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| Subject:              | Style & Accuracy 2003 Report |                             |     | Annex:       | <b>7A</b>     |
| Author(s):            | John Hitchen                 |                             |     | Agenda ref.: |               |
| Authors representing: | Chair S&A Committee          |                             |     | Doc. nr:     | <b>1</b>      |
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## Style and Accuracy 2003 Report

### Mondial

The attention of the committee in the last year was focused primarily on the 27<sup>th</sup> WPC at the Mondial and the IPC Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup in Russia.

The programme was fully completed in all events at Gap and although not perfect it was a good competition. The main complaint came from the accuracy jumpers who say they felt isolated, as they were stuck in a field separated from the rest of their delegations' and not amidst the action at the main competition site.

An open meeting was held during the event and the overwhelming opinion of all Style & Accuracy competitors and other interested parties was that we return to eight rounds of Team Accuracy that should be used as qualification rounds for the individual semi-final and final. The majority believed that five rounds was not enough and was no incentive for competitors to travel half way around the world only to be eliminated after one or two days. The number of qualifying rounds had been reduced from eight rounds to five in accordance with the 'Olympic Aim' in order to make for shorter, sharper competitions that would interest the public and media. However, I believe that we should follow in the footsteps of the Formation Skydiving fraternity. They refused to accept a reduction in the number of their rounds and I believe we should now return to our previous competition format of eight qualification rounds and will put this proposal to the plenary at the next IPC meeting.

The Czech Republic suggested that video footage should be available as back-up evidence in the event of any dispute over the registered score on the AMD. I will discuss this with the committee and the judges but am mindful of not adding a further burden to the organiser's costs although this needn't be a judge but an experienced skydiver.

It was suggested that a re-jump should only be awarded when the winds were over limits *if the competitor had not scored a disc*. After all, who in their right mind would want to take a re-jump, unless it was a tactical move to hold up a competition? I totally agree with this suggestion and have therefore included it in my proposals for changes to the 2004 rules.

I asked the forum for their views on whether four or five scores should count in the team event. As the opinions were split 50/50 I would not suggest any changes be made to the current format.

There were quite a few comments about the set-up of the competition site and all of the accuracy competitors were unhappy with the fact that they had been sent away to a paddock with inferior facilities. They complained about the lack of toilets and inadequate packing facilities and the fact that style judging was not transmitted to their area. Some teams complained that they had not seen the latest scores at the end of each round and had to keep their own manual record of these.

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In the Style Event, most countries were in favour of the time criteria for round one and the 50% cut thereafter. Several nations were in favour of lowering the criteria to 9 and 10 seconds and I have therefore included this suggestion in my proposed rule changes.

### **Anton Malevsky World Cup**

I had the pleasure of undertaking the role of FAI Controller at the 2003 IPC Anton Malevsky World Cup in June and must say that I have only positive comments to make about this event. The competition was extremely successful and a well organised event and I'm sure it will grow in popularity and attendance in years to come. I must also congratulate the Chief Judge for Accuracy Igor Tiorlo and FS Chief Judge Klaus Wellens for their work that helped make the Event a success.

Sadly, the event clashed with a number of European National Championships and this precluded a number of teams from attending. The organisers are actively working towards improving attendance in 2004 by working around the international diary of events and moving the dates of the next Malevsky World Cup to enable and encourage more teams to enter. In 2003 we saw participation from 56 accuracy competitors from 7 nations and 13 formation skydiving teams from 6 nations. It was an exciting competition with total prize money of \$66,500.

I have rarely seen such public interest and was overwhelmed by the number of spectators on the final day at the official closing ceremony. The memory of Anton Malevsky will not be forgotten and his legacy will help promote skydiving in Russia and internationally for many years to come.

### **28<sup>th</sup> WPC Croatia**

I intend to visit the competition site in early December and will be meeting the organisers of this event as FAI Controller. I will make a report of my visit at the next IPC meeting.

I would like to thank the members and advisors of the Style and Accuracy committee who provided support during the year.

7 November 2003

John Hitchen

Chairman

IPC Style and Accuracy Committee