FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

BALLOONING COMMISSION (CIA) COMMISSION D'AEROSTATION

CIA Plenary New Delhi, India 12-15 March 2025



SC/WG chairs meeting - MINUTES 2025

Presences:

Hussain ASHRI (KSA), Afrah AHMED (KSA), Cheri WHITE (USA), Clément Seigeot (FRA), Hiromori SOEJIMA (JPN), David STRASMANN (SUI), Benoit PELARD (FRA), Steve IRELAND (AUS), David BAREFORD (GBR), Troy BRADLEY (USA), Lindsay MUIR (GBR), Uwe SCHNEIDER (GER), Claude WEBER (LUX), Eric DECELLIERES (FRA), Niclas MÖRE (SWE), Hiromi FURUKAWA (JPN), Branko AMBROZIC (SLO), Katsura ENDO (JPN), Mark SULLIVAN (USA), Sanne HAARHUIS (NED), Andy BAIRD (USA), Marc ANDRE (USA), Imochoaba KSHETRIMAYUM (IND)

New World Ranking System

The group discusses the formation of a new working group to address changes to the world ranking system and Category 2 events. They agree to propose three main points at the plenary: reconsidering Cat 2 definitions and sanctions, redefining the world ranking list calculation, and implementing the world ranking list as a qualification condition. The group aims to develop detailed proposals over the next year, with potential implementation starting in 2027 and full implementation for the 2028 World Championships. They also discuss the need to clarify that the ranking list would be used for qualification, not selection, and consider how to formalize the status of this group of committee chairs.

Defining Minimum Pilot Registration Requirements

The group discusses the need to define minimum requirements for pilot registration in ballooning events. They agree that current rules lack clarity on what information is mandatory at registration. The discussion centers on where to include these requirements, with suggestions ranging from sporting rules to sanction application forms. They consider the challenges of early registration when some details may not be known, and the potential for abuse if placeholder names are allowed. The group leans towards adding a field in the sanction application form where organizers can specify minimum required information for their event, which would then be referenced in Section 1 of the rules.

FAI Flag Usage at Non-Sanctioned Events

The use of the Fai flag at non-sanctioned events was discussed. The FAI clarified previously that the flag could be used if the National Aeroclub (NAC) approved it. However, there was confusion about whether the flag should be used at non-sanctioned events. The team decided to ask CASI, the rules body in the FAI, for clarification on the use of the FAI brand at non-sanctioned events.

Event Director Training and Challenges

The group discusses the need for more qualified event directors and ways to support their growth and training. They consider various approaches, including having trainee directors at international events, creating a formal deputy director training position, and using CIA funds to send trainees to events. The discussion highlights challenges such as limited opportunities for aspiring directors to gain experience, the loss of "tribal knowledge" from experienced directors, and the need to balance training with maintaining event quality. The group also touches on the importance of pre-event planning and the difficulty some countries face in finding interested candidates. They conclude that more guidance is needed for Steve's group to develop a comprehensive plan for event director training and selection.

Event Directors' Training and Handbook Update

The group discusses the requirements for event directors in ballooning competitions, emphasizing the need for pilot experience. They agree on the importance of workshops to ensure consistent interpretation of rules among directors and juries. The idea of virtual seminars is proposed, potentially making them mandatory for those on director and jury lists. They also discuss updating the Competition Operations Handbook to include guidance on rule interpretation and penalties.

Flight Report Form Necessity Discussed

The team discussed the need for a flight report form, which some groups argue is unnecessary as the information can be obtained from a good logger. However, others pointed out that the form is often requested by different competitions and is essential for accurate scoring. There was also a discussion about the accuracy of the system's calculated time compared to the pilot's recorded time. The team agreed that the form should be mandatory for all events, but the fields should not be mandatory for all events. The team also discussed the issue of the scoring system disconnecting frequently, which can lead to inaccurate landing times. The team decided to take the issue to the scoring department for further discussion and proposal.

Motions

Motion 1:

To mandate the SC/WG chairs to work on the following changes:

- Reconsider the definition and sanction application conditions of CAT2 events
- Redefine the calculation of the WRL, integrating results from CAT1 and CAT2
- Implementation of the WRL as a qualification condition for participating in Worlds or other events.

The detailed changes will be submitted for voting at the 2026 CIA plenary.

Motion 2:

The CIA president can call a meeting of all CIA SC/WG chairs. Precise wording to be integrated in CIA IR by 2026.

Motion 3:

To ask the FAI to clarify the rules regarding the use of FAI logos at non-sanctioned events.