**Jury report summary - Events 2016**

**3rd FAI European Hot Air Airship Championship, Bad Wiessee, Germany**

**Event debriefing**

**–** Pilots request one radio frequency for competition and one for pilot to crew.  
 **BX WG**

**–** Briefing room, in a cafe, was very noisy with general public and was not available to officials before briefing time. **EPAS**

**–** Maps had no grids and no coordinates **BX WG**

**–** Launch field conditions was bad and no sanitary facilities **EPAS**

**–** Pilots were allowed too much time waiting at goals and blocking other pilots  
 **BX WG**

**3rd AX Junior World Championship. Mariampole, Lithuania**

**Jury Report**

**–** Scoring software (MdB/Bfa). Scoring verification was difficult. **Scoring WG**

**–** There was a possible bug in the software. Results seemed to be rounded to nearest 10 meters too early in the calculating process. **Scoring WG**

**–** Organisation was perfect.

**Event debriefing**

Pilots are not in favour of 3D tasks **AX WG**

**Protest**

10.2 Dangerous flying

The Jury found that the vertical speed had not been exceeded. Penalty changed to a warning. Protest fee returned.

**2nd Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship. Birštonas, Lithuania**

**Jury Report**

**–** A friendly, hospitable and a professionally organised event. **EPAS**

**–** Minor violations of protocol. FAI logo neither on program nor on website. Oath ceremony “unusual”, FAI anthem not played at awards ceremony. **EPAS**

**–** Invitation procedure. Correct. three late withdrawals. Two for valid medical reasons. One very late withdrawal as NAC had failed to issue Sporting License. No No-Shows declared.

**–** **Invitation procedure, SC1**. **Statutes WG**

For Junior and Women events the invitation rules regarding additional places are not quite adequate. Especially in junior events an NAC may not have a qualified pilot but in the next event they may have. In such cases the NAC will not get any additional places as they have no results from the previous event. Consider a special rule for junior and women events. The procedures for reserve places can perhaps be used.

The same may be the case for General Events. The second round could be one extra place for all NAC who have taken all places invited in the first round and then according to ranking in the previous event.

**– Gravity drop, Event rules 12.9. AX WG**

There seems to be different interpretations of the meaning of “hand inside the basket”. Is it allowed to have the hand on the edge of the basket?

**– Event organiser handbook**

Consider updating the old handbook for event organisers. The latest version is at least 20 years old and I do not think it is available as an electronic document, only on paper. Since it was printed there has been many well organised events and also many new procedures. There is a lot that can be learned from the best events in the recent past.

**Event debriefing**

**–** A very good event. Administration, communication, costs, social all very good.

**–** Pilots noted with thanks that there were no 3D tasks

**–** Tasks too easy and little variation (ED remark: Caused by marginal weather)

**– Loggers: NT SC**

Discussion about safety aspects on logger handling in flight. Also writing coordinates on markers is a distraction.

Would be good to enable wireless connection to PC

Touch screen would be useful

Possibility to declare multiple provisional goals and then delete unwanted.

**– Safety Safety SC**

Refuelling was unsafe. Propane clouds, music system inside refuelling area  
Refuelling team seemed to need more training.

**– Other**

Junior and Women Worlds were too close in time. They could be done at the same time with separate scoring.

**Luxembourg Balloon Trophy 2016. Mersch, Luxembourg.**

A very good event. This event is meant to be repeated every second year. It was requested to try to organise it every year.

**60th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett. Gladbeck, Germany. AA WG**

**Quote from Jury Report:**

“The quality of the event’s organisational aspects was outstanding. Organiser also promoted general public’s and media’s awareness of Gordon Bennett Cup by publishing a hefty information package in Balloon Sport Magazin and by entertaining the public for three days on the Launch Site with fiesta balloon launches (gas and hot air), nightglows and the announcer’s enjoyable history of ballooning”.

**Event debriefing**

**–** “This GB was perfect”.

**–** Proximity of hotel to launch field and a restaurant was appreciated.

**–** Tracking did not work well on mobile phones.

**22nd World Hot Air Balloon Championship, Saga, Japan.**

**Recommendation:**

FAI is recommended to develop procedures for Anti-Doping testing at Air Sport Events that do not unnecessarily disturb normal operations for pilots and officials.

**General Comments:**

This event, like many previous international events in Japan was run by a very professional staff, a large number of hard working officials and with very adequate facilities. A very large number (thousands) of volunteers from the city and the University of Saga helped to organise a very successful event.

All problems found at the pre-event in 2015 were taken care of.

In addition to the 105 competing teams, there were about 100 fiesta teams who entertained the large crowd.

**Anti-Doping Test EPAS and FAI**

A few days before the event, the organisers were informed by JADA that an Anti-Doping test was planned. The organisers were requested to provide hotel rooms with refrigerators, four persons to act as chaperones and transportation for pilots and chaperones from competition centre to hotel. The chaperones should be English speaking and have no connection with the event or organisation.

The organisers had difficulties to find volunteer chaperones without connection to the organisation. To help the organisers, the FAI jurors volunteered and were accepted by FAI and JADA.

The testing took a long time and conflicted with the pilots plans for refuelling, dinner and preparing for the next morning flight. The briefing for the morning flight was at 05:45.

* The organisers must be informed at an early stage
* The costs should not be covered by the organisers
* WADA or their local representatives should be responsible for all arrangements and facilities
* The testing should preferably be made at the competition centre
  + - The procedure should not disturb normal operations for pilots, crew and organisation

**Event debriefing**

A successful, previously unequalled, event; the excellence largely due to the organising team **EPAS**

**–** The quality of the speaker system in the briefing room varied with the number of persons in the room and with the position in the room. **EPAS**

**–** The role and facilities for Team Managers was discussed. **AX WG**

**– Vehicle and equipment hire, communication before and during event**

System of organisation was perfect. Congratulations to the Organisers

Communications and assistance from Kaz and his teams was exceptional

**Comments received by mail after the debriefing**

**– Target visibility AX WG**  
Red and blue targets are very difficult to see from the sky. The best contrasting colour in my experience is white (except on snow).

**– Marker throwing: AX WG**

Due to the increased pilots skills, almost 80% get in throwing range to the targets. To concentrate scores more on ballooning than on throwing skills, I think GMD should be used in all tasks (also in PDG and FON).   
Marker throwing in front of the public is acceptable for more 'action' to spectators and cameras.

**– PZ altitude infringement: AX WG, ScoringWG**

A pilot was penalised for flying in a PZ below 300 ft but his GPS altitude indicated above 350 ft.

**Jury Board comment:**  
The rule about attaching the logger far out of reach from the pilot is unfair. The altitude registered by the logger should always be visible to the pilot.

GPS altitude is not measured from MSL but from the WGS84 ellipsoid surface. In Saga, the difference is about 100 ft. Therefore 350 ft GPS is about 250 ft MSL. In most places on earth the difference is + 50m to -50m (+164 to -164 ft). The difference should be stated in the rules or in the briefing notes.

**– Altimeter setting**

In one task 1016 hPa was used to calculate altitude, but QNH on task sheet was 1014 hPa.

. **Jury Board comment: AX WG, Scoring WG**

The pilot should know how to set their altimeter. The best way is to set the altimeter to a known altitude rather than to set It to a given QNH. The pressure scale is often not exact. One hPa is about 25 ft.