

Report to the CSPA Board of Directors and membership on the

73rd Plenary Meeting of the International Skydiving Commission (ISC) of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale held in Malmo, Sweden **January 28, 2023.**

In attendance:

Rina Gallo; Delegate; ISC Bureau Vice-President, Canopy Formation Committee Chair, and member of the Judges Committee. Member of the CSPA CNTC and CSPA Judges Committee

Barb Davies; Alternate Delegate, Chair of the CSPA Competition and National Teams Committee

Vera Asquith; ISC Bureau Recording Secretary, member of the Wingsuit Flying Committee, member of the ISC Media and Promotion Working Group. Member of the CSPA Judges Committee.

Not in Attendance:

Richard (Buzz) Bennett; Appointed Observer, member of the Rules and Regulations Committee

Highlights of the Plenary

Financial Issues:

After two years of ePlenary meetings over Zoom, it was very productive to finally meet face-to-face, once again, with delegates from around the world to discuss our common issues and concerns. Competitions are once again being held and our competition schedule is back on track with a number of competitions slated for both this year and 2024. The competition schedule can be found at the end of this report.

In 2021, I reported that due to a number of years of fiscal irresponsibility and failed initiatives (i.e., World Air Games), it is clear that the ISC strategic reserves are gone and they will never be recuperated. For this reason, the ISC must begin again from scratch. There are two major consequences flowing out of this situation.

First and foremost, the athletes will have to pay increased sanction fees. These fees are used to cover the basic operating costs of ISC commitments to its athletes. These costs include (but are not limited to) the provision for ISC officials for competition (i.e. judges, jury), media coverage, discipline development, website and website maintenance for the ISC, FCE competition results, FCE competition archives, as well as World Record claims resulting from competition. Up until last year, the ISC also paid for all continental records resulting from FCE competitions, but this proved to be too onerous on ISC finances.

The second consequence arising from the loss of our strategic reserves is the question of what to do next. The automatic reaction is to begin building those reserves again. However, the basic structure of the FAI has not changed. This means that any reserves built up are owned by the FAI; and in fact, is their money. This includes all 11 airsport commissions (ASCs) and three (3) technical committees under the FAI umbrella. So, the question becomes “what do we do?”

One course of action is to maintain a balanced budget and not build any reserves. The other is to continue to build reserves in the hopes that the FAI has learned their lesson and will not get themselves (and the commissions) into the same problem we are facing today. In this case, trust has been broken and the old adage of “once bitten, twice shy” applies to the sentiment of most ISC delegates at the moment. The Plenary has opted to try and run a balanced budget every year.

However, given that skydiving seems to have a two (2) to three (3) year cycle of lower FCE attendance at World Cup events, it is difficult to maintain a balanced budget. For this reason, the prevailing thought is to vary the sanction fee from year to year. Given that attendance at World Cups is lower than World Championships, this would have the effect of having higher sanction fees during World Cup years than during World Championship years. This may have the unintended consequence of exerting downward pressure on World Cup attendance – the exact opposite of what the ISC has been working toward for years.

As for myself, I do not think that a floating sanction fee is in the best interest of the athletes or the sport. People like continuity and, more importantly, they need to plan their budgets for the future. This includes competitors, and organizers alike. Changing the sanction fee in January to affect all competition during that year, is cutting things a little too close. However, I believe that there are better solutions out there than a floating sanction fee and if anyone has any ideas, I would love to hear them.

The only other finance related issue is that the FAI has switched all of their bank accounts to Swiss Francs (CHF) and all transactions going forward (i.e., reimbursements, etc.) will be in CHF. This will cause problems regarding payments and reimbursements with the consequence of the FAI passing any fees, etc. from themselves and back on to the recipient/claimant. For very good reasons, there is push back from the ASCs regarding this issue, and there are ongoing discussions on this topic.

Sanction Fees:

In order to balance the budget for 2023, the sanction fee for all competitions has been increased to 150 CHF. The sanction fee for each year will be set at the ISC Plenary every January going forward.

Russia:

A number of delegates once more repeated their sentiments that Russia has been unfairly treated by the FAI and should be allowed to participate in competition and at the ISC level. It was pointed out by the ISC President (Gillian Rayner) that the decision to suspend Russia and Belarus was made by the FAI General Conference, and therefore, beyond the control of the ISC. However, Ms. Rayner also pointed out that since the suspension, Russia has not paid their subscription fees to the FAI, and for that reason is now in arrears and suspended for that reason as well.

For the reasons above, the position of the Russian vice-president Aliya Ananina needed a replacement and this position was up for election. Ms. Ananina and numerous delegates voiced their objection to this election, citing that there was only one year left in the term and the position would be up for election in 2024. However, according to the FAI Statutes, this election would have to take place.

Only two people ran for this position, Ron Miasnikov (Israel) and Jim Rees (U.S.A.). Upon further reflection, Ms. Miasnikov withdrew her nomination and Jim Rees replaced Aliya Ananina as one of the Vice Presidents.

Belarus (Indoor Skydiving):

In August of 2022, Belarus contacted the ISC Bureau regarding the 3rd European Indoor Skydiving Championships and 5th FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving in 2024. Given their suspension, Belarus could not guarantee that the competition would take place. Macau had also bid on this championship event and lost the competition to Belarus by one (1) vote. As Macau was anxious to host this event, they requested an early decision by the Bureau to award the championships to Macau rather than go through another vote, which they felt would be unfair given that their bid was already seen by other potential

bidders. An IBD was granted which awarded the championships to Macau. At the Plenary, both Germany and Spain questioned the decision and discussion ensued. In the end, the IBD was upheld and Macau will remain the host of this competition.

COLPAR:

In 2022, the Executive Board of the FAI abolished all regional organizations in the hopes that such organizations would affiliate with the FAI themselves. This measure affected two (2) groups with MoUs to the ISC, namely COLPAR (South America) and Asiana. Since that time, COLPAR has been welcomed back and they have signed a new “Statement of Relationship.”

Handifly - Working Group for the Disabled:

The French led initiative to introduce skydiving for the disabled is consistent with IOC and EU requirements. The working group for the disabled presented their work over the past year as well as their ongoing commitment to help people with disabilities enjoy the excitement of our sport both in the sky and in the tunnel. Numerous “Handifly” competitions have been organized with great success over the past decade and the working group requested that they become a full-fledged committee. “They may not be able to walk but they can still fly” is the motto. *See here for videos:*

<https://www.ffp.asso.fr/wh/> and here for their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/handiflyinternational>

The Committee would be comprised of the three members presently in the Working Group and three additional members who are disabled and are supported by their respective NACs. Future work of the group is to work with the Bureau, Extended Bureau and R&R to prepare FAI/ISC compatible rules, establish a classification panel with professionals (doctors/technicians), to participate in a dialogue with potential Bidders for Indoor Skydiving Events to integrate a disabled category into a Bid, to work towards having “World Champions”, and to discuss Sanction Fees with the ISC Bureau. The motion was carried unanimously.

World Games:

The World Games in Birmingham was discussed with an eye towards future participation in that Competition. It is widely felt that the world Games is the “back door” to the Olympics and most people want to continue to participate in this event. However, the 2022 World Games in Birmingham had unanticipated costs and this event eventually ran approximately \$14,000.00 USD over budget, which has some people saying that participation cannot be “at all costs.” Going forward, for the 2025 edition in Chengdu, China, FAI has put forward three Air Sports: Drone Racing, Para-Gliding Acro, and Canopy Piloting. In future, the FAI probably will be working with professionals (like Larry Hill and Dave Roberts), which means there will be a package provided to the Host Organizer and should be organizationally and financially more beneficial to all.

Rule Changes:

As with most plenaries, rule changes are presented and voted upon. This year a number of changes to the rules will affect the Canadian rule sets as well. The outdoor rule changes are now available as Annexes to the Plenary minutes at:

https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/isc/2023/plenary_2023/_minutes_-_isc_plenary_2023_sweden_0.pdf.

The Canadian rules are in the process of being updated.

Competition Schedule for First Category Events:

2023

- World Indoor Skydiving Championships - **FS, AE, DY** - Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia (April 19 – 22, 2023)
- World Cup of **Style and Accuracy** – Ravenna, Italy- (July 3-9, 2023)
- World Cup & European Championships of **Wingsuit Flying** – **WS/P and WS/A** – Prostejov, Czech Republic (August 19 – 26, 2023)
- World Cup & European Championships of **Speed Skydiving** Championships– Prostejov, Czech Republic (August 19 – 26, 2023)
- World Cup & European Championships of **Formation Skydiving** – Voss, Bergen, Norway (August 22-26, 2023)
- World Cup & European Championships of **Artistic Events** – Voss, Bergen, Norway (August 22-26, 2023)
- World Cup & European Championships of **Canopy Piloting and Canopy Piloting Freestyle** – Eloy, Arizona – (November 7-12, 2022)

2024

- World Cup & European Championships of **Indoor Skydiving** – (**FS, AE, DY**) - Macau, China (April 2 – 14, 2023)
- World Championships of **Style and Accuracy** – Prostejov, Czech Republic (August 31 – September 7, 2024)
- World championships of **Canopy Formation** – Prostejov, Czech Republic (August 31 – September 7, 2024)
- World Championships of **Artistic Events** – Bar, Yehuda, Israel (October 30 – November 5, 2024)
- World Championships of **Formation Skydiving** – Bar, Yehuda, Israel (October 30 – November 5, 2024)
- World Championships of **Speed Skydiving** – Bar, Yehuda, Israel (October 30 – November 5, 2024)
- World Championships of **Wingsuit Flying** – Bar, Yehuda, Israel (October 30 – November 5, 2024)

2024 Plenary:

- Orlando, Florida U.S.A. January 30 to February 4, 2024

Delegate work:

I was re-elected to the Bureau as Vice-President again in 2022 and will be eligible for election again in 2024. I have continued to become involved in different aspects of the sport in order to get a more rounded understanding of skydiving competition. In 2022 I held the position of FAI Controller in Eloy, Arizona. This competition involved seven (7) events over a two (2) week period. It was not only busy, but very enlightening. Needless to say, it was a very steep learning curve.


I continue to Chair the CF Committee, and continue my work on the Judges Committee. Some of my tasks include maintaining the FAI Judges Database, developing and maintaining the approved scoring systems list (scoring system liaison), setting up judge training courses and evaluations, developing and

maintaining handbooks for the ISC Results website as well as the ISC Bureau Liaison to the Judges Committee.

Vera continues her work on the Wingsuit Committee and has taken a very hands on approach to her role as the ISC Bureau Recording Secretary. Her duties include writing news articles, updating website documents, creating minutes for all Bureau meetings as well as the onerous task of creating the minutes of the ISC Plenary meeting. Vera has also become a member of the Media & Promotion Working Group.

In closing, I would like to thank the CSPA for its continued funding for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to attend the Plenary, so that our work can continue. Our continued involvement at the ISC level ensures that Canada will continue to help to shape and move skydiving forward into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rina Gallo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rina Gallo
ISC Delegate