

Appendix 13 Statement from Portugal

Dear all

Although we have been participating in a constructive way in all discussions that took place in this plenary, that doesn't mean we are pleased with the happenings we have witnessed during the last year. In order to clarify our position, we'd like to present this statement and to have it included in the plenary minutes.

1- As we all know, during the last meeting at Lausanne, we all debated and approved the current Team-size Rule.

2- As you all now know, the Bureau decided on a one-sided basis that this rule would not be applied in Manilla World Paragliding Championship.

3- The Bureau is aware that it shall take decisions that change rules approved in the plenary only as an absolute last resource. And in that situation the move should be in order to make the needed amendments just to make it work under the philosophy of the approved rules.

4- As it has been shown, by approving in this year's plenary a similar rule to the one that had been approved last year, the necessary tools to solve the potential issue of going beyond the 150 pilots limit had always been present in existing regulations.

5- As it has been shown yesterday, the bureau must communicate this kind of decisions to the FAI Secretariat and all delegates. It didn't happen!

6- The local regulations where, after this decision, team size-rule being applied should be written, were not presented in time, and in fact the proper procedure to do it never happened, even if out of time.

7- The rule being applied - different from what was in effect - appeared in the organiser website, before anyone else got any official information.

8- In that moment, Portugal decided not to participate in the 2007th Worlds in Manilla, based on the following reasons:

a- As a protest for this line of conduct

But also

b- Invalidation of all the investment and work with the National Team that was based on the approved rules

c- The Portuguese Federation had assigned for this purpose the biggest budget ever.

d- All this investment was made useless from the moment the approved rule is not taken into account

e- All the budget assigned to this project through the government institutions becomes totally and completely unjustifiable

9- As a consequence of this bureau's decision, never communicated, all the FPVL projects for the 2006 and 2007 seasons were deeply affected, and in fact we don't know for how long.

10- All these attitudes had the following costs:

a- Sportive costs - Portuguese pilots won't take advantage of the WPRS points they would possibly obtain in Manilla

b- Financial costs - all the money invested on this project will be lost

c- Motivational costs - pilots and technical staff that prepared for an inexistent competition were affected in this way and everyone else involved in this process since February 2006

d- Political costs - Portuguese federation assumed obligations with pilots, associates and the Portuguese government. Due to the CIVL's Board unilateral decision, the FPVL can not justify the disappearing of a project and its money.

11- We should make it clear in our minds that the 2006 approved Team Size rule was again discussed and again approved in this plenary meeting, and again with a vast majority

12- It is our conviction that the Bureau made the before mentioned decision without realizing all the consequences of such a decision.

So, we make the following questions:

a- Will there be another excuse not to apply this rule?

b- Is this assembly clear about the magnitude of this line of action towards the decisions taken here?

c- Can we trust that all the decisions we take here will apply in reality?

d- Are there any proposals to solve this issue?

13- Plenty more questions are missing an answer.

14- We are not looking for it right now, but we shall all be clear about this bureau's attitude and realise that Portugal always gave its best for the fair play of our sports

15- We think our presence in this plenary 2007 kept the very same constructive profile we always had

16- We believe you are all clear you can keep on counting on us in any issue

To finalize we would like to let you know that we had the support and agreement from the FAI President in the words of its General Secretary, from Mrs. Pâquerette Girard-Zappelli, Special Representative of the International Olympic Committee Ethics Commission, from the President of the Portuguese NAC, from other NACs, from present and absent delegates and we even believe that - at this moment - from the bureau members themselves.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.