

AEROBATIC PARAGLIDING

Season 2017 summary



FAI CAT 2 COMPETITIONS

In 2017 we had 3 cat. 2 events (2 in Italy with both solo and synchro and 1 in Norway with only solo).

All 3 cat. 2 events counted for **APWT: 52 pilots** (48 in 2015) and **6 teams** (13 in 2015) from **13 nations** (15 in 2015) took part to the 2017 Aerobatic Paragliding World Tour. **4 of them were ladies (6 in 2015).**

All together 8 runs were flown in solo and 5 in synchro.

All planned events took place normally, only one was slightly affected by meteorological issues.

No accidents, no incidents! :-)

Event	Location	Date	APWT	Solo pilots	Synchro teams	Nations
King of Brenta	Molveno (ITA)	15-18.06.17	Solo + Synchro	31	4	9
Vertigo	Voss (NOR)	25-28.06.17	Solo	28	N/A	9
AcroMax	Trasaghis (ITA)	11-15.08.17	Solo + Synchro	28	4	11



2017 APWT FINAL STANDINGS

The title of **winner of the 2017 SOLO APWT** was assigned to **Théo de Blic (FRA)**.

The title of **winner of the 2017 SYNCHRO APWT** went to the team **Live to life (Victor Carrera / CHI – Rafael Goberna / BRA)**

The title of **winner of the 2017 APWT NATION CUP** was assigned to **FRANCE**.

SOLO OVERALL

1st: Theo de Blic (FRA)

2nd: Victor Carrera (CHI)

3rd: Tim Alongi (FRA)

LADIES

1st: Lea Hansenberger (SUI)

2nd: Claire Mercuriot (FRA)

3rd: Anne Schmidinger (AUT)

SYNCHRO

1st: Live to life (Victor Carrera / CHI – Rafael Goberna / BRA)

2nd: Twisted Boys (Théo de Blic / FRA - Horacio Llorens / SPA)

3rd: Air sick acro (Shane Tighe / AUS – Allen Tighe / AUS)

JUDGES SEMINARS

Judges seminars were held during 2 APWT competitions. As a result, 1 trainee has been promoted as qualified judge.

SAFETY

Throughout the 2017 hundreds of competition runs were flown. **Not even a single minor accident occurred.**

No serious or fatal accident happened since the APWT was created in 2003. This is a success we are proud of. The aerobatic paragliding discipline has demonstrated over the years that it has reached a very high level of safety. Nevertheless, in the last years some young pilots (who never took part to any FAI competition) had fatal accidents while performing manoeuvres during training or aerobatic shows. The situation should be monitored.



2018 - FROM APWT TO AWT

The discipline needs a revolution: if nothing is done, aerobatic paragliding competitions would simply disappear from the scene, only shows would survive.

Big changes are expected for 2018. We are working on the project of the completely new **Acro World Tour** concept, consisting in 3-4 events plus a final with two distinct competitions:

- **Acro World Masters** - For the very best 16 pilots competing according to the battle format
- **Acro World Challengers** – For all other pilots, competing according to the standard format

A video production team will follow all events of the Acro World Tour. Audiovisual products of different lengths and formats will be produced (teaser, news clip, short report, highlight...) and will be available for worldwide distribution.

Work still in progress. FAI Sports Director Markus Haggene and Communication Manager Faustine Carrera have been asked whether FAI is interested in distributing the images of the Acro World Tour. If yes, all stages and the entire AWT will be FAI cat 2. Otherwise, organisers will be free to decide if they want their event to be sanctioned or not.



Unfortunately synchro competitions - the most exciting expression of aerobatic paragliding – will be frozen. In 2017 total 6 synchro pairs took part to the APWT, only 2 of them were real teams and participated to both competitions. The 4 other teams were formed last minute, only in order to have enough teams to validate the competition. At the moment, it doesn't make sense to continue organising competitions for so few teams. Nevertheless, synchro demo flights will be performed during the breaks of the competitions in the form of show flights.

PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF THE AEROBATIC ANNEX

Since no Cat 1 competition is planned for the next 2 years, no major modification is needed. A list of minor changes to the technical part of S7B will be presented before the plenary meeting.





NEEDS

Judging an aerobatic competition is a very hard job, and it's always very difficult to scrape together the minimum number of judges required for a competition.

- **JUDGE SEMINARS**

We have been forming some new judges during the last seasons, but we still need more, especially from outside Europe.

Organizing an aerobatic paragliding competition is very demanding and expensive: also due to the current economic situation, during the last years the number of organizers willing to take an important financial risk decreased. We hope that the new Acro World Tour will provide new impetus, also because it will be more media friendly and interesting for sponsors. The new format should also create more interest among oversea's organisers.

- **ACQUISITION OF TWO INFLATABLE LANDING RAFTS**

CIVL could encourage much organisers by financing the acquisition of some modules needed to compose the floating landing rafts necessary for aerobatic competitions. These would be managed by the aerobatic committee and would be available for free (except shipping costs) for the AWT events and all other FAI events that might need them. For 2018 4 PVC floating landing rafts modules (4x4 meters each) are needed.

The Acropyx scoring system adopted in 2012 has already proved its effectiveness: it is now imperative to continue improving it and updating it constantly. Additionally, the system must now be adapted to the new battle competition concept.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIFIC SOFTWARE WITH DISPLAY INTERFACE FOR BATTLE COMPETITIONS - FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACROPYX SCORING SOFTWARE**

Keeping the costs within acceptable limits has been, and will be possible only thanks to the commitment of two Cuban paraglider pilots and programmers who have provided an enormous effort, demonstrating great availability over the entire season, on a highly competitive price compared to western standards.

We are also evaluating the possibility of real time broadcasting (live streaming) of the APWT competitions.

Additionally, a very old project, for which a budget has been repeatedly voted and accepted, but never realized due to the lack of volunteers:

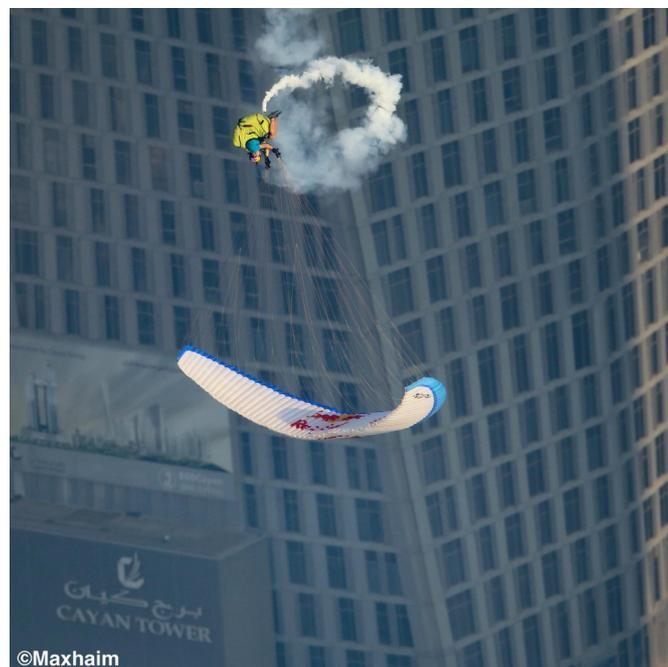
- **STANDARDIZATION OF THE FORMATION PROCESS OF NEW JUDGES**

The best way to achieve this goal has been identified in the **production of a tutorial video** that would explain in detail the criteria for judgment and illustrate the manoeuvres one by one. Such a tool would simplify greatly the training process, making possible the holding of seminars outside of the competition while improving consistency of judgment and reducing costs. A budget had already been approved three (3!!!) years ago, but unfortunately it wasn't possible to find somebody who would take the lead of the project and produce the clip. During the WAG Dubai we agreed with Raul Rodriguez that he would work on this project.

BUDGET

During these last two “survival” years, the aerobatic committee hasn't submitted any expense claim to CIVL. The 2018 season will be crucial: a considerable amount of time and money is being invested in this attempt to have aerobatic paragliding taking the big step. To help achieving the objectives set out above, the aerobatic subcommittee requests the following financial support for 2018:

- 3'000.- € for judge training seminars
- 3'000.- € for the acquisition of 4 PVC floating landing rafts modules (4x4 meters)
- 2'000.- € for the production of a judging tutorial video
- 1'000.- € for the further development of the Acropyx scoring software



On behalf of the Aerobatic subcommittee
Claudio Cattaneo - Chairman