

Subject:	WINGSUIT WORKING GROUP REPORT FOR 2013 & OPEN MEETING AGENDA	Annex No. -	13
Author:	Ronald Overdijk, Chair, Wingsuit Working Group	Agenda ref. -	10.1
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FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION

WINGSUIT WORKING GROUP

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2013

General

The IPC Wingsuit Working (WG) was working on and off this year. At the 2012 Plenary meeting a test format for wingsuit no-contact largest formation was accepted. The goal was to spread the word, establish a judging tool for this and make this available online. The judging tool (wingsuit grid and judging procedures) was defined by this summer. One nation (Canada) had expressed interest using this for a test record attempt. However, the tool was only finally available some weeks ago.

Generally, wingsuit jumping is taking off big time, both in the skydiving as in the BASE jumping environment. Safety wise this is sometimes an issue. Several NAC's have started training and coaching programs, safety bulletins and rules & regulations.

On the other hand, the media potential of wingsuit jumping is very big, especially in the BASE environment with jumpers flying wingsuits close to the ground. That said, this so-called proximity flying can be done from a helicopter as well. So, the line between this is getting blurred. The IPC could, and I say could and not must, capitalize on this. After all, all wingsuit jumping starts with normal parachute jumps and courses.

Wingsuit no-contact largest formation

Due to the late availability of the judging tool no record applications have been received. We therefore propose to extend the test period with another year, up till November 1st, 2014. This gives one month time for evaluation of the results, in time for the Plenary meeting 2015. The exact grid qualifications might need further tweaking, depending on developments and discussions. However, the standards should be rational and crystal clear.

The USA has included wingsuit gripped largest formation as a record performance. More discussion is needed if the WG can or will take action in this matter.

Performance Records

The WG proposes the introduction of performance records, in the following ways:

- Absolute longest freefall time, with a wingsuit. This could be incorporated in a quite simple way, add a para in the sporting code – section 5, “*new 3.3.9.: Freefall time wingsuit record – individual. The record performance is the longest freefall time, measured in seconds, with the use of a wingsuit from the exit to the opening of the parachute with which the parachutist intends to land*”.
- Absolute longest freefall time, with a wingsuit, in a vertical distance of 1000 meters (from 3000 meters ASML till 2000 meters ASML). The reason to propose this is that there already exists such a record, albeit unofficially. These record attempts have been done a wingsuit event and measured by GPS system carried by the jumpers. For more information have a look at <http://www.paralog.net/desktop.html> and <http://www.paralog.net/ppc/eventrules.php>. The exact text for this kind of record will be put forward at the 2014 Plenary. Current GPS systems are reliable. The latest performance cup as such took place October 26/27 in Elsinore, USA.

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A requirement for this is that the already approved definition of a wingsuit is included in the sporting code – section 5. A proposal has been sent as such.

Longest horizontal distance covered and highest speed (both absolute and in a set vertical distance) are very much windspeed dependent. As this is windspeed in the (upper) air and not on the ground, and as such no precise measurement can be done, this is put to rest for the time being.

Artistic wingsuit flying – team competition

The WG is fully aware of artistic wingsuit flying and competitions which take place in several countries, noticeably the UK and the USA. However, this is out of bound of the current Terms of Reference of the WG. Furthermore, the WG has already more than enough to do with the current goals, and has limited manpower. So, for the time being no action in this direction will be taken.

Teamwork with the Working Group

My appreciation goes to the current members of the WG for their dedication: Elisabet Mikaelsson (Sweden), James Hayhurst (USA) and Taya Weiss (USA). I hope they will do so in the future too. We also need more members, 4 people really is not that much.

Ronald Overdijk
Chairman IPC Wingsuit Working Group

Barendrecht, December 3rd, 2013

WINGSUIT WORKING GROUP OPEN MEETING AGENDA

2014 VIENNA

- Chairman's Annual Report 2013
- Wingsuit no-contact largest formation
- Proposal wingsuit performance records