK and Irma Jancuikienė of Lithuania, both who I have worked with before. Between these two I had a perfect blend to facilitate communications on the judging line as well as with the organisers, both carried out their duties with complete efficiency and were a pleasure to work with, I extend my thanks to both of them.

Judging Volunteers

The organisers had allocated various volunteers to assist on the judging line and to provide transportation, this was done with great efficiency and their efforts were much appreciated.

Judges Briefing

As the electronic judge's test had been utilised this year, there was no real need for any review with regards to currency, nevertheless as time allowed Pik Kuechler did a review of the test on my behalf, while I attended to some administrative matter with the Organiser.

Starting Procedure

It was agreed from the outset that competitors would only be released following a direct release from the judging line; this function was quickly taken over by the very efficient Katka. However despite the procedures in place we still managed on two occasions to release a competitor, whilst the aerobatic box was still active.

On the 1st occasion the problem was resolved by a quick radio transmission by the Chief Judge requesting the competitor to remain clear of the performance zone by extending his line on take-off and remain clear of the performance zone until cleared to enter the box, this procedure worked out without any problem.

However on the 2nd occasion we were not so lucky, the competitor having taken off and being asked to extend his line, misunderstood and promptly made a 180 turn and passed through the active performance zone, The Chief Judge was forced to use the “break break” procedure for the active competitor and advised him of the situation, he cooperated and orbited until the performance zone was clear, whereupon at my request he recommenced his sequence without any further problems.

The exact reason for these two occurrences was never really established, but I had reemphasised the need for the starter only to release a competitor when specifically authorised by the judging line.

However it must be stated that on both occasions it was necessary to ignore the Chief Judge’s radio procedure as set out in the CIVA Regulations, where it is very specific on what may be said by the Chief Judge, I recommend that this procedure be modified as set out later in this report.

Programme 1 – The Known Compulsory

As per normal CIVA procedure a review of warm up flights took place, however when I called the judges in for a conference, I observed the Ukrainian Judge apparently consulting with the Russian Judge, this would not have been a huge problem except that I also saw a change apparently being made to the score sheet, when finally inspecting the score sheet it was noted that a score of 8.5 was crossed out and an HZ applied, the only other judge to have given an HZ was Russia.

I made my feelings quite clear on this, saying that I wanted the opinion of each Judge without consultation with other Judges; as a result of this incident I relocated the Ukrainian Judge to the opposite end of the judging line. This would not normally have been something I would have reported on having solved the immediate perceived problem; however subsequent occurrences in the contest make this incident relevant.

Programme 2 – The Free

The programme was completed without incident.

Programme 3 – The 1st Free Unknown

A number of issues arose during this programme; I will firstly deal with some administrative problems, which could have had a major impact on the results of the programme and did have a significant impact for one competitor. The current CIVA practice is that various sequences are submitted for approval incorporating the selected unknown figures with added allowable linking figures, competitors then select a sequence to be flown and this is noted on the flight order as well as the appropriate score sheet A being included on the Judge’s clipboards.

The following problems arose: -

- a) One of the sequences contained a linking figure 1.1.1. this being a straight line, this is of course impossible to judge as both the preceding and subsequent figures also finish and start in a straight line, I instructed the judges to ignore this linking figure and brought the matter to the attention of the International Jury, who resolved the problem by reallocating the value of the linking figure elsewhere.
- b) It became apparent shortly after the start of one competitors sequence, that he was not flying the sequence contained on the judge's clipboards or in the Chief Judge's flight order, this caused to put it mildly some confusion, some judges were able to recognise the actual sequence being flown fairly quickly, others only picked it up later in the sequence, some did not pick it up at all. Being an unknown programme it was not an option for the competitor to re-fly the sequence, all that could be done was for the judges to submit what they could even if not fully complete, all the judges were canvassed and asked to follow this procedure and the paperwork was collated and submitted to the Score Room/International Jury.

It was subsequently established that a simple clerical error had occurred in the Organisers Office with the wrong sequence designation being allocated to the competitor concerned, in retrospect it was almost inevitable given the current multiple choices of sequences that this would happen one day (Murphy's Law), this just happened to be that day.

In order to avoid such a future occurrence the following is recommended:-

- 1. That prior to the flight order and clipboards being issued to the judging line, Team Managers or individual competitors as appropriate verify the correctness of the final documentation and this be recorded by the Organiser.***
- 2. That prior to the commencement of each competition flight, the Chief Judge verify by radio with the competitor the sequence to be flown, this could be part of the existing radio check e.g. from Chief Judge – "Competitor 5 radio check and confirm sequence B", Competitor – "Chief Judge read you 5 and confirm sequence B". Again the current Regulation with regards to Chief Judge's radio calls would need to be modified.***

- c) At the end of the day's flying the final score sheets for the last competitor were handed to a member of the scoring office by my assistant Irma Jancuikiene, this exchange took place in the coffee shop. Before I left the competition site, I was informed that the paperwork for the final competitor of the day was missing, despite a thorough search at the scoring office and I suppose the coffee shop, Irma reconfirmed that the paperwork had been handed over but also searched her competition bag to make sure they had not been retained. We finally left the competition site with the paperwork still missing; this was a very worrying situation.

The following morning on arrival at the competition site, I was informed that the score sheets had been found under a box in the scoring office, so all was well, but again it raises the possibility of Murphy's Law, almost inevitably one day a set of paperwork will go missing for whatever reason and we need a system in place to allow for this possibility.

I recommend the following:-

That a scanner be incorporated at the Chief Judge's workstation and that all score sheets be scanned prior to any score sheets leaving the judging line.

d) Reprimand of a Judge by the International Jury

During the conduct of this programme it became apparent that the Ukrainian Judging Team (who had previously been relocated on the judging line as per the report in Programme 1) was making hand signals to another judging Team. This was not only observed by me but also by both my assistants and the organisers assistants working on the judging line. On two occasions when this occurred, I had shouted to the Ukrainians to desist and this was acknowledged by them. However the behaviour persisted until finally observed by Philippe Kuechler the Jury member allocated to the judging line at that time, he immediately issued a verbal warning on behalf of the International Jury; this has been reported in writing elsewhere.

e) Removal of a Judge by the International Jury

Following the completion of the programme and prior to the commencement of the 2nd Free Unknown Programme, I was summoned to the International Jury Office by the President of the Jury. At first I assumed it was some misdemeanour on my behalf, but it soon became apparent this was not the case, as I was informed it had been reported by various members of the Organisation's Team Members, that a Judge had been seen to take a copy of the flight order for the upcoming programme from the organisers office and retain it. A full report of this incident issued by the International Jury and is attached.

The bottom line was that the Judge involved Lyudmyla Zelenina of the Ukraine was to be immediately removed from the Judging Line and subsequently would be removed from the International Judges list.

The 2nd Free Unknown Programme

This programme was in danger of not being finished due to adverse weather conditions (low cloud), but the Contest Director showed great flexibility, which allowed the programme to be successfully completed.

One incident occurred, competitor Melanie Astles commenced her sequence and immediately broke off before the successful completion of the 1st figure, she quickly reported that the throttle lever had

broken off in her hand, this was an obvious emergency and fortunately Melanie landed successfully without further incident.

The Technical Commission confirmed the problem with the aircraft and the International Jury advised me it was at my discretion whether she should be allowed to repeat the 1st figure. In view of the fact that the 1st figure featured a vertical down line and a negative exit, it was perfectly understandable that she had exited upright with the throttle lever detached, it was deemed therefore that the figure had never been completed due to a technical emergency. Incidentally Melanie's aircraft could not be repaired and she was generously loaned a similar aircraft by an Italian Pilot and she successfully completed the sequence.

Line Judges

Line Judges were in place throughout, the quality of the line judging was absolutely excellent and I had 100% confidence in their work, line calls were generally made at a point as anticipated at the Chief Judge's workstation.

Judging Performance

Attached is the Analysis of Judges Combined Anomalies, which is self-explanatory. Last year we asked working group set up to evaluate the FPS to investigate the implications of a judge over-scoring his or her own countrymen, this will no doubt be reported on at the CIVA meeting this year. In this particular contest the trend continued, I would personally expect a highly critical judge using the full range of scores available to have a good balance of scores thrown out high and low, the judge with the best RI at this contest was Kimmo Virtanen of Finland and he in fact had 8 scores rejected as low & 8 scores rejected as high by the FPS system, but other judges still appear to favour their own Aero Clubs, as can be seen from the analysis, summarised below: -

	Low Scores Overall	High Scores Overall	Low Scores Own Aero Club	% Own Aero Club	High Scores Own Aero Club	% Own Aero Club
Kimmo Virtanen	8	8	0		0	0
Oleg Shpolyanskiy	6	9	0		7	78
Guy Auger	2	6	0		3	50
Laszlo Liskay	7	10	0		2	20
Violetta Gedminaite	8	5	0		1	20
Lyudmila Zelenina	3	10	0		7	70
William Denton	13	8	0		4	50
Sabine Seibitz	9	5	2	22	0	0
Total	54	61	2		24	39

What we see above is that the overall balance between low & high scores is not so different, which is what I would expect from non-biased judges, only a single judge has low scores for their own Aero Club and multiple judges have apparently over-scored their own Aero Clubs to a point where the scores are thrown out by the FPS System.

This just continues the trend from last year, CIVA will need to consider what action is to be taken with regards to those judges continuing to be biased, the RI alone is not sufficient as it mainly shows

the technical competency of the judge, i.e. we have technically knowledgeable judges who at the same time are biased.

It is recommended when the judging selection process takes place in the future that in addition to the record of RI summarised over a three year period, copies of the Chief Judges summary for each contest also be distributed and taken into account.

Chief Judge Radio Procedure

The standard radio procedure by the Chief Judge is spelt out in Regulation 4.2.1.7. It is clearly stated that other than the standard radio check as given in Regulation 4.2.1.6. that radio calls will be limited to "Time, time, time", "Break, break, break" & "Land, land, land" in each instance the wording "and no other" is specified.

This procedure is clearly inadequate and in this contest as well as many others it has been necessary to talk to competitors advising them of the nature of the emergency associated with both the break & land messages.

It is therefore recommended that the words "and no other" be removed and a new paragraph be inserted as follows, "The Chief Judge or his representative may address the competitor in matters concerned with safety and conduct of the competition flight as circumstances may require".

For example in this contest the Break, break, break procedure had been utilised and I then advised the competitor that there was a conflicting aircraft at twelve a clock high and to break right. It was also necessary to advise this competitor to orbit until I had contacted the other competitor who had taken off early to advise him to remain clear of the performance zone and get him to acknowledge this instruction. Once this had been accomplished the original competitor was then advised to recommence his sequence, which was done without further incident.

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Sequences: Seq01 Programme 1: Known Compulsory, Seq02 Programme 2: Free Programme (ADP), Seq03 Programme 3: 1st Free Unknown (ADP), Seq04 Programme 4: 2nd Free Unknown

Team	Pilots assessed in FPS pass-2		Sequence anomalies															
			FIN	RUS	FRA	RSA	LTU	UKR	USA	GER								
BLR Belarus	8	4 Lo 4 HI	3 Lo -	- 1 HI	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- 2 HI	- -	2 Lo 1 HI	- -	- 1 HI						
BEL Belgium	8	2 Lo 4 HI	- 1 HI	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -						
CZE Czech Republic	3	0 Lo 1 HI	- 1 HI	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	2 Lo 1 HI						
FRA France	24	7 Lo 6 HI	1 Lo -	2 Lo -	- 3 HI	1 Lo 2 HI	- -	- 1 HI	2 Lo -	2 Lo -	- -	2 Lo -						
GER Germany	16	9 Lo 5 HI	- 1 HI	2 Lo 1 HI	- -	2 Lo 1 HI	1 Lo 1 HI	- 1 HI	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	- -						
ITA Italy	6	2 Lo 0 HI	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- 1 HI	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- -						
LTU Lithuania	8	2 Lo 1 HI	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1 HI	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- 2 HI						
LUX Luxembourg	10	1 Lo 4 HI	- 2 HI	- -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- -						
NOR Norway	4	1 Lo 1 HI	- -	- -	- -	- 1 HI	- 1 HI	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- -						
POL Poland	14	3 Lo 2 HI	- -	- -	- -	- 1 HI	1 Lo -	- -	- -	2 Lo -	- -	- -						
ROU Romania	15	5 Lo 3 HI	1 Lo 1 HI	- -	- -	1 Lo 1 HI	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -						
RUS Russian Federation	30	7 Lo 9 HI	1 Lo 1 HI	- 7 HI	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -						
RSA South Africa	17	3 Lo 5 HI	- -	1 Lo -	- 1 HI	- 2 HI	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -						
UKR Ukraine	24	4 Lo 12 HI	1 Lo 1 HI	- -	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- 7 HI	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -						
USA United States	17	4 Lo 4 HI	1 Lo -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- 4 HI						
AUS Australia	3	2 Lo 0 HI	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 Lo -	1 Lo -	- -	1 Lo -	- -	- -						
Total sequence anomalies			56 Lo 61 HI	8 Lo 8 HI	6 Lo 9 HI	2 Lo 6 HI	7 Lo 10 HI	8 Lo 5 HI	3 Lo 10 HI	13 Lo 8 HI	9 Lo 5 HI							

Continued on page 3

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Sequences: Seq01 Programme 1: Known Compulsory,
Seq04 Programme 4: 2nd Free Unknown

Cumulative RI contributions per Team

Kimmo VIRTANEN (FIN)

Judge: max country bias = 1.22 min = -0.86 o/all avg = 0.05
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

Most favoured Least favoured



Guy AUGER (FRA)

Judge: max country bias = 0.60 min = -0.60 o/all avg = 0.17
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

Most favoured Least favoured



Violeta GEDMINAITE (LTU)

Judge: max country bias = 1.44 min = -1.51 o/all avg = 0.17
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

Most favoured Least favoured



Seq02 Programme 2: Free Programme (ADP), Seq03 Programme 3: 1st Free Unknown (ADP),

Oleg SHPOLANSKIY (RUS)

Judge: max country bias = 4.07 min = -1.52 o/all avg = 0.07
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

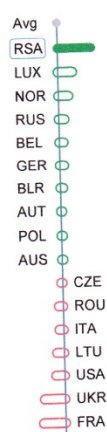
Most favoured Least favoured



László LISZKAY (RSA)

Judge: max country bias = 1.83 min = -1.24 o/all avg = 0.10
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

Most favoured Least favoured



Lyudmila ZELENNINA (UKR)

Judge: max country bias = 2.58 min = -1.49 o/all avg = 0.15
Panel: = 4.07 min = -2.74

Most favoured Least favoured



Continued on page 4