

Report to the CSPA Board of Directors and membership on the

74th Plenary Meeting of the International Skydiving Commission (ISC) of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale held in Orlando, Florida U.S.A. **February 3-4, 2024.**

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

Vera Asquith; Alternate Delegate, 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:

The financial position of the ISC is somewhat more stable and less dire than reported last year. The FAI has mandated that all Commissions return a balanced budget every year. The ISC has insisted that we follow a two (2) year cycle and trying to return a balanced budget every year poses not only challenges, but some unequal treatment to competitors attending World Cups versus World Championships regarding the cost of FAI/ISC sanction fees.

In order to fulfill the FAI balanced budget mandate, in 2023 the ISC opted to introduce floating sanction fees. Forecasting budgets is an inexact science and so, for the 2023 World Cup season, sanction fees were set at 150 CHF (Swiss Francs). Due to greater income and less expenses than were forecast, the ISC found itself with a surplus of 52,921 CHF.

The surplus will not be “banked” in a separate commission bank account because any surpluses cannot be held by the commissions. The FAI Executive has stated that these surpluses will flow directly to the FAI and be put into a general fund, which was the case with our approximately 146,000 euros in the past. Further, the FAI Executive has stated that any commission requesting monies from this “general” account will have to apply to the FAI Executive Board. However, applications will only be considered for “special projects” and not for any current expenses of a commission. In effect, the ISC will have to go hat in hand to ask to use its own money and have a darn good reason to ask for it. Various commissions have been pushing back on this proposed procedure, so it is not set in stone. However, as stated by our ex-President, Gillian Rayner, at the moment the Executive is asking the commissions politely. What comes later is anyone’s guess. In a nutshell, the above policy has been proposed by the Executive Board; however, the exact wording and procedure has not been finalized, nor has it been completely communicated to the various FAI Commissions.

If the above procedure is adopted, the question then becomes, what is to stop the FAI Executive Board from following down the wrong, misguided path of past Executive Boards? Gillian Rayner has suggested that any decisions on dispersal of funds be overseen by the Commission Presidents Group. The new ISC President, Alberto Martin Paracuellos will be following up on this situation.

With the above stipulation in mind, the ISC must “use it or lose it” when it comes to the 52,921 CHF surplus generated in 2023. It was decided to use the surplus to supplement this year’s sanction fees. Unfortunately, I believe that this will lead to a system whereby the World Cup athletes will constantly pay higher sanction fees and thereby continually supplementing the World Championship athletes. The ISC Bureau will be working toward a better alternative with the FAI. Time will tell the outcome of further talks with both the FAI Executive Board and the other FAI Commissions who are just as unhappy with the situation as the ISC.

Sanction Fees:

In order to balance the budget for 2023, the sanction fee for all competitions in 2024 has been decreased to 115 CHF.

Indoor Skydiving:

Since its introduction into the ISC in 2013, Indoor skydiving has grown leaps and bounds in both participation and interest. Participation has grown so much that it is now possible (even desired) to split the artistic events (including dynamic flying) and formation skydiving into two separate competitions with separate dates and in separate locations. This has never been possible in outdoor AE.

The Dynamic Committee has now introduced Solo Speed (with a complete rule set) as a separate event which will be included in Indoor competition going forward.

Handifly is also continuing with the development of its indoor competitions for inclusion of handicapped competitors in the world of indoor skydiving.

After only a decade, Indoor solo freestyle, 2 and 4 way Dynamic Flying, Solo Speed Flying, Indoor Formation Skydiving, and Handifly are not only adding to the richness and inclusiveness of our sport, but to our finances as well. Combine all of this with the fact that the FAI is continuing to lobby the IOC to introduce indoor as a demo sport in Paris, At the present time, CSPA continues to have a working relationship with IFLY Canada and will continue to endorse the competitions hosted by IFLY and any athletes that wish to compete.

Handifly - Working Group for the Disabled:

Handifly held four successful competitions in 2023. They intend to hold three open and one national competition in 2024. The Working Group’s goal is to run a World Series event which would consist of five international competitions in 2025. Further, plans are in the works to hold their 1st World Cup in 2026 with the 1st FAI World Handifly Championships to follow in 2027. The Working Group believes that this would be an “add-on” event to another existing event. The most appropriate event seems to be indoor formation skydiving.

However, work still has to be done regarding handicap classifications. The Working Group has a Classification Board comprised of International medical doctors and bodyflight experts that are working to define “compensation coefficients.” These coefficients are used to level the playing field by adjusting for varying degrees of difficulty. To that end, the Working Group is looking for interested experts to join them in this endeavour. If anyone is interested, please contact either Rina or Vera for contact information.

World Games:

The World Games in Birmingham featured canopy Piloting in 2023 and amid some last minute chaos, the event was run relatively smoothly. Since skydiving has been included in the World Games (in one form or another) from 1997, it was ISC's hope to be included in the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. Unfortunately, the 2025 World Games will be "going green." That is, no new infrastructure is to be built and no fossil fuels used...unfortunately that excludes skydiving.

Quick facts:

1. **Canopy Piloting** has introduced a new option for distance in the standard events named "Full Drag Distance." This will allow the organizer some more flexibility in what distance event they choose to offer. At this point, there are three options: Max. Distance, Drag Distance, and Full Drag Distance.
2. **Style** – the ST & AL Committee has reported that the future of Style does not look very bright on the international stage. To that end, the committee sent out a presentation for Plenary consideration, which will be formally presented at the next Plenary in 2025. (Contact either Rina or Vera if you wish a copy of this presentation).
3. **Wingsuit** – in 2025, the Committee will request an increase to the size of a delegation to include females (or the gender minority). This will not be a separate event, but the results will be determined from the overall ranking.
4. **T&SC** – continues to ask for cooperation with their safety survey and Parachuting Aircraft Incidents Report, which they publish every year. This year the T&SC developed a medical protocol, which was approved and endorsed by CIMP (the medical arm of the FAI) and the Indoor Committee. Unfortunately, the adoption of this protocol was rejected and the Plenary asked that it be deferred until the FAI performs a legal review.
5. **FAI Gold Parachuting Medal** – awarded to Igor Tiorlo of the Ukraine.
6. **Elections** – This year's elections were held and the following Officers were elected:
 - o Alberto Martin Paracuellos (Spain) – ISC President
 - o Rina Gallo (Canada) - ISC 1st Vice President
 - o Jim Rees (U.S.A.) – ISC Vice President
 - o Omar Allhegelan (Saudi Arabia) – ISC Vice President
 - o Vera Asquith (Canada) – ISC Recording Secretary
 - o Natasha Higman (U.K.) – ISC Finance Secretary

Rule Changes:

As with all 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/isc-documents>

Then go to "meetings --> 2024 - Orlando (USA), 3-4 February 2024 --> Minutes --> then go to the annexes at the end of the minutes for summaries to the various discipline rule changes.

Competition Schedule for First Category Events:

2024

- World Cup/European Championships/Asian Championships of Indoor Skydiving - **FS, AE, DY** – Macau S.R.A, China (April 16 – 20, 2024)
- World Championships of **ST & AL, CF** – Prostejov, Czech Republic - (August 31 – September 7, 2024)
- World Championships– **FS, AE, WS SP** - Beaufort, N.C., USA (October 4-12, 2024)
- World Championships of **CP & CPFS** – Pretoria, South Africa (September 17-25, 2024)

2025

- World Championships of **Indoor Skydiving – (FS)** – Raeford, N.C. USA (April 15 – 20, 2025)
- World Championships of **Indoor Skydiving – (AE & DY)** – Charleroi, Belgium (April 23 – 27, 2025)
- World Cup/European Championships of **FS, AE** – Teuge, Netherlands (August 26 – September 3, 2025)
- World Cup/European Championships of **Speed Skydiving (SP)** – Hohenems, Austria - (August 24-31, 2025)
- World Cup/European Championships of **CP and CP Freestyle** – Eloy, Arizona - (September 7-14, 2025)

Future Plenary sessions:

- Rome, Italy - January 28 to February 2, 2025
- Saudi Arabia – January 21-25, 2026

Delegate work:

I was elected to the Bureau as 1st Vice-President this year and will be eligible for election again in 2026. I have continued to become involved in different aspects of the sport in order to get a more rounded understanding of skydiving competition. In 2023 I held the position of Jury President in Eloy, Arizona for CP and CP Freestyle.

Since being elected as 1st Vice Chair, I cannot hold a chair position on any committee. I have had to step down as chair from the CF Committee; however, I remain a member of that committee. I 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 (as well as being the scoring system liaison to the Judges Committee and the Bureau), 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.

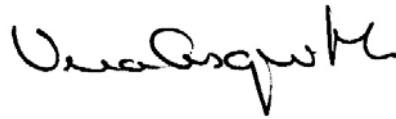
Vera continues her work on the Wingsuit Committee as well as the Media Working Group. She has done excellent work in her role as the ISC Bureau Recording Secretary. I have been told by many delegates that she is the best recording secretary the ISC has ever had. Her duties include writing news articles, updating website documents, creating minutes for all Bureau meetings as well as the onerous task of creating the minutes of the ISC Plenary meeting.

In closing, we 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. Your support of our efforts is greatly appreciated. Our continued involvement at the ISC level ensures that Canada will continue to help shape and move skydiving forward into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rina Gallo". The script is cursive and elegant, with a small circle at the end of the last word.

Rina Gallo - Delegate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vera Asquith". The script is cursive and somewhat bold, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Vera Asquith - Alternate Delegate