

Report to the CSPA Board of Directors and membership on the
70th Plenary Meeting of the International Skydiving Commission (ISC)
of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale
held in Moscow, Russia on January 25 and 26, 2020

In attendance

Rina Gallo; Delegate; Canopy Formation Committee Chair, and member of the Judges Committee
Barb Davies; Alternate Delegate, Chair of the CSPA Competition and National Teams Committee
Vera Asquith; Appointed observer, continuing member of the Wingsuit Flying Committee.

Regrets

Richard (Buzz) Bennett; appointed observer, member of the Rules and Regulations Committee and the Finance Working Group.

Martin Lemay, appointed observer, (due to work commitments), member of the Formation Skydiving Committee.

Melanie Guerin, appointed observer, (due to work commitments), Indoor Skydiving Committee Member.

Highlights of the Plenary

The Agenda and all documents pertaining to the Plenary session as well as the minutes of the meeting are available on the /FAI-ISC Website. In total this year, there were approximately 43 annexes and some new bids presented at the Plenary due to the default of the WAG from Turkey. All in all, a much smaller set of Annexes as is usual.

Roll call – The roll call was conducted by the FAI Representative, Mr Markus Haggenev, FAI Acting Secretary General, FAI. There were thirty-five voting Delegates/Alternates present, and, with the nine valid proxies, the total valid vote was forty-four. A simple majority would be twenty-three and a two-thirds majority, thirty.

Canada has carried the proxy from Lithuania for the past three (3) years.

In Memoriam

President Rayner asked the attendees to stand in silent remembrance of friends and colleagues who had died since the last Plenary meeting. Images and names were shown during the remembrance tribute.

In Memoriam for Canada – Don Campbell and Reg Hurlbut (who was unfortunately missed in 2019) were recognized.

1. Name change to IPC from ISC

As mentioned in last year's agenda and minutes, the IPC proposed to change their commission name from the "International Parachuting Committee" to the "International Skydiving Committee." It was widely thought that this name change would modernize the brand as well as reflect the acceptance of Indoor Skydiving into the FAI and possibly make it easier for Indoor Skydiving to be accepted into the wider skydiving community. It was also in furtherance of the 2024 Olympic Project being spearheaded by the French NAC.

From the beginning, this name change had wide acceptance and enthusiasm, but the name could not be changed without the approval of CASI and the General Conference.

The name change was accepted by the FAI General Conference in December 2019 and is now official. Our logo has been changed accordingly to incorporate wind tunnels.

2. FAI Governance

Though brought forward a number of times over the years by Buzz Bennett, Gail Bradley, and also Liam McNulty (delegate Ireland), and now after the withdrawal of a major FAI Sponsor, it has finally come to light that the FAI is in dire financial straits. The FAI finances are – basically – nothing more than paper entries and the money is gone. It became apparent that the FAI Head Office has been playing a shell game with ASC monies. Various suggestions were brought forward by the FAI to try to bail themselves out of this jamb; such as, increasing subscription fees, increasing fees on Record ratification, and an FAI "tax" on Sporting Licenses. Most were rejected and after the FAI General Conference, the Secretary General (Susanne Schoedel) was summarily dismissed. Markus Haggénay has now taken over the role of Secretary General. All of this has caused the General Conference to ask for major changes. It is hoped that by the next General Conference the restrictive budget and the sharper focus on the air sports themselves will generate a more modern FAI structure and carry FAI out of this situation. If anyone wishes more information on this topic, I would be more than happy to elaborate.

2. Olympic Project

Regardless of the serious effort extended by the French NAC, the Olympic Project did not make it through the door of the 2024 Olympic Games. Break Dancing was chosen over Indoor Skydiving as one of the Debut events. Needless to say, there was great disappointment at this outcome, and once again, questions arise as to whether or not Skydiving has the desire – and even more importantly – the money to pursue the "Olympic Dream."

3. Cancellation of WAG

After postponing the World Air Games from 2020 to 2022, Turkey cited their "current difficult financial situation," and asked to postpone the WAG to 2025. The FAI Executive Board, along with consultation with the Commission Presidents, decided to cancel the World Air Games.

This posed a significant dilemma for the ISC in particular as this left all of our disciplines without a home for their World Championships in 2022. The ISC Bureau sent out a notification to all NACs that the bid deadlines for these events would be extended to January 17, 2020.

4. New - last minute – Bids for competitions to cover the WAG cancellation

Thankfully, due to a generous DZO and an Air Sport Federation, last minute bids were forthcoming for 2021 and 2022.

- A bid from Larry Hill and Skydive Arizona was submitted and accepted for World Cups of both Wingsuit Flying and Speed Skydiving for 2021.
- A bid from Larry Hill and Skydive Arizona was submitted and accepted for World Championships of Formation Skydiving, Artistic Events, Speed Skydiving, and Wingsuit Flying for 2021.
- A bid from the Belarus Federation of Air Sports was submitted and accepted for World Championships of Style, Accuracy, and Canopy Formation for 2022.

Larry Hill had generously offered to host all of the disciplines in 2022; however, with the advent of the bid from Belarus, he rescinded his bid for Style, Accuracy, and Canopy Formation.

5. WADA decision

For those unfamiliar with the WADA decision regarding RUSADA.

On December 9, 2019, WADA decided to enforce a four-year ban on Russia due to noncompliance. This means:

1. The suspension of all Russian athletes unless they are able to demonstrate that they are not implicated in any way in the non-compliance.
 2. Even if athletes demonstrate this, they will be not be able to compete under the Russian flag.
 3. Russia may not host in the four-year period, nor bid for or be granted in the four-year period, the right to host any editions of major events.
- On December 27, 2019, RUSADA disputed the WADA decision to CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport).

The decision on the four-year ban has not come into effect yet. If CAS upholds the original verdict, the ban will begin from that date forward. It is not clear when the verdict on the appeal will happen, but most informed “guesses” are sometime in July.

If the original verdict of WADA is upheld, it is highly doubtful that this would affect the Tanay Mondial as it would be impossible to move the event at that point in time.

However, it would affect any officials, judges, committee chairs, etc. at the ISC level.

The full list of potential consequences is explained on the WADA news link found here:

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/media/news/2019-12/wada-executive-committee-unanimouslyendorses-four-year-period-of-non-compliance>

7. My election to the Bureau

Elections to the Bureau are every two years. After being asked for two voting cycles to stand for the Bureau, I decided to allow my name to stand for Vice President.

The Bureau consists of the President, 1st Vice President, 2 Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, and a Finance Secretary. All members of the Bureau EXCEPT the Recording and Finance Secretaries must be Delegates. If the Recording or Finance Secretaries are not Delegates, then they do not get a vote on Bureau Business.

The President, 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Finance Secretary were uncontested. There was an election for the two Vice President positions between myself, Aliya Ananina (Russia), David Choi (South Korea), and Doris Merz – incumbent (Switzerland).

The final tally was:

Aliya Ananina – 27

Rina Gallo – 24

Doris Merz – 20

David Choi – 11

First Category Events to be held in 2020

World Cup and European Championships of Indoor Skydiving – FS & AE – Charleroi, Belgium – April 8-13, 2020

Mondial – FS, AE, CF, CP, Speed, Wingsuit Flying, Style and Accuracy (including junior category), CP and CP Freestyle – Tanay, Russia – August 8 - 22, 2020.

First Category Events to be held in 2021

World Indoor Skydiving Championships - Tatralandia, Slovakia – April 6 – 11, 2021

World Games (CP only) – Birmingham, Alabama – July 15 – 25, 2021

World Cup and European Championships of ST and AL – Czech Republic – July 20 – August 1, 2021

World Cup and European Championships of FS and AE - Voss, Norway – August 31 – September 5, 2021

World Cups for Wingsuit Flying and Speed Skydiving – Eloy, Arizona – October or November (TBD), 2021

First Category Events to be held in 2022

World Championships of ST and AL and CF – Molodechno City, Belarus – August 21-28, 2022

World Championships of AE, FS, SP, and WS - Eloy, Arizona - October 19-27, 2022

World Cup and European Championships of Indoor Skydiving – Warsaw, Poland – April 8 – 12, 2022

Work as Delegate and Alternate Delegate

Both Barb and I are fully engaged in the Plenary process. In previous years, we have itemized our work. This year, we felt that there was enough extremely interesting news to fill these pages. Since our work on these committees has gone relatively unchanged from previous years, we did not feel the need to list them again here. However, if anyone has any questions regarding our committee work, we would be pleased to answer them.

Barb and I wish to thank the CSPA for the financial support and ask that such support be continued in the future. An accounting of all expenses has been provided to the CSPA separately.

Sincerely,



Rina Gallo
IPC Delegate



Barb Davies
Alternate Delegate