# Minutes of AX Working Group Meeting

**21 March 2012, Birstonas**

## 1. Roll call

AX-WG: Uwe Schneider - Chairman
Mathijs deBruijn
David Levin
David Bareford
Claude Weber

Observers:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Soejima | Hiromori | Japan |
| Furukawa | Hiromi | Japan |
| Lockyer | Garry | Canada |
| Muir | Lindsay | UK |
| Ireland | Steve | Australia |
| Van Geyte | Luc | Belgium |
| Paenen | Rudy | Belgium |
| Muir | Lindsay | UK |
| André | Marc | Switzerland |
| Baird | Andrew | USA |
| Sullivan | Mark | USA |
| Besnainou | Martine | France |
| Bradley | Troy | USA |
| Van Helden | Cees | NED |

## 2. Check of 2012 rules for Cat 1 events

1. World Hot Air Balloon Championship **Checked, OK**
2. World Balloon Trophy **Checked, OK**
3. Women's European Hot Air Balloon Championship **Checked, OK**
4. 1st FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship **Checked, OK, 1 minor proposal for PZ 5 altitude, adaptation to S1 regarding nationality of POB.**
5. Tochigi Hot Air Balloon International Championship AXMER 2012 **to be checked, AX-WG / RSC will approve**

AX-WG recommends that Tochigi JPN 2012 rules are rechecked by the organiser vs. AXMER2012, then discussed with AX-WG and approved by RSC.

All other organisers agreed to use the AXMER 2012.
The AX-WG will monitor the correct conversion to MER2012 and will approach the RSC for final approval and the relevant jury will check final compliance with the changes agreed.

**Motion:** that the content of SI and SII of 2012 rules for World Championship, Junior World Championship, Women's European Championship and World Ballooning Trophy is approved (adaptations to AXMER2012 to be done in next weeks).

## 3. AXMER Review

The following rules changes and definitions have been worked out and are proposed to the plenary:

- The following rule addition is proposed:

6.13.1 In case of logger malfunction ~~unusable track logs~~, the officials may ask the competitor to provide his ~~any~~ GPS equipment ~~he may have~~ to substitute the missing track information.

- Proposed wording regarding studying time:

8.7.2 Where written information is supplied, ~~five minutes~~ adequate study time should be allowed before briefing proceeds (as specified in the COH).

- chapter 9 has been rearranged keeping most of the old wording.

New is the description of Launches with Launch Master and without

**9.14 LAUNCH MASTERS**

9.14.1 Launch masters are officials designated by the Director to regulate the operation of all balloons and vehicles on the launch area and to assist in launching of balloons from CLAs.

9.14.2 The Director can make the use of launch masters compulsory for all competitors or at discretion of the competitor.

**9.15 PROCEDURES WHEN LAUNCH MASTERS ARE COMPULSORY**

~~9.15 READINESS FOR TAKE-OFF (if launchmasters are used)~~

9.15.1 When a competitor is completely ready for take-off, and has positive buoyancy, he should wave a white flag to indicate his readiness to the launchmaster. When the launchmaster has acknowledged this signal, the competitor should leave the flag displayed on the edge of the basket and await further instructions while maintaining his readiness to take off. The launchmaster will, as far as possible, launch balloons in the order of signalling their readiness. Competitors should equip themselves with a suitable white flag about 50 cm square for this purpose.
~~Competitors will select their own launch positions within this area. The use of launch masters and relevant rules is at the Director's discretion. Competitors must take-off within the set launch period or if flag signals are used within the period indicated by the flag signals.~~

9.15.2 To avoid congestion, extension of time will not be granted when competitors wave their white flag within the last ten minutes of the launch period.

~~9.17 TAKE-OFF PERMISSION (if launchmasters are used)~~

9.15.3~~17.1~~ The launchmaster will give each competitor permission to take-off according to the signals as published. The competitor may then take-off at will, subject to any instructions from the launchmaster at the time.

9.15.4~~17.2~~ This permission does not relieve the competitor of complete responsibility for his take-off, including adequate lift to clear obstacles and other balloons, and to continue safely in flight. A competitor taking off without permission, whether due to loss of control or any other reason, may be penalised up to 500 competition points

9.15.5~~17.3~~ If the balloon does not take off within 30 seconds, permission to take off may be cancelled by the launchmaster.

**9.16~~8~~** PROCEDURES WHEN LAUNCH MASTERS ARE OPTIONAL
When a competitor is completely ready for take-off, he should have an experienced crew member advise him in when the airspace above and upwind is clear for launch. Alternatively he may ask an available launch master to clear him for launch.

- better definition of take-off and task beginning at a CLA

**9.20 VALID TAKE-OFF**

A balloon is considered to have taken off and to be flying the task(s) if a mark has been achieved or if the balloon passes over the boundary of any launch area.

**9.22 CLEARING LAUNCH AREA**

Within three minutes of his basket first leaving the ground a competitor shall have passed over the boundary of the launch area or shall have climbed to 500 feet above ground level, regardless of the end of the launch period. He shall not re-enter the launch area below 500 ft before the end of the launch period or until after all balloons have taken off, whichever is earlier.

- A new rule has been added to give the chance to the director to reward the competitor. More details and cases will be given in the COH.

10.1.5 In case the competitor suffering the collision is not able to fly further tasks after the collision, the director may award him points for the lost tasks in that flight. (COH)

- adaptation of contest landing rule to allow for physical and electronic mark

11.3.1 In tasks where a competitor is required to produce a mark (physical or electronic) but elects not to do so, his landing will be deemed a contest landing. The scoring position for a contest landing is the final resting place of the basket. Published scoring periods and search periods apply.

- Rule for declarations proposed to be changed, mainly to allow for a score whenever a declaration is available (instead of no result)

12.3.4 In tasks were a competitor is required to declare his goal(s) or other declarations according to the TDS, he shall do so in writing and his declaration shall be deposited before declaration time at the place specified in the briefing data, clearly identified with his name and/or competition number. If more goals or declarations are made than permitted, the competitor will ~~not achieve a result~~. be scored to the least advantageous valid goal.

15.5.4 Declaration method for events with observers:

The competitor must declare his Fly On goal(s) either on the previous marker or on his assigned observer's report form. The declaration can take place at any time prior to dropping the previous marker.
The declaration must be written by the pilot. A verbal declaration will not be recorded. If the observer is flying in the basket, he should witness and record any declaration written on the marker before the marker is released.

Any valid declaration on the marker will invalidate all declarations on the observer report form.
If no valid goal is declared the competitor will not achieve a result. If more goals are declared than are permitted the competitor will be scored to the least advantageous valid goal.

- Rule allowing to define where Observers have to measure

12.20.3 Competitors not achieving a physical mark within the MMA will be scored by track point or by their observer within limits described on the TDS (in events with observers).

- rule allowing for modified 3D scoring

12.22.2 When goals or targets are used, results based on track points will be the 2D, modified 3D or 3D-distance from the goal/target to the track or electronic mark. Details to be specified in Section II.

~~12.22.3 The director may specify an altitude below which the horizontal distance between track points will be used to calculate results. Details to be specified in Section II~~

**II. 22** 2D/3D SCORING METHODS (12.22.2) (for events with logger scoring)

*<* the altitude below which 2D scoring takes effect will be … (recommended maximum 500 ft above goals) *>*
*<* the altitude band in which modified 3D scoring takes effect will be … (recommended maximum 500 - 1000 ft above goals) *>*
*<* the formula for modified 3D scoring is: …*>*

- On a proposal of Scoring WG chapter 13 was rewritten to eliminate (most of) the distance penalties.

**13.3 DISTANCE INFRINGEMENTS**

13.3.1 Where the individual launch point, a goal selected by a competitor, a mark, or a final landing infringes a distance limit at any time, the competitor will be penalised.

13.3.2 If a launch point infringes a natural set boundary, the infringement is the distance to the closest correct point.

13.3.3 Where the penalty relates to landing too close to a goal/target or mark, the competitor will only receive a ~~result~~ penalty for the greater infringement. The ~~result~~ penalty will be waived if the competitor can show that he was unable to comply because of safety reasons, or because of light wind (unable to clear area within 10 minutes).

13.3.4.~~1~~ ~~FOR EVENTS WITH LOGGER SCORING:~~

Competitors landing in ~~the~~ an MMA~~, taking off too close to a goal or target, declaring a goal outside the limits specified in the TDS or otherwise abusing the set distance limits of a task~~ will not achieve a result in the related task.

13.3.5 ~~4.2~~ ~~FOR EVENTS WITHOUT LOGGER SCORING~~

For competitors taking off too close to a goal or target, declaring a goal outside the limits specified in the TDS or otherwise abusing the set distance limits of a task, the penalty will be determined by the following table based on the percent infringements.

For Elbow, Angle and Land Run Tasks, the percent infringements will be the sum of the percent infringements of each 'leg'.

| Percent Infringement (= Infringement / Limit * 100) | Penalty |
|---|---|
| <= 2% | 25 Task Points |
| <= 5% | 50 Task Points |
| <= 10% | 200 Task Points |
| <= 25% | 500 Task Points |
| > 25% | 1000 Task Points |

- Deleted reference to exclusion of worst score as it is not used

14.3.4 Total score sheets shall include:

~~d. each task score excluded under the rule "Exclusion of worst score' shall be marked (e.g. printed with background colour, italic etc.)~~

- All tasks have been reworded to allow for marks (electronic or physical) and track point scoring. Following just 1 example:

**15.2 JUDGE DECLARED GOAL (JDG)**

15.2.1 Competitors will attempt to ~~drop a marker~~ achieve a mark or a valid track point close to a set goal.

15.2.2 Task data:

a. position of set goal/target

15.2.3 The result is the distance from the mark or closest valid track point to the target, if displayed, or goal. Smallest result is best.

- in RTA, MDT and XDT tasks the starting was changed from the CLP to a reference point. This gives the possibility to start the task when balloons pass a line and give equal opportunity to all competitors eliminating the advantage of a 'lucky' launch spot.

**15.10 RACE TO AN AREA (RTA)**

15.10.1 Competitors will attempt to achieve a mark or a valid track point, as specified in the task data, in the shortest time within a scoring area(s) or airspace(s).

15.10.2 Task data:

a. arrangements of timing

b. description of scoring area(s)

c. reference point

15.10.3 The result is the elapsed time from the ~~take off~~ reference point to mark or first valid track point. Smallest result is best.

15.10.4 The timing ends at the moment the marker is released, falling or on the ground as seen by the officials, the electronic mark is dropped or at the moment of the first valid track point in the scoring area, if track points only was set. If Observers are used, they must ensure that they have stop-watches when observing in this task

**15.13 MINIMUM DISTANCE (MDT)**

15.13.1 Competitors will attempt to ~~drop a marker or~~ achieve a mark or a valid track point close to the reference point ~~CLP~~, after flying a minimum set time or distance.

15.13.2 Task data:

a. minimum set time or distance

b. reference point

15.13.3 The result is the distance from the mark or closest valid track point to the ~~CLP~~ reference point. Smallest result is best.

15.13.4 The scoring position is the mark or best track point after the minimum time or distance has elapsed. If Observers are used, the scoring position is the mark if the observer has seen the marker drop after the minimum set time. Otherwise the scoring position will be the landing position, provided that the balloon has been seen by an official to be still airborne after the minimum time.

**15.16 MAXIMUM DISTANCE TIME (XDT)**

15.16.1 Competitors will attempt to achieve a mark or a valid track point far away from the reference point ~~CLP~~, within a maximum set time.

15.16.2 Task data:

a. maximum set time

b. arrangements for timing

c. reference point

15.16.3 The result is the distance from the mark or furthest valid track point to the ~~CLP~~ reference point. Greatest result is best.

- Task data of FON and PDG tasks to be harmonized

**15.1 PILOT DECLARED GOAL (PDG)**

15.1.1 Competitors will attempt to achieve a mark or a valid track point close to a goal selected and declared by him ~~before flight~~.

15.1.2 Task data:

a. method of declaration ~~declaration time and place~~

b. number of goals permitted

c. goals available for declarations

d. minimum and maximum distances of goal(s) from CLP or ILP as per TDS

**15.5 FLY ON (FON)**

15.5.1 Competitors will attempt to achieve a mark or a valid track point close to a goal selected and declared by them during flight.

15.5.2 Task data:

a. method of declaration

b. number of goals permitted

c. goals available for declarations

d. minimum and maximum distance between previous mark and declared goal

**Motion:** that the **AXMER** are approved as presented

## 4. Input of other WG and SC

Multi-meeting together with ScWG resolving distance penalties

## 5. Recommendation to other WG and SC

- Sc-WG to adapt COH to the changes of AXMER in the next weeks

## 6. Business for 2012/2013

- Penalty for lost marker
- Harmonizing wording of MMA and Observers
- AX-WG will contact manufacturers and universities for expertise on possible propulsion by turning vents

## 7. Proposed 2011/2012 Working Group Members and Chairperson

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Uwe Schneider | (GER) | delegate - Chairman |
| Mathijs deBruijn | (NED) | delegate |
| David Levin | (USA) | alt. delegate |
| Claude Weber | (LUX) | delegate |
| David Bareford | (GBR) | expert |

**Summary of Motions to the plenary:**

**Motion:** that the content of SI and SII of 2012 rules for World Championship, Junior World Championship, Women's European Championship and World Ballooning Trophy is approved (adaptations to AXMER2012 to be done in next weeks).

**Motion:** that the AXMER are approved as presented