



CIVL 2025 PLENARY – ANNEXE 13
HANG GLIDING XC COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Jamie Shelden, HG Committee Chair*

Summary of Events Since Last Plenary

Class 1, Class 5, Female Class Test World Championship– Ager, Spain, July 2024: This was a successful event run by a very experienced team. There were more than the average number of accidents, including one accident by a rigid wing pilot with very serious injuries. However, the general consensus seems to be that the primary contributing factor may be the aging of our hang gliding competition pilot pool. There has been extensive discussion on Basecamp regarding additional safety measures that have been recommended to the organizational team for the Category 1 event coming in July.

Sport Class Test World Championship – Laveno, Italy, June 2024: Another successful test event which was run concurrently with an open class event. Although weather conditions weren't ideal, sport class pilots came from twelve countries and three tasks were completed.

Safety Measures for the Ager Test Event

There was a great deal of discussion on Basecamp about potential measures that could be implemented prior to the test event in Ager. Most ideas were centered around decreasing the size of the start gaggles, including having multiple start cylinders, having start cylinders further from launch, dividing pilots into groups based on their ranking, etc. No workable ideas were generated, other than certain safety measures that we are already taking.

French Bid for European Championship- Mont Lachens, France 2026

The organizers have withdrawn the bid citing severe local contingencies and safety concerns. We are grateful that the Italian NAC has agreed to organize the 2026 Europeans in Gemona and a bid has been approved by the Bureau for the 2026 European Championships with no test event.

Sprog Checking

Once again, the matter of requiring sprog checks at Cat 1 events has been raised. The Swiss conducting sprog measurements at an event held in Switzerland and suggested that we should revisit the sprog checking requirement from many years ago. The matter was discussed, with

input from several knowledgeable sources, but no proposal was produced from the discussion as there was little sport for restarting the sprog checking program.

Accident in Class 5 Worlds Test Event

An Austrian Class 5 pilot had a serious accident at goal on Task 3 of the Ager pre-worlds. Following the close of the event, the Austrian team submitted a letter addressing the “failings” of the Steward and the organization. There was robust discussion about safety concerns and changes that the Austrian team believed should be made, including mandatory windsock at every goal field, mandatory goal crew and medical staff at every goal field and creating a position of Task Setter. With the exception of the Task Setter position, the discussion did not lead to any specific proposals for changes.

Female Pilots at Combined Championships

Again, the issue of a female championship at the upcoming worlds in Ager has been raised. As of March, there are only 4 female pilots registered. However, our feeling is that if a determination of separate tasks and scoring for the female pilots was made now, it could potentially encourage more female pilots to participate.

Qualifications for Sport Class Worlds

We have been working closely with the organization team to fine tune the wording of the local regulations with respect to sport class pilot and team captain definitions. The basic concept was published in the local regulations in January. However, many pilots have pointed out that the wording of the qualifications needs clarification to close up loopholes that might allow “overqualified” pilots to participate and/or prohibit true sport class pilots from taking part. What we believe is the final wording has been updated/published on CIVLcomps.

Passing of Bill Moyes and Bobby Bailey

These two icons of the hang gliding world passed in 2024. Bob Bailey and Bill Moyes were the creators of the Bailey/Moyes Dragonfly, the purpose built, premier hang gliding aerotow tug plane. Bobby died in a Dragonfly accident in April. Bill Moyes died of natural causes in September at the age of 92.

French/Swiss Request for Safety Measures at Worlds in Ager

No formal proposal, but many “ideas” were presented by the French and discussed at length on Basecamp. But, no formal proposal came from the discussion either because there is no agreement on what should be proposed, or because there is no agreement on what the problem is, if any, that needs fixing.

Proposals to the Plenary:

Proposal Germany – 1 Jury Member at FAI 1 Events

Proposal Germany – Lunch at FAI 1

Proposal Switzerland – Meet Director

Proposal Switzerland – Task Setter

Upcoming Category 1 Competitions and Bids:

Italian Bid for Europeans 2026 – Gemona, Italy

Brasilian Bid for Worlds 2027 – Andrades, Brasil

North Macedonia Bid for Worlds 2027 – Krushevo, North Macedonia