

2019 IPC Report

69th Plenary Meeting of the International Parachuting Commission (IPC) of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale held in **Lille, France, January 26 and 27, 2019.**

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
Richard (Buzz) Bennett; appointed observer, member of the Rules and Regulations Committee and the Finance Working Group. Buzz resigned from the Wingsuit Flying Committee this year.
Vera Asquith; appointed observer, new member of the Wingsuit Flying Committee.
Regrets; **Martin Lemay**, member of the Formation Skydiving Committee.
Melanie Guerin (due to work commitments), Indoor Skydiving Committee Member.

IPC World Café Workshop:

I arrived in Lille on January 20 in order to participate in the “IPC World Cafe Workshop” held on the 21 and 22 of January. This is the first time that this type of workshop has been attempted. This was an attempt by the new Bureau to “work as a team and use that wider perspective **together**, to determine the direction to which we will point IPC for the coming years.” It was very interesting, and although all of the participants come from different countries, and all participants represent different disciplines in the sport that don’t usually mix (i.e. para-ski and formation skydive), many common themes came out of this workshop. It seems, that as skydivers, we are all identifying common concerns for our sport and making fruitful suggestions on how to be/become more relevant to the public and how to drive our sport forward in the coming years.

Open / Closed Meetings:

Once the workshop was over, I attended all of the open and closed (which pertain to my Committees) meetings prior to the Plenary Meeting on January 26 and 27. This year, as in past years, the open meetings are crucial to understanding what will be presented at the Plenary Meeting. The open meetings are the time to ask pertinent questions and give input in regards to the proposed rule changes by the different Committees and Working Groups as well as competition bids. In fact, without attending these meetings, I am doubtful that anyone would be able to follow the Plenary Meeting.

Although most of the day is spent in Open Meetings and a lot of information is covered in those meetings, a lot of work is done behind the scenes in closed meetings by the various Committees and Working Groups. Closed meetings are for Committee members only. Attendance by anyone other than Committee members is by invitation only.

This year, with the new Bureau (BoD) taking a different approach, we had a greater number of Extended Bureau meetings (the bureau plus chairs of all discipline committees) that lasted 2 hours or more. This format meant the day started for me at 9 a.m. and usually lasted until after 8 p.m. This is not a problem for me, but I am trying to give you some idea of how much time is spent discussing the business of skydiving at these plenaries.

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-IPC Website. In total this year, there were approximately 62 annexes and three (3) bids.

- **Roll call**– 36 countries present, 12 proxies, simple majority 25, 2/3rds majority 32
- Plenary session opens with an “In Memoriam,” this is the first time this has been done. We forwarded a picture of John Smith, which was displayed on the big screen. Unfortunately, did not have a picture of Reg Hurlbut, however, will do so for next year.
- Olympic Project – Is on track. In 2019, a letter was sent to the Committee to inform that the selection process is in place. However, they will have to wait for the final decision until after Tokyo. If the selection events in Tokyo are successful, we have less of a chance to get into the program in 2024 Paris. They are also planning to try to be included in L.A./San Francisco in 2028.
- Overwhelming support to change our commission’s name from International Parachuting Commission to International Skydiving Commission. There were only two abstentions (Canada and U.S.). This name change will have to wait for ratification at the next FAI General Conference. There seems to be a movement in this direction by a number of associations (i.e. BPA is now BSA – British Skydiving Association).
- Last year, Formation Skydive notified the plenary of their intention to change the dive pool. These changes take effect this year. In 4-way, Blocks 1 and 13 have been changed to Molar and Mixed Accordion. In VFS, blocks 10 and 20 have been changed to Mixed Anthem and Focus Buddies and two new randoms have been added - the Box (D) and Chemtrails (M). The VFS changes to take effect after May 1st (after the indoor meet in Lille).
- A new classification of FS Large Formation Sequential has been added (Full Break Large Formation Sequential). This is to make the classification more challenging. However, many were opposed to the change, so both classes of Large Formation will be available. VFS also now has its own class of Large Formation Sequential.
- World Air Games has been moved to 2022 due to a full calendar in 2020. Skydiving events will take place in Efes and Selchuk
- Changes to Indoor Artistic Events to take effect on the 1st of May rather than on the 1st of March for 2019 onwards. This is to accommodate the indoor event scheduling of the World Championships.
- Extensive changes to Speed Skydiving rules due to the movement away from ProTrack and towards the use of Flysight. This is due to a number of competitors “fooling” the ProTrack and achieving super human speeds.
- New wingsuit rules are extensive. Organizer for 2019 Wingsuit Bid in Ravenna Italy asks for date change and it is granted.
- In Style and Accuracy, another lively discussion ensued over rule 6.1.1.1 (judges showing a thumbs up or down) as well as the use of cameras around the target area. Scoring system introduced that gives both the first and second points of contact. Theoretically, this will convince competitors who get a back foot strike that they actually did get a back foot strike.
- The organizer of the Mondial in Tanay plans to put accuracy into downtown Kemerovo with shuttles back and forth to Tanay every hour. They are also thinking of having a swoop festival in

Kermerovo on the river as an added attraction and to bring the competition to the people. It is possible the entire CP event will be moved to Kermerovo which will make easier public access.

- A number of changes to Canopy Piloting including cameras at all water gates. South Africa amended their bid to include freestyle. Selection for World Games in Birmingham Alabama to come from the Mondial in Tanay. Big discussion on increasing the number of judges from 7 to 9, but it was defeated.
- Cash flow projections showed that although the IPC has taken on more expenses (i.e. officials, etc.) they have not increased the sanction fees for at least 15 years. (IPC's finances are derived solely from sanction fees). A motion was put forward by the Bureau to increase the sanction fees by 20 euros, effective immediately. This motion was carried, but was not unanimous. However, even with this increase, projections show the IPC running into financial trouble again by 2023 or 2024.
- Dynamic Working Group moves to become a full Committee. Granted.
- All bids: Wingsuit flying (Ravenna Italy) 2019, Speed Skydiving (Dunkeswell U.K.) 2019, Indoor Skydiving (Tatralandia Slovakia) 2021, AE and FS (Voss Norway) 2021, and ST and AL (Czech Republic) 2021. were accepted.
- The Leonardo DaVinci Award was given to Christian Frei from Switzerland.
- The IPC was asked to join with CIVL in awarding the FAI Gold Medal to Domina Jalbert, the inventor of the ram-air parachute, aka Jalbert para-foil. Jalbert was born in Quebec, Canada.

Two bids were received to host IPC meetings. Moscow bid for 2020 and Selchuk, Turkey bid for 2021. Moscow was accepted; however, the bid from Turkey was not acceptable in its present format was deferred to the Bureau to be reported in an IBD.

First Category Events to be held in 2019:

World Para-Ski Championships – Vrchlabi, Czech republic – Feb. 27 – March 2, 2019
World Indoor Skydiving Championships- Lille, France – April 17 – 20, 2019
World Cup of ST and AL – Cordoba, Argentina – May 19 – 25, 2019
World Cup & European Championships of Speed Skydiving - Dunkeswell, U.K. – August 12 – 16, 2019
World Cup & European Championships of CF – Strejnic, Romania – August 17-20, 2019
World Cup & European Championships of Wingsuit Flying – Ravenna, Italy – August 23 – 29, 2019
World Cup of AE and FS – Skydive Arizona, Eloy, USA – October 7-13, 2019
World Cup of Canopy Flying (including Freestyle) – Pretoria, South Africa – November 20 – 24, 2019

First Category Events to be held in 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. ***Note date change.**

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

First Category Events to be held in 2022:

World Air Games – Efes, Turkey – details to follow

My work as Delegate: (Rina Gallo)

- CF Committee - This is my fifth year as Chair of the CF Committee. Numerous rule changes were made by the committee this year. These changes were precipitated by events at the World Championships in Australia.
- After discussion with my committee I prepared the rule changes for presentation to the Plenary for discussion and for voting. All were accepted unanimously.
- Preparation (and revisions during the Open meetings) to the FAI judges lists. An extensive task.
- Judges Committee – Four closed meetings and a number of hours were spent in Judges Committee meetings due to many Section 5 changes and difficulties assigning Chief Judges for all events.
- The Judges Committee proposed a change to the number of CP judges from 7 to 9. This was met with great resistance from the CP Committee and was eventually defeated.
- Participated in two Extended Bureau Meetings which lasted 2.5 hours each.

My work as Alternate Delegate: (Barb Davies)

- Being completely familiar with all annex's pertinent to the Plenary well in advance of the meetings.
- Liaising with Canadian Team members regarding any issues affecting them at the international competitions in the previous year, and being prepared to address any that haven't been resolved, with the pertinent committee chairs.
- Collecting Canadian Team members preferences as to where upcoming international competitions should be held, when there is a choice.
- Support and feedback for Rina during the Open and Plenary meetings.
- Attend all workshops, presentations and informal meetings available to me.
- Do the best I can to know who all the attendees are and what their connections are to the IPC and/or skydiving (all forms) in their countries or internationally. It comes in very useful but it is quite time consuming.
- Take extensive, detailed notes during the meetings for reference and follow up throughout the coming year and beyond.

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