



# **FAI SPORTING CODE**

## **GENERAL SECTION**



2025 Edition

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Approved by the Air Sport General Commission, November 19, 2024

Ver. 1.1

Copyright 2025

All rights reserved. Copyright in this document is owned by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). Any person acting on behalf of the FAI or one of its members is hereby authorised to copy, print, and distribute this document, subject to the following conditions:

1. **The document may be used for information only and may not be exploited for commercial purposes.**
2. **Any copy of this document or portion thereof must include this copyright notice.**
3. **Regulations applicable to air law, air traffic and control in the respective countries are reserved in any event. They must be observed and, where applicable, take precedence over any sport regulations**

Note that any product, process or technology described in the document may be the subject of other Intellectual Property rights reserved by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale or other entities and is not licensed hereunder.

## RIGHTS TO FAI INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

All international sporting events organised wholly or partly under the rules of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) Sporting Code are termed FAI international sporting events. Under the FAI Statutes, FAI owns and controls all rights relating to FAI international sporting events. FAI Members shall, within their national territories, enforce FAI ownership of FAI international sporting events and require them to be registered in the FAI Sporting Calendar.

An event organiser who wishes to exploit rights to any commercial activity at such events shall seek prior agreement with FAI. The rights owned by FAI which may, by agreement, be transferred to the event organiser include, but are not limited to advertising at or for FAI events, use of the event name or logo for merchandising purposes and use of any sound, image, program and/or data, whether recorded electronically or otherwise or transmitted in real time. This includes specifically all rights to the use of any material, electronic or other, including software, that forms part of any method or system for judging, scoring, performance evaluation or information utilised in any FAI international sporting event.

Any person or legal entity that accepts responsibility for organising a FAI Sporting event, whether or not by written agreement, in doing so also accepts the proprietary rights of FAI as stated above. Where no transfer of rights has been agreed in writing, FAI shall retain all rights to the event. Regardless of any agreement or transfer of rights, FAI shall have, free of charge for its own archival and/or promotional use, full access to any sound and/or visual images of any FAI Sporting event. The FAI also reserves the right to arrange at its own expense for any and all parts of any event to be recorded.



Link for FAI Statutes and By Laws

## AMENDMENT RECORD

**THIS 2025 EDITION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE 2024 CODE**

**These amendments are marked by a double line in the right margin of this edition**

<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Plenary meeting approving change</b>	<b>Brief description of change</b>	<b>Change incorporated by</b>
2.1.1	2024	Classes Definition	CASI Bureau
2.1.3	2024	Space Vehicle	CASI Bureau
3.1	2024	Sporting Licence issued by FAI Secretary General	CASI Bureau
3.5.4	2024	Change of representation	CASI Bureau
5.2	2024	FAI Officials	CASI Bureau
5.2.4.2	2024	Nominated Jury	CASI Bureau
5.2.4.5.4	2024	Quorum	CASI Bureau
5.5.1.2	2024	Observation	CASI Bureau
6.3.2	2024	Protest during the event	CASI Bureau
6.4.3	2024	Appeals – Time Limit	CASI Bureau
6.4.4	2024	Treatment of Appeals	CASI Bureau
7.1.7	2024	Other Definition	CASI Bureau
8.1.1	2024	Units	CASI Bureau

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>PRINCIPLES AND AUTHORITY OF FAI .....</b>	<b>10</b>
1.1	PRINCIPLES .....	10
1.2	SPORTING CODE .....	10
1.2.1	General Section.....	10
1.2.2	Specialised Sections .....	10
1.3	SPORTING CODE AUTHORITY .....	10
1.4	AMENDMENTS.....	10
1.4.1	Decision.....	10
1.4.2	Implementation.....	11
1.4.3	Publication.....	11
1.4.4	Latest Version .....	11
<b>2</b>	<b>CLASSES AND DEFINITIONS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1	CLASSES.....	12
2.1.1	Classes Definition.....	12
2.1.3	Space Vehicle .....	14
2.1.4	e-Airports .....	15
2.2	AIR SPORT COMMISSIONS.....	16
2.2.1	Commissions Acronyms.....	17
2.3	Continental regions .....	17
2.3.1	Asia .....	17
2.3.2	Africa .....	17
2.3.3	Europe.....	17
2.3.4	Oceania .....	17
2.3.5	North America .....	17
2.3.6	South America:.....	18
2.3.7	Temporary Modifications for Specific Championships .....	18
2.3.8	Other Regional Groupings .....	18
2.4	Other definitions .....	18
2.4.1	Performances .....	18
2.4.2	Achievement Badges .....	18
<b>3</b>	<b>FAI SPORTING LICENCES .....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1	RIGHTS.....	19
3.2	HOLDER'S RESPONSIBILITY .....	19
3.3	ISSUING .....	19
3.3.1	Sporting Licences by the NACs .....	19
3.3.2	Sporting Licences by the FAI .....	20
3.3.3	Database .....	20
3.3.4	FAI Permission to Participate .....	20
3.4	IDENTIFICATION.....	21

3.4.1	Citizenship.....	21
3.4.2	Residency.....	21
3.4.3	Person Without Nationality .....	21
3.4.4	Transfer from NAC to NAC .....	21
3.4.5	Transfer from FAI to NAC .....	21
3.4.6	Delegation of Power.....	21
3.5	RIGHTS OF REPRESENTATION .....	21
3.5.1	NAC Competitor .....	21
3.5.2	FAI Competitor .....	21
3.5.3	Multiple Citizenships .....	21
3.5.4	Change of Representation .....	21
3.6	VALIDITY .....	22
3.7	WITHDRAWAL.....	22

## **4 SPORTING EVENTS.....23**

4.1	CLASSIFICATION.....	23
4.1.1	National Sporting Events.....	23
4.1.2	International Sporting Events .....	23
4.1.3	Regional Championships .....	23
4.1.4	World Championship .....	23
4.1.5	World Air Games .....	23
4.1.6	Multi-Sport Competitions.....	24
4.2	PARTICIPANTS.....	24
4.2.1	Competitors .....	24
4.2.2	Team .....	24
4.2.3	Team Leaders (or Team Managers) .....	24
4.2.4	Delegations .....	24
4.2.5	Officials.....	25
4.2.6	Assistants .....	25
4.3	CHAMPIONS .....	25
4.4	RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS .....	25
4.4.1	Acceptance of the Sporting Code and Rules .....	25
4.4.2	Doping, Alcohol, Illness and Injury .....	25
4.5	GENERAL REGULATIONS .....	26
4.5.1	FAI Authority.....	26
4.5.2	First Category Events.....	26
4.5.3	Second Category Events .....	27
4.5.4	Language .....	27
4.5.5	Insurance.....	27
4.5.6	Equipment and Devices .....	27
4.6	SPORTING CALENDAR.....	27
4.7	ENTRY CRITERIA .....	27
4.7.1	First Category Events.....	27

4.7.2	Second Category Events .....	28
4.7.3	Multi-Sport Competitions .....	28
4.8	ENTRIES.....	28
4.8.1	Application.....	28
4.8.2	Acceptance.....	28
4.8.3	Change .....	28
4.8.4	Participant Withdrawal .....	28
4.8.5	Age Categories.....	28
4.9	SUSPENSION, CANCELLATION OF EVENTS .....	29
4.9.1	Force Majeure .....	29
4.9.2	First Category Events.....	29
4.9.3	Second Category Event .....	30
4.10	RESULTS AND PRIZE-GIVING.....	30
4.10.1	Jury Approval .....	30
4.10.2	Notification of Results .....	30
4.10.3	Prize-Giving.....	30
4.11	Ranking .....	31

## **5 CONTROL OF SPORTING EVENTS .....32**

5.1	NACs RESPONSIBILITY .....	32
5.1.1	Control and Certification.....	32
5.1.2	Verification.....	32
5.2	OFFICIALS IN FIRST CATEGORY EVENTS.....	32
5.2.1	FAI Officials .....	32
5.2.2	FAI Stewards and Controllers .....	32
5.2.3	FAI Judges .....	32
5.2.4	FAI Jury .....	33
5.2.5	Operational Officials.....	34
5.3	OFFICIALS IN SECOND CATEGORY EVENTS.....	34
5.3.1	Stewards and Controllers.....	34
5.3.2	Judges.....	34
5.3.3	Operational Officials .....	34
5.3.4	Jury.....	35
5.4	OFFICIALS FOR BADGES .....	35
5.5	OFFICIALS FOR RECORDS.....	35
5.5.1	Official Observers.....	35
5.5.2	Temporary Status.....	35
5.5.3	Withdrawal of Official Observer.....	36
5.5.4	Records During Events .....	36

## **6 PENALTIES, COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS, APPEALS .....37**

6.1	PENALTIES .....	37
6.1.1	Penalising.....	37

6.1.2	Categories of offences .....	37
6.1.3	Types of penalties .....	38
6.1.4	Cheating or unsporting behaviour .....	38
6.1.5	Disqualification from an event .....	38
6.1.6	Penalties imposed during an event .....	38
6.1.7	ASC Bureau actions .....	38
6.2	COMPLAINTS .....	39
6.2.1	Complaint prior to an event .....	39
6.2.2	Complaint during an event .....	39
6.2.3	Complaint after an event .....	40
6.2.4	Complaint for a record attempt .....	40
6.3	PROTESTS .....	40
6.3.1	Protest prior to an event .....	41
6.3.2	Protest during an event .....	41
6.3.3	Protest after an event .....	42
6.3.4	Protest for a record attempt .....	42
6.4	APPEALS .....	42
6.4.1	Notice of Appeal .....	42
6.4.2	Administrative fee .....	42
6.4.3	Time limit .....	43
6.4.4	Treatment of Appeals .....	43

## **7 INTERNATIONAL RECORDS.....44**

7.1	DEFINITION .....	44
7.1.1	Types .....	44
7.1.2	Compliance .....	44
7.1.3	Certification .....	44
7.1.4	Continental Regions .....	44
7.1.5	Continental Records .....	44
7.1.6	New Records .....	44
7.1.7	Other Definitions .....	44
7.2	ABSOLUTE RECORDS .....	46
7.3	HOLDERS OF RECORDS .....	46
7.4	ADMINISTRATION .....	46
7.4.1	NACs Responsibility .....	46
7.4.2	Multi-NACs Issues .....	46
7.5	RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTHORISATIONS .....	46
7.6	SIMULTANEOUS RECORDS .....	47
7.7	MULTIPLE RECORDS .....	47
7.8	CERTIFICATION .....	47
7.8.1	Supporting File .....	47
7.8.2	Record Claim .....	47
7.8.3	Submission .....	48

7.8.4	First Category Events.....	48
7.9	VERIFICATION .....	48
7.10	NOTIFICATION.....	48
7.10.1	Before Certification.....	48
7.10.2	After Certification.....	48

## **8 MEASUREMENTS, CALCULATIONS, MARGINS.....49**

8.1	MEASUREMENTS.....	49
8.1.1	Units .....	49
8.1.2	General.....	49
8.1.3	Position.....	49
8.1.4	Distance .....	49
8.1.5	Bearing .....	49
8.1.6	Time .....	49
8.1.7	Altitude .....	49
8.1.8	Mass.....	49
8.2	CALCULATIONS.....	49
8.2.1	General.....	49
8.2.2	Earth Model.....	49
8.2.3	Distance .....	50
8.2.4	Bearing .....	50
8.2.5	Altitude .....	50
8.2.6	Speed.....	50
8.2.7	Scores .....	50
8.3	MARGINS AND PRECISION.....	50
8.3.1	Margin .....	50
8.3.2	Precision.....	50
8.4	APPROVALS .....	50
8.4.1	Method .....	50
8.4.2	Control.....	50



## INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORTING CODE OF THE FAI

The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) is a world organisation that is concerned with Air Sport competitions, Records, including Space activities and other certified performances.

The FAI unites National Air Sport Control (NAC) organisations, who administer Air Sports activities in their own countries. The NACs, which are members of FAI, when assembled in the annual General Conference, are the highest FAI policy-making body.

The policies and decisions of the General Conference are implemented by the FAI Executive Board and the Air Sport Commissions (ASC). The Executive Board ensures that the Statutes, By-Laws and the Sporting Code are duly observed.

The FAI Sporting Code consists of the General Section and the Specialised Sections.

The FAI Sporting Code deals with three major areas: Sporting Events such as Championships and Competitions, Records and Achievement badges.

The General Section consists of matters which are common to all Air Sports and is the responsibility of the FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI).

The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code contain rules and procedures for specific Air Sport activities, and are the responsibility of the appropriate Air Sport Commission (see 2.2.)

# 1 PRINCIPLES AND AUTHORITY OF FAI

## 1.1 PRINCIPLES

The FAI is the sole international body in control of Air Sports and Aeronautic and Astronautical records in the interests of good sportsmanship and fair competition. The Statutes of FAI specify the Sporting Code as the regulatory system by which the FAI administers and controls all Air Sport activities.

Additional documents defining the administration and control of Air Sport activities include:

- FAI Statutes and By-Laws.
- FAI Disciplinary Code.
- FAI Code of Ethics.
- FAI Jury Guidelines.

## 1.2 SPORTING CODE

The Sporting Code consists of the General Section and the Specialised Sections.

### 1.2.1 General Section

The General Section contains the rules common to all FAI Air Sports activities. The responsibility for the development and maintenance of the General Section rests with the FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI).

### 1.2.2 Specialised Sections

Each Specialised Section contains rules that apply to a specific FAI recognised Air Sport discipline. The responsibility for the development and maintenance of each Specialised Section rests with the appropriate FAI Air Sport Commission (ASC).

The Specialised Section for each discipline shall not conflict with the General Section.

## 1.3 SPORTING CODE AUTHORITY

The authority for enforcement of the Sporting Code is shared, as described in FAI Statutes and in the General and Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code, between the:

- FAI Active and Associate Members, referred here as NAC (National Airsport Control); FAI Temporary Members for records related matters only.
- Air Sport Commissions referred here as ASC.
- FAI Executive Board.

## 1.4 AMENDMENTS

### 1.4.1 Decision

The General Section of the Sporting Code may be amended by the CASI and each of the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code may be amended by the appropriate ASC.

Any amendment to the General Section shall be decided by the CASI Plenary Meeting unless the CASI Plenary Meeting exceptionally delegates the CASI Bureau to act accordingly.

The voting system for the CASI Plenary Meeting is that of a simple majority.

### **1.4.2 Implementation**

Amendments to the General Section shall come into force on the date agreed by the CASI Plenary Meeting. The present volume shall be immediately revised in accordance with any changes in the FAI Statutes or By-Laws which affect existing provisions. The appropriate ASC shall determine the regular date for annual amendments to the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code for which they are responsible.

### **1.4.3 Publication**

Amended versions of the General Section are published by the FAI Secretariat, acting for the CASI. When an amended version is finalised, it will be published on the appropriate FAI web page. The FAI web reference for the latest GS version is as follows:

<https://www.fai.org/document-compression/52718>



### **1.4.4 Latest Version**

A NAC is responsible for making sure that its officials and other users of the Sporting Code General Section are aware of the above and are using the correct version for the year concerned.

## 2 CLASSES AND DEFINITIONS

The following general definitions apply to the FAI Air Sport Commissions. Other definitions and sub-classifications may be contained in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

### 2.1 CLASSES

The following classes are valid for all FAI Sporting Events, Records attempts and Achievement badges flights:

- Class A Free Balloons
- Class B Dirigibles - Airships
- Class C Aeroplanes, Electric- and Solar-powered Aeroplanes
- Class D Gliders and Motor Gliders
- Class E Rotorcraft and Multi-Rotors
- Class F Model Aircraft
- Class G Parachutes and Wind Tunnels
- Class H Vertical Take-off and Landing Aircraft
- Class I Human-powered Aircraft
- Class J Jet Pack
- Class K Spacecraft
- Class M Tilt-Wing/Tilt-Engine Aircraft
- Class O Hang Gliders and Paragliders
- Class P Aero-Spacecraft
- Class R Microlight Aircraft and Paramotors
- Class S Space Models
- Class U Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

#### 2.1.1 Classes Definition

In defining the responsibilities of the FAI Air Sport Commissions and the classifications above and in para 1.2, the following definitions apply. More detailed definitions and sub-classifications may be contained in the specialised sections of the Sporting Code. All classes refer to a manned activity with the exceptions of classes F and S for models. All other unmanned aircraft activity is described in the Sporting Code for class U. For classes K and P all the details are defined in the Sporting Code Section 8 Volume

## 2.1.2 Aircraft

A vehicle that can be sustained in the atmosphere by forces exerted on it, by the air. There are two types of aircraft:

- Aerodyne: A heavier-than-air aircraft which derives its lift in flight mainly from aerodynamic forces.
- Aerostat: An aircraft lighter than air.

### 2.1.2.1 Class A

Free Balloon – An aerostat, supported statically in the air, with no means of propulsion by any power source.

### 2.1.2.2 Class B

Airship or Dirigible – An aerostat equipped with means of propulsion and steering.

### 2.1.2.3 Class C

Aeroplane: A fixed wing aerodyne with means of propulsion.

Electrically-Powered Aeroplane: One which can be sustained in level flight in the atmosphere using solely an electrical motor(s). (AL11)

Solar-Powered Aeroplane: One which can be sustained in level flight in the atmosphere using solar energy impacting on its airframe as its energy source.

### 2.1.2.4 Class D

Glider – A fixed-wing aerodyne capable of sustained soaring flight and having no means of propulsion.

Motor Glider: A fixed-wing aerodyne equipped with means of propulsion, capable of sustained soaring flight without thrust from the means of propulsion.

### 2.1.2.5 Class E

Rotorcraft – An aerodyne that derives the whole or a substantial part of its lift from a rotary wing system.

Autogyro: A rotorcraft the wings of which are not provided with any form of direct power drive.

Helicopter: A rotorcraft with a power-driven rotor system whose axis (axes) is (are) fixed and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the rotorcraft.

Compound Helicopter: A rotorcraft which in flight, and at slow speed derives the substantial proportion of its lift from a rotary wing system but at speed can generate lifting and longitudinal thrust from a suitable combination of rotary wing system, fixed lifting surface(s) and auxiliary propulsor(s). (AL17)

Tilt Rotorcraft: An aerodyne which derives the whole or a substantial part of its lift for vertical or hovering flight by tilting rotor(s) upward to a position substantially vertical, and in forward flight derives its lift from rotors and/or wings, and is capable of autorotation in the event of power failure.

Multi-Rotor: A rotorcraft with a power-driven rotor system whose axes (more than two) are fixed and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the rotorcraft.

### 2.1.2.6 Class F

Model Aircraft – An aircraft of limited dimensions, with or without a power source, not able to carry a human being and to be used for contest, sport or recreational purposes.

### 2.1.2.7 Class G

Parachute – A collapsible fabric device designed to counteract the effects of gravity and intended to be used to return a suspended load or person safely to the surface of the earth. (AL13)

Wind Tunnel – A vertical or horizontal tunnel in which an airstream is generated by power enabling body flight similar to that achieved in freefall.

#### **2.1.2.8 Class H**

Vertical Take-Off and Landing Aeroplane – An aeroplane capable of taking off, maintaining hovering or forward flight and landing while obtaining the whole of its lift directly from the thrust of one or more jet engines installed in and integral to the aeroplane and not requiring lift derived from external surfaces during take-off or landing.

#### **2.1.2.9 Class I**

Human-Powered Aircraft – An aerodyne which takes off and remains airborne using solely the muscular energy of one or more persons on board. It may not employ any systems of static support (gas, hot air, etc.) and may not carry any kind of apparatus which could receive energy during the flight but may carry apparatus to store muscular energy after take-off.

#### **2.1.2.10 Class J**

Jetpack – A personal flight and propulsion device worn or carried by a single person which is capable of making powered vertical take-offs and landings, and controlled flight through the air.

#### **2.1.2.11 Class M**

Tilt-Wing/Tilt Engine Aeroplane – An aircraft capable of both horizontal and vertical flight which, in forward horizontal flight, derives most of its lift from fixed wings and which achieves vertical or hovering flight by tilting the wings or engine(s) upward to position substantially vertical.

#### **2.1.2.12 Class N**

Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) Aircraft – An aeroplane capable of take-off and landing in a short distance.

#### **2.1.2.13 Class O**

Hang Glider – A glider capable of being carried, foot launched and landed solely by the use of the pilot's legs.

Paraglider: A hang glider with no rigid primary structure.

#### **2.1.2.14 Class R**

Microlight: A one or two seat aeroplane with a specified maximum mass and characterised by a very low wing loading.

Powered Hang Glider: A hang glider fitted with means of propulsion capable of launching it and sustaining flight.

Paramotor: A paraglider with means of propulsion capable of launching it and sustaining flight.

#### **2.1.2.15 Class S**

Space Model – Spacecraft or Aerospacecraft of limited dimensions and limited payload-carrying capability, unable to carry a human being or commercial payloads.

#### **2.1.2.16 Class U**

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – An aircraft that does not carry a human and is controlled primarily by means of an onboard flight system.

### **2.1.3 Space Vehicle**

A crewed or uncrewed vehicle or device designed for flight and operation in space

#### **2.1.3.1 Class K**

Spacecraft – Vehicle capable of flight in space.

### **2.1.3.2 Class P**

Aerospacecraft – A craft capable of flight in space and of sustained and controlled flight in the atmosphere. It must also be capable of soft touchdowns on land or sea.

### **2.1.4 e-Airsports**

e-Airsports is a FAI activity or competition for individuals or teams, which is carried out using an electronic platform. Each FAI Air Sport Commission may establish rules for such an activity in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

## 2.2 AIR SPORT COMMISSIONS

The FAI Statutes specify the areas of responsibility of each ASC. The following table is provided as a guide.

FAI COMMISSION		SPORTING CODE SECTION	FAI CLASSES	
Airsport Discipline	Initials		Class Letter	Description
Ballooning	CIA	1	A B	Free Balloons Dirigibles, Airships
General Aviation	GAC	2	C H	Aeroplanes Vertical Take-off & Landing Aircraft
Gliding	IGC	3	D DM	Gliders Motor Gliders
Aeromodelling	CIAM	4 12	F S U	Model Aircraft Space Models Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
Parachuting and Indoor Skydiving	ISC	5	G	Parachutes Wind Tunnels
Aerobatics	CIVA	6	C D	Aeroplanes Gliders
Hang Gliding	CIVL	7	O	Hang Gliders Paragliders
Astronautics	ICARE	8	K P	Spacecraft Aero-Spacecraft
Rotorcraft	CIG	9	E    M	Helicopters Tilt Rotorcraft Autogyros Multi - Rotors Compound Helicopters Tilt-Wing/Tilt-Engine Aircraft
Microlights and Paramotors	CIMA	10	R	Microlight Aircraft Microlight Autogyros Powered Hang Gliders Paramotors
General	CASI	11	I J	Human Powered Aircraft Jet Pack
General	CASI	General	All	All Classes
General Aviation	CIACA	13	CS CE	Solar-powered aircraft Electrically powered aircraft

E-mail information distribution lists exist for each ASC. The FAI web pages are on <http://www.fai.org>



### 2.2.1 Commissions Acronyms

- CASI - Commission Aéronautique Sportive Internationale (Air Sport General Commission)
- CIA - Commission Internationale d'Aérostation (International Ballooning Commission)
- CIACA - Commission Internationale des Aéronefs de Construction Amateur (Amateur-built and Experimental Aircraft Commission)
- CIAM - Commission Internationale d'Aéromodélisme (International Aeromodelling Commission)
- CIG - Commission Internationale de Giraviation (International Rotorcraft Commission)
- CIMA - Commission Internationale de Micro-Aviation (International Microlight and Paramotor Commission)
- CIVA - Commission Internationale de Voltige Aérienne (International Aerobatics Commission)
- CIVL - Commission Internationale de Vol Libre (International Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission)
- GAC - General Aviation Commission
- ICARE - International Commission for Astronautic Records
- IGC - International Gliding Commission
- ISC - International Skydiving Commission

## 2.3 CONTINENTAL REGIONS

For the purposes of Continental Championships and records, the FAI recognises continental regions as follows (in alphabetical order).

### 2.3.1 Asia

The countries of the Asian Continent and adjacent island countries East of the European Countries defined below in 2.5.3, as far East as Japan and the Philippines. Includes Sri Lanka, Brunei, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei, but excludes Russia.

### 2.3.2 Africa

Comprising all the countries of the African Continent including the adjacent island countries such as Cape Verde, the Seychelles and Mauritius.

### 2.3.3 Europe

Comprising all the countries in and to the North of the Mediterranean Sea including adjacent island countries; and the countries to the West of the Caspian Sea; including Iceland, Ireland, Israel, all of Russia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom but not including Iran (mentioned because it has a boundary on the west side of the Caspian Sea).

### 2.3.4 Oceania

Comprising Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, and the countries of the Pacific Ocean to the East as far as the Marquesas and the Touamotu Archipelago, but not including any country listed under Asia above (e.g. Indonesia, Japan, Philippines).

### 2.3.5 North America

Comprising the countries from Panama to Canada and the Caribbean Islands including Bermuda.

### **2.3.6 South America:**

Comprising all the countries from Colombia to Chile and Argentina.

### **2.3.7 Temporary Modifications for Specific Championships**

With the consent of the Bureau of CASI, and at the request of the ASC concerned, continental regions can be modified for championship purposes.

### **2.3.8 Other Regional Groupings**

Where championships are regularly approved by FAI in regional groupings which are not the same as the continental regions listed herein, the definition of the regional grouping will be placed in this subparagraph. The only approved regional groupings are Pan-American and Asian-Oceanic.

## **2.4 OTHER DEFINITIONS**

### **2.4.1 Performances**

The definitions of types of performances, flights, courses, etc., shall be determined by each ASC and will be published in the appropriate Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

### **2.4.2 Achievement Badges**

Achievement Badges are benchmarks of accomplishments intended to provide a graduated scale of difficulty to measure and encourage the development of a pilot's skill. They may be issued in any of the FAI disciplines. The requirements needed to obtain Achievement Badges are determined by the ASCs in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

## 3 FAI SPORTING LICENCES

### 3.1 RIGHTS

FAI Sporting Licences and FAI Permissions to Participate are the property of the FAI. Rights attached to them are defined by the FAI. In the General Section of the Sporting Code, the term “Sporting Licence” refers only to FAI Sporting Licences. FAI Members holding FAI sporting powers have the responsibility and obligation to issue Sporting Licences on behalf of FAI to all eligible individual members or to suspend or cancel any that they have issued.

The FAI Secretary General authorized by the FAI Executive Board or the ASC concerned has the responsibility to issue Sporting Licences on behalf of FAI to all eligible individuals or to suspend or cancel any that he/she has issued.

The administrative process (including cost and duration) to issue Sporting Licences or to suspend or cancel any that have been issued is described in the NACs or FAI regulations.

Only holders of a valid Sporting Licence or FAI Permission to Participate are permitted to participate in FAI sporting events and record attempts. FAI Permissions to Participate are only valid for FAI Second Category events.

For NACs that do not pay their membership dues in time, see Statutes 7.4.2.

The FAI Permission to Participate is established to allow competitors to participate in a newly developed FAI Sporting activity when their NAC does not support yet the activity or they are from countries with no NAC. Such current activities are, but are not limited to:

- Drone Sport.
- Jet Pack.
- e-Airports.

### 3.2 HOLDER’S RESPONSIBILITY

Holders of a Sporting Licence or FAI Permission to Participate acknowledge that they know and understand the FAI Sporting Code, rules and regulations and commit themselves to abide by them.

### 3.3 ISSUING

A Sporting Licence is issued for one discipline or for multiple disciplines, as a minimum for 12 months or until the end of the calendar year. This information and the reference to when it is issued are indicated in the Sporting Licence database.

For the FAI Permission to Participate, the ASC concerned must send a written request to the FAI Executive Board asking for approval to introduce such a scheme for a specific discipline. The request must include all relevant details explaining why the Sporting Licence cannot be issued and/or what might be the requirements for a NAC to be excluded. Once evaluated and approved by the Executive Board, the FAI Permission to Participate will be issued for a limited duration. NACs, which can prove that they can support the new activity, will be excluded from this scheme since they are able to issue Sporting Licences for the discipline.

#### 3.3.1 Sporting Licences by the NACs

Each NAC shall issue Sporting Licences on proof of identity to those of its individual members who are either citizens or residents of that NAC country.

Each NAC may define in its regulations additional conditions to obtain a FAI Sporting Licence.

For the definition of citizenship, see 3.4.1. For the definition of residency, see 3.4.2.

### **3.3.2 Sporting Licences by the FAI**

The Secretary General shall issue a FAI Sporting Licence to individuals, on their requests, if they cannot obtain a Sporting Licence under the provisions of 3.5.1.

This right shall not be exercised with regard to individuals who are either citizens or residents of a country with a NAC that is active or under suspension.

### **3.3.3 Database**

A FAI Sporting Licence shall be considered to have been issued if the holder is listed on the Sporting Licence database by the authority that is issuing the particular Sporting Licence together with all the required information and the period of validity of that particular Sporting Licence.

The required information in the database must include:

- Name of the issuing authority.
- Name, date of birth, gender of the holder.
- Email address of the holder.
- Number given by the NAC, the FAI or the ASC.
- Validity period.
- Discipline or Disciplines.

The disciplines included in the database are defined in agreement with the CASI.

#### **3.3.3.1 Other use of Sporting Licence database**

A NAC may use information from the Sporting Licence database such as FAI ID, while producing other internal documents such as membership cards.

### **3.3.4 FAI Permission to Participate**

The FAI Permission to Participate is issued to the concerned competitors via a specific FAI application. Competitors register directly through the application providing the necessary information, including:

- Name, date of birth, gender of the holder.
- Citizenship and country of residence of the holder.
- Email address of the holder.
- Validity period.
- Specific Discipline.

The fee to be paid is defined in the FAI Schedule of Fees document.

If applicants are recognised as citizens or residents of a FAI Member country, the FAI member is informed and may contest the delivery of the FAI Permission to Participate by providing to the FAI Secretariat within fifteen days, the reasons for this. In such a case, the FAI Secretary General will finally decide.

## **3.4 IDENTIFICATION**

### **3.4.1 Citizenship**

The citizenship of a person is proved by an identification document stating his citizenship and issued by or on behalf of the government of the country concerned. This document shall be in English and, if not, it must be accompanied by an official English translation.

### **3.4.2 Residency**

The residency of a person means the place where a person usually lives for at least 185 days in a calendar year. The residency of a person is proved by an identification document stating his residence and issued by or on behalf of the government of the country concerned. This document shall be in English and, if not, it must be accompanied by an official English translation.

### **3.4.3 Person Without Nationality**

The identity of a person without nationality is proved by the residence permit issued by or on behalf of the government of that country of residence. This document shall be in English and, if not, it must be accompanied by an official English translation.

### **3.4.4 Transfer from NAC to NAC**

A person shall not, at the same time, hold any Sporting Licence issued by more than one NAC. An individual, who under the provisions of 3.4.2 elects to transfer from one NAC to another, may be issued a Sporting Licence by his new NAC only after notification to his former NAC and after withdrawal of any valid Sporting Licence issued by that former NAC. The Sporting Licence database will be updated by the FAI once documentation from both NACs has been received. This does not apply for any FAI Permission to Participate.

### **3.4.5 Transfer from FAI to NAC**

Individuals who have been issued a Sporting Licence by the FAI shall obtain Sporting Licences from the NAC of the country which they are citizens or residents of when this country becomes a FAI Member with sporting powers. This does not apply for any FAI Permission to Participate.

### **3.4.6 Delegation of Power**

A NAC may delegate the power to issue FAI Sporting Licences to other aeronautical bodies within its country and/or involve such bodies in their distribution.

## **3.5 RIGHTS OF REPRESENTATION**

### **3.5.1 NAC Competitor**

A citizen or a resident of a country who is issued a FAI Sporting Licence by a NAC represents the country of the NAC in FAI sporting events and in record attempts.

### **3.5.2 FAI Competitor**

A citizen or a resident of a country who is issued a FAI Sporting Licence by FAI represents the FAI in FAI sporting events and in record attempts.

### **3.5.3 Multiple Citizenships**

A person who has multiple citizenship may freely select the NAC of one of those countries of citizenship to apply for a FAI Sporting Licence. If such a person subsequently wishes to change to another country of his/her citizenship, this may be done regardless of place of residence, subject to 3.4.4. on changes of representation.

### **3.5.4 Change of Representation**

If a competitor has represented a country in a First Category sporting event, that competitor must not represent another country in any First Category sporting event during the 24 months, or a longer period as specified by a particular ASC, following the month in which the First Category sporting event, in which the competitor represented the first country, takes place.

The above does not apply to competitors representing the FAI or competitors under the age of 18.

In the exceptional circumstance where, due to geopolitical change and not personal choice, a competitor becomes a resident of another country and is no longer eligible to hold a FAI Sporting Licence in the prior country, this time period can be reduced on the condition that the NAC concerned give their written approval and the case is reviewed and approved by the CASI Bureau.

### **3.6 VALIDITY**

The holder of a FAI Sporting Licence may be required to produce an official document bearing his photograph and signature in proof of identity.

### **3.7 WITHDRAWAL**

When a NAC withdraws temporarily or permanently a FAI Sporting Licence, it shall inform the FAI and update consequently the Sporting Licences database as soon as possible.

When the FAI withdraws temporarily or permanently a FAI Sporting Licence issued by the Secretary General, the Secretariat updates the Sporting Licences database as soon as possible.

When a FAI Sporting Licence issued for one discipline is withdrawn, other FAI Sporting Licences that may have been issued for other disciplines are also withdrawn.

During the period of withdrawing of the FAI Sporting Licence, participation in any FAI sporting activity, including attempts on records and Achievement badges flights, is prohibited.

When a NAC is suspended, the Secretariat shall update the Sporting Licences database as soon as possible for the Air Sport persons concerned.

## **4 SPORTING EVENTS**

### **4.1 CLASSIFICATION**

A sporting event is an airsport event or other defined contest organised by or on behalf of either a NAC or the FAI. For classification purposes, the definitions in 4.1.1 to 4.1.5 apply. Other definitions and classifications may be contained in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

#### **4.1.1 National Sporting Events**

Sporting events in which entry is open only to competitors of the organising NAC.

#### **4.1.2 International Sporting Events**

Sporting events in which entry is open to NACs and FAI competitors.

Organised by or under the authorisation of NACs or the FAI, they are considered as Second Category events, unless specified otherwise in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

##### **4.1.2.1 Countries with NAC**

In countries that have a NAC, the NAC has the delegated authority to organise events.

When an event is organised by a NAC in another country with a NAC, the host NAC shall authorise the event to take part on its territory. Written proof of this authorisation must be submitted to the concerned Commission with the bid application form. Such authorisation is considered as a delegation of power to organise the event from the host NAC to the organising NAC.

##### **4.1.2.2 Countries with no NAC**

In countries that have no NAC, the FAI may delegate to the concerned ASC the authority to organise an event if the event is approved by the FAI Executive Board. The event rights are described in an agreement.

#### **4.1.3 Regional Championships**

##### **4.1.3.1 Continental Championship**

An international sporting event open to NAC competitors within a specific continental region defined in the Sporting Code (see 2.3) and, in case of vacancies, to other non-eligible NACs and FAI competitors.

Continental Championships are First Category sporting events as approved by the ASCs and confirmed by the Executive Board as part of its approval of the FAI Sporting Calendar.

##### **4.1.3.2 Championships for Other Regional Groupings**

As above but for other regional groupings of countries not included in 2.3 but approved by the CASI for the specific championship concerned. This includes groupings within continents or transcontinental groupings.

#### **4.1.4 World Championship**

An international sporting event open to NAC competitors and FAI competitors.

World Championships are First Category Events as approved by the ASCs and confirmed by the Executive Board as part of its approval of the FAI Sporting Calendar.

#### **4.1.5 World Air Games**

An International Sporting Event involving several FAI Air Sports at the same time and open to NACs and FAI competitors.

World Air Games as approved by the General Conference are First Category sporting events.

Rules for the World Air Games are available from the FAI. CASI will approve the General Rules for the World Air Games. Where these General Rules are in conflict with the Sporting Code, the General Rules will prevail.

#### **4.1.6 Multi-Sport Competitions**

A competition where sporting events for one or more Air Sports are included, but which may also include sports other than Air Sports.

To the extent that the events are under FAI control, the FAI Sporting Code and, as far as appropriate, the competition rules for First Category sporting events shall be used.

To fit the concept of such a special event, the ASC(s) concerned and the Executive Board may propose specific rules. The final event rules shall be approved by both parties.

### **4.2 PARTICIPANTS**

#### **4.2.1 Competitors**

Persons entered and competing in international sporting events and in record attempts. Such persons may

- Be NAC competitors and represent the NAC and the country they belong to
- Be FAI competitors and represent the FAI.

Competitors must have a valid Sporting Licence or a FAI Permission to Participate (see 3.1)

The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code may define who is a competitor and who is not.

#### **4.2.2 Team**

A group of two or more competitors, the combined performance of which is counted for the result.

In First Category team events, the relevant ASC may restrict the participation of FAI and/or International teams.

In Second Category team events, the organising NAC may restrict the participation of FAI and/or International teams.

##### **4.2.2.1 National Team**

A group of two or more competitors representing one NAC.

##### **4.2.2.2 International Team**

A group of two or more competitors, who collectively represent more than one NAC and/or the FAI.

##### **4.2.2.3 FAI Team**

A group of two or more FAI competitors representing the FAI.

#### **4.2.3 Team Leaders (or Team Managers)**

Persons representing the team. They may be competitors.

In First Category events, the team leaders are considered as competitors and must have a Sporting Licence.

#### **4.2.4 Delegations**

##### **4.2.4.1 National Delegation**

A national delegation includes NAC competitors and team leaders, a head of delegation and other assistants as defined by the ASC in their Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.



#### **4.2.4.2 International Delegation**

An international delegation includes international competitors and possibly FAI competitors, team leaders, a head of delegation and other assistants as defined by the Executive Board and/or the relevant ACS.

#### **4.2.4.3 FAI Delegation**

A FAI delegation includes FAI competitors and possibly team leaders, a head of delegation and other assistants as defined by the Executive Board and/or the relevant ACS.

#### **4.2.5 Officials**

These may be FAI officials or operational officials. Officials may be requested to have specific ASC identification. The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code may define who is an operational or FAI official and who is not. See Chapter 5 for further regulation.

#### **4.2.6 Assistants**

These may be assistants belonging to a delegation or assistants working for the organiser

They include persons participating in a FAI event (doctors, helpers, safety personnel, weathermen, drivers, etc.) and who are not considered as competitors or officials.

### **4.3 CHAMPIONS**

The title conferred upon the winner of a Regional or World Championship.

The winner of a World Air Games competition will be awarded the title World Air Games Champion for the competition concerned.

## **4.4 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **4.4.1 Acceptance of the Sporting Code and Rules**

Competitors are required to know, understand, accept and abide by the Sporting Code, the rules for the event and the FAI Code of Ethics. By entering the event, they are deemed to accept them without reservation. They shall act in a sporting manner and their behaviour must be beyond reproach.

In First Category sporting events, they should appreciate that they represent the national team of their NAC or, for FAI competitors, the FAI.

In Second Category sporting events, they should appreciate that they are ambassadors for their country and, for FAI competitors, for the FAI.

#### **4.4.2 Doping, Alcohol, Illness and Injury**

This is a brief outline from the document FAI Anti-Doping Rules and Procedures, published by FAI and agreed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for applications to Air Sports.

##### **4.4.2.1 Definition**

The following constitute anti-doping rule violations: presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an athlete's sample; use or attempted use by an athlete of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method; evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete; whereabouts failures by an athlete; tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control by an athlete or other person; possession of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method by an athlete or athlete support person; trafficking or attempted trafficking in any prohibited substance or prohibited method by an athlete or other person; administration or attempted administration by an athlete or other person to any athlete in-competition of any prohibited substance or prohibited method, or administration or attempted administration to any athlete out-of-competition of any prohibited substance or any prohibited method that is prohibited out-of-competition; complicity or attempted complicity by an athlete or other person; prohibited association by an athlete or other person; acts by an athlete or other person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities.

#### **4.4.2.2 Policy**

FAI policy is to prevent misuse, malpractice and cheating, in this case where doping is concerned. Doping is contrary to the FAI principles of equity and fair play and is potentially damaging to the health and safety of competitors in Air Sports.

#### **4.4.2.3 Prohibited Substances**

These are those in the WADA standard list valid at the moment of testing (listed on [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)). The FAI also includes alcohol (above a defined level) for flight safety reasons.

#### **4.4.2.4 Competitors Responsibilities**

All competitors entering sporting events under FAI rules shall accept that they may be required to submit to, and cooperate with, doping control measures. Competitors with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method must before the event concerned have obtained a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) in accordance with FAI anti-doping rules. In addition, for reasons arising during or immediately before the event, a competitor taking any drug or medication, or suffering from a medical condition, illness or injury, which might either compromise safety or invalidate a licence, must inform the Event Director in writing before competing.

### **4.5 GENERAL REGULATIONS**

#### **4.5.1 FAI Authority**

Unless otherwise decided by the FAI General Conference, sporting events registered in the FAI Sporting Calendar must be held in accordance with FAI rules.

The rules, programme and all other official documents shall carry the statement of FAI authority and display the FAI logo.

#### **4.5.2 First Category Events**

Rules for First Category sporting events shall be contained in the General and Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code. Competition rules for a particular event shall not conflict with the rules in the Sporting Code. They shall be approved in advance by the ASCs concerned and must not be changed thereafter except, for rules found in the specialised Section, under provisions defined by the ASCs.

##### **4.5.2.1 Frequency**

Each ASC shall determine the frequency and location of its events in accordance with the following principles:

World and Continental Championships should be held approximately every two years in any discipline or class in accordance with the provisions of the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

As far as possible World and Continental Championships should not be held in the same calendar year.

##### **4.5.2.2 Bids**

Bids by or on behalf of a NAC to hold a First Category event shall comply with the regulations set in the FAI Statutes, By-laws, General and Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

##### **4.5.2.3 FAI Admission to Participate**

NACs organising an International Sporting Event must make every reasonable effort to ensure participants of the event are granted admission to its country. If the organising NAC finds that, for any reason, a participant of another country may be or will be refused admission, it shall immediately inform the FAI Secretary General, the ASC President concerned and the NAC of the entrant.

In First Category team events, the relevant ASC may regulate the participation of International and FAI teams.

##### **4.5.2.4 Duration**

Events start with the Opening Ceremony and end with the Closing Ceremony. The ASC may implement their own definitions and timelines in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

### **4.5.3 Second Category Events**

General Rules for Second Category sporting events shall be based, as far as appropriate, on those for First Category sporting events and must not conflict with them in principle except under provisions defined by the ASCs in their Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### **4.5.3.1 Application**

Application by or on behalf of a NAC to hold a Second Category event shall comply with the specific regulations issued by the ASC responsible.

### **4.5.4 Language**

The rules and information circulated to NACs and competitors or issued during the event shall be in English and, at the discretion of the organiser, the language of the host country. In all interpretations the English-language version shall prevail.

### **4.5.5 Insurance**

Competition organisers should consider obtaining public liability insurance to protect participants. Organisers should consider recommending that participating NACs and/or competitors carry individual health and accident insurance. Where an organiser of a FAI event provides or facilitates insurance for such an event, then any such insurance must comply with the minimum requirements set by the contest rules.

In First Category events, public liability insurance is mandatory.

### **4.5.6 Equipment and Devices**

In each Specialised Section, the ASC may specify the technical standards and criteria for any equipment, electronic or mechanical devices and scoring systems to be used.

## **4.6 SPORTING CALENDAR**

The FAI maintains and publishes a Sporting Calendar. International sporting events, Regional and World Championships, World Air Games and multi-sports competitions as described in chapter 4 are listed in the Sporting Calendar.

In order to be recognised, an international sporting event must be registered in the FAI Sporting Calendar by the NAC(s) authorising or organising it or by the FAI Secretary General.

For NACs that do not pay their membership dues in time, see Statutes 7.4.2.

Registration may be submitted in any FAI approved format.

Registration must be received by the FAI Secretariat a minimum of thirty days before the starting date of the event or at an earlier time if specified by an ASC in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

In exceptional circumstances, by ASC decision, a registration may be received at a later time.

## **4.7 ENTRY CRITERIA**

Competitors and, in First Category events, Team Leaders shall hold a valid FAI Sporting Licence covering the duration of the event.

Entry is open to delegations representing a NAC or the FAI.

### **4.7.1 First Category Events**

A minimum of four NACs or a higher number of NACs as is determined by the relevant ASC shall have entered by the end of the official registration period, as defined by the ASC, with entry fees paid. If there is less than the required minimum of NACs so entered, the relevant ASC shall decide whether the event will take place and shall also decide whether or not the title of Champion will be awarded.

### **4.7.2 Second Category Events.**

Entry is open to participants at the discretion of the organisers. ASCs may define in their Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code specific criteria.

### **4.7.3 Multi-Sport Competitions.**

Entry is open to participants at the discretion of the host. Competitors are selected according to the following principles:

The relevant ASCs sets the minimum performance standards required for participation and the number of competitors.

NAC competitors are chosen in agreement between the NAC and the ASC.

FAI competitors are chosen by the ASC.

## **4.8 ENTRIES**

### **4.8.1 Application**

For First Category event, the entry applications shall be made only through the NAC of which the applicant holds a Sporting Licence or, in the case of a FAI applicant, through the FAI.

For Second Category events, the entry application process is defined by the ASC in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

Organisers of events may not reject entries to events made in good faith and complying with the terms of the entry.

### **4.8.2 Acceptance**

#### **4.8.2.1 Form and Fee**

An entry shall be accepted only if made on an official entry form accompanied by the full entry fee and received by the specified closing date.

Entry forms details and procedures shall be determined in agreement between the ASCs and/or CASI and the organiser. The organiser must make such forms and procedures available on any Internet page for the event. Entry forms which are incomplete or contain inaccurate information may not be accepted.

#### **4.8.2.2 Late Acceptance**

Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organiser only when there is good reason for the delay and if there are sufficient vacancies. Specific conditions may be defined by the ASCs in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

### **4.8.3 Change**

Change of entries may be made only up to the time stated in the competition rules but necessarily before the first competition flight. Change of competitors, equipment or class can be made only as stated in the rules for the event.

### **4.8.4 Participant Withdrawal**

A competitor or a team which withdraws from an event after having had their entry accepted may be entitled to a full or partial refund of the entry fees paid, in accordance with criteria established by the relevant ASC and/or the rules for the event. Such criteria must be clearly stated in the First Category event bid regulations issued by the relevant ASC.

### **4.8.5 Age Categories**

Each ASC may define age group classification that will be followed for First or Second Category sporting events (for example: Seniors, Juniors, Under-18, Under-20).

Competitors shall be eligible to compete in an age-group competition under FAI rules if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification. Competitors must be able to provide proof of their age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of documentation issued by a competent authority. Competitors who fail or refuse to provide such proof shall not be eligible to participate in such a group.

ASCs, in their Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, may allow competitors to choose to participate in a higher age group category or to compete in both age group and overall categories.

## **4.9 SUSPENSION, CANCELLATION OF EVENTS**

### **4.9.1 Force Majeure**

At any time, an event may be cancelled or suspended for reasons of force majeure.

Occurrences that could not be anticipated and which are beyond the reasonable control and spheres of responsibility of an Organiser of a FAI Event and/or the concerned NAC and/or the FAI. Such occurrences include but are not limited any abnormally inclement weather, flooding, lightening, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, subsidence, epidemic or pandemic or other natural physical disaster, war, military operations, riot, strike, terrorist action, civil commotion and any regulation or ruling of any relevant government, court or competent national or international authority and others events or occurrences of similar nature and impact, which objectively prevent the staging of the Event or the parties to perform their obligations.

### **4.9.2 First Category Events**

#### **4.9.2.1 Before the Event**

The event may be cancelled by the FAI at any time before the date of event for reason of:

- Persistent breach by the organiser, in the preparation of the event, to the undertakings given in the bid and/or failure to abide by the FAI regulations as well as reasonable directives or instructions
- Significant risk to the safety of the participants
- Incapacity of the organisers to establish and maintain financial viability
- Any other situation in which the safe and appropriate conduct of the event is no longer objectively warranted which could be a Force Majeure.

When possible, the organiser shall be given a reasonable deadline to remedy the situation prior to cancellation.

Except in the case of a Force Majeure, should a cancellation be considered upon suggestion of the ASC, then the ASC President shall inform the FAI Secretary General.

The decision to cancel is taken by the ASC President after consultation with the FAI Secretary General.

If a decision is made to cancel the event, the entry fees are returned in accordance with FAI Sporting Code General Section 4.9.4.

A cancellation of the event is deemed to be a cancellation of the Organiser Agreement by the FAI.

#### **4.9.2.2 During the Event**

In addition to being the chairman at Jury meetings, the Jury President has the right to require the organiser to abide by the FAI Sporting Code and the published rules and regulations for the event. If the organiser fails to do so, the Jury President has the power to interrupt the event until the situation has been reviewed by the jury. If the situation remains unsatisfactory, the Jury has the right to request the cancellation of the event and give advice on the return of the entry fees. The decision to cancel the event and to return or not the entry fees is taken by the ASC President after consultation with the FAI Secretary General.

#### **4.9.3 Second Category Event**

The decision to suspend, postpone or cancel an event and the decision to return or not the entry fees is taken by the organiser with the agreement of the concerned NAC, unless specified otherwise in the ASC Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### **4.9.4. Return of Entry Fee**

(1) If an event does not take place, all entry fees that have been paid will be returned in full unless (2) applies.

(2) If an event cannot take place by reason of extraordinary circumstances (including force majeure) as determined by the ASC Bureau and the Organiser, all or part of the entry fees, including all or part of any sanction fees that may have been levied with the entry fee, may be returned, partially or in full. Any amount to be returned will be determined by the ASC President in consultation with the Organiser and the FAI Secretary General.

(3) If an event does take place but is stopped by reason of a decision of the Jury or by reason of force majeure, as agreed to by the Jury, unused entry fees, excluding sanction fees levied with the entry fee, which are not refundable, as determined by the ASC in consultation with the Organiser, the ASC President and the FAI Secretary General, will be returned.

### **4.10 RESULTS AND PRIZE-GIVING**

#### **4.10.1 Jury Approval**

The results of an International Sporting event shall be final only when all protests have been dealt with by the jury and the jury has ceased its functions. The final results must be made public before the prize-giving is held.

#### **4.10.2 Notification of Results**

##### **4.10.2.1**

The results of a First Category event shall be sent electronically to the FAI Secretariat if possible before the prize-giving and in any case within 24 hours of the end of the event.

##### **4.10.2.2**

The results of any FAI Air Sport event shall be made available, in a suitable format, to the host NAC, all competitors and their NACs, and for First Category sporting events to the FAI Secretariat and ASC President without delay.

##### **4.10.2.3**

For First Category events, the FAI Secretariat and ASC President shall be advised by the Jury President, within a maximum of eight days of the end of the event, of the number of protests made, together with the number of protests withdrawn, upheld or failed, and the respective jury decisions.

#### **4.10.3 Prize-Giving**

##### **4.10.3.1 Flags and Anthems**

At First Category sporting events the FAI flag must be flown and the FAI Anthem played. The flag of the country of competitors placed first, second and third in each class must be flown and the national anthem of the winner played.

#### **4.10.3.2 Medals and diplomas**

The FAI shall award gold, silver and bronze medals in each World or Continental Championship and for the World Air Games. These medals shall be supplied by the FAI Secretariat or, if not supplied by the FAI Secretariat, shall conform to the FAI medal specification. They will be awarded to competitors placed first, second and third in the overall Championship, including gender-specific and age-related categories when applicable.

All medals are funded from within the ASC concerned. Costs may be passed on to the organiser if the ASC so decides.

If requested by an ASC, FAI gold, silver and bronze medals may also be awarded to all members of teams competing for a single placing (for example, formation skydiving, team racing in aeromodelling, etc.). Where team results are based on individual results achieved in the championship, gold, silver and bronze medals may be awarded to the team managers only of such teams placed first, second and third, and, if the ASC decides, smaller FAI Team medals may be awarded to all members of such teams. The large FAI medals for winning teams are to be forwarded by the team manager to the appropriate NAC or other body which the team is representing.

A FAI Diploma may be awarded to other competitors if an ASC so decides. The organiser may award further prizes at their discretion, and additional diplomas may be awarded where the results for gender-specific competitors are separate.

All medals, diplomas and prizes, whether trophies or money, which are referred to in the Sporting Code or the rules of an event, shall be presented not later than at the official prize-giving. Any exceptions to this provision may be authorised by an ASC.

### **4.11 RANKING**

An ASC may implement and define in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code ranking schemes for its disciplines based on results of events included in the FAI Sporting Calendar.



## 5 CONTROL OF SPORTING EVENTS

### 5.1 NACS RESPONSIBILITY

#### 5.1.1 Control and Certification

Each NAC is responsible for the control and certification of FAI sporting events, record attempts and Achievement badges flights made under its control.

#### 5.1.2 Verification

The FAI Secretariat and the concerned ASC may at any time request proof that a performance, record or event was controlled in accordance with the Sporting Code rules. It may refuse recognition if it finds the evidence to be insufficient.

### 5.2 OFFICIALS IN FIRST CATEGORY EVENTS

#### 5.2.1 FAI Officials

FAI Officials are appointed by the ASC concerned and are acting on behalf of the FAI.

FAI Officials are required to know, understand, accept and abide by the Sporting Code.

If it is required in the Specialized Sections of the Sporting Code, the FAI Officials shall be registered in the dedicated FAI database before they may officiate at FAI events. Each ASC is responsible for validating or invalidating its FAI Officials in the database.

Unless specified otherwise in the ASC Specialised Section of the Sporting Code:

- Matters of arbitration or rule explanation shall be the responsibility of the FAI Jury members.
- Matters of evaluation of performance shall be the responsibility of FAI Judges.
- Matters of advice shall be the responsibility of FAI stewards or controllers.

FAI Officials shall hold only one of the above offices in an event. They shall not be a competitor, nor hold any operational position in the organisation.

FAI Officials in any one group or position must be from different active NACs, unless authorised by the concerned ASC.

#### 5.2.2 FAI Stewards and Controllers

Stewards and controllers may be appointed by ASC. Some ASC may have the equivalent of stewards and controllers but may give them other names. Specific rules on the appointment and duties of stewards and controllers may be included by an ASC in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

Steward and controllers must not be members of the organising committee. They may have executive powers as defined in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

Stewards and controllers are advisers to the Event Director. They watch over the conduct of the event and report any unfairness or infringement of the rules or behaviour prejudicial to the safety of other competitors or the public or in any way harmful to the sport. They assemble information and facts concerning matters to be considered by the jury. They may attend a meeting of the international jury as an observer or witness.

#### 5.2.3 FAI Judges

ASCs shall appoint judges for events requiring, in whole or in part, evaluation of a performance or for other duties as specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

The ASC concerned shall decide upon:

- The qualifications, experience and knowledge of rules required for its judges.
- The process for recognition as judges of candidates submitted by NACs.



- How the list of those judges is made public.

The Chief Judge has the responsibility to organise the work to be carried out by the FAI judges and to report results to the Event Director.

## 5.2.4 FAI Jury

A First Category event shall have an international jury to deal with protests, monitor the conduct of the event and ensure that the results are sent to the FAI and to the concerned ASC.

A Jury Guidelines document is available on the FAI website.

### 5.2.4.1 Composition

In First Category event, the FAI jury is nominated. The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code may state further criteria for qualification as a jury member.

### 5.2.4.2 Nominated Jury

A nominated jury is one in which the President and its two members are appointed by the ASC concerned, according to the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

### 5.2.4.3 Jury Members

Jury members must possess a thorough knowledge of the relevant Sporting Codes and the rules for the event. At least one jury member is to be on-site during competition operations.

### 5.2.4.4 Jury President

The Jury President is the chairperson at jury meetings.

The Jury President has the right to require the organiser to abide by the FAI Sporting Code and the published rules for the event. If the organiser fails to abide, the Jury President may suspend the event. If the organiser still does not abide, he/she may request, with the jury's approval, a cancellation of the event. See 4.9.2.2.

### 5.2.4.5 Meetings of the Jury

#### 5.2.4.5.1 Attendance

Participation at jury meetings is compulsory for jury members, either in person or remote or as specified on the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code, except for special reasons such as illness or emergencies. In such cases an eligible replacement nominated by the jury member concerned, or by the President of the ASC or his representative may be accepted by the Jury President.

#### 5.2.4.5.2 Treatment of protests

See chapter 6.

#### 5.2.4.5.3 Recording of Evidence

The record of jury actions, the decision and the reasons for it, and copies of evidence, shall be sent to FAI Secretariat and to the concerned ASC President by the Jury President in case an appeal to FAI is made later.

#### 5.2.4.5.4 Quorum

A quorum for a nominated jury is two, including its President.

#### 5.2.4.5.5 Voting

Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority. A secret ballot shall be held if requested by a jury member.

### 5.2.4.6 Dissolution of the Jury

The jury shall cease its functions after it has made its decision on all protests. If no protests are outstanding, it shall not cease its functions until the time limit set for the receipt of protests following the last task.

The last action of the jury is to verify and approve the competition results of the event and declare the event valid providing it has been conducted in accordance with the rules and the decisions of the jury.

### **5.2.5 Operational Officials**

Operational Officials are appointed by the organising NAC. An ASC may require to approve such appointments.

Operational Officials include Event (or Meet) Director, Scorer and such other officials as required by the ASC concerned.

#### **5.2.5.1 The Event (or Meet) Director**

The Event Director is in overall operational charge of the event, responsible for its good management and its smooth and safe running.

The Event Director may have a Deputy Director and Technical Officials to assist him as defined by the relevant ASC.

The Event Director and his assistants shall be approved by the relevant ASC.

Unless provided differently by the ASCs in their Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, the Event Director:

- Makes operational decisions in accordance with the rules of the Sporting Code and competition rules.
- Can penalise or disqualify a competitor for misconduct or infringement of the rules.
- Attends meetings of the FAI jury and give evidence if requested.
- Publish the officially accepted entry list prior to the start of the event in any acceptable format.
- Issue daily results.
- Send the full results and details of protests to the hosting NAC, to the ASC concerned and to the FAI Secretariat within the specified time limits

#### **5.2.5.2 The Scorer**

The person responsible for scoring as per the relevant discipline competition rules is responsible for providing the jury with a signed-off copy of the final results to enable the jury to act in accordance with 5.2.4.7.

## **5.3 OFFICIALS IN SECOND CATEGORY EVENTS**

The organisational structure in Second Category sporting events shall be similar to that in First Category sporting events as far as appropriate, but may be simplified. The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code may detail specific requirements.

### **5.3.1 Stewards and Controllers**

Stewards and Controllers are not mandatory, unless specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

### **5.3.2 Judges**

The judges need not be of international composition unless specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

### **5.3.3 Operational Officials**

As specified by ASCs in their Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

### **5.3.4 Jury**

A jury shall be implemented to rule on protests either when needed or before the start of the first competition task. The ASCs may implement their own additional rules or jury tasks in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### **5.3.4.1 Composition and Decision Process**

The jury need not be of international composition unless specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code. Each ASC shall define in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code the rules concerning the composition and the decision process of the jury.

## **5.4 OFFICIALS FOR BADGES**

Officials may control Achievement badges flights as defined by an ASC in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

## **5.5 OFFICIALS FOR RECORDS**

### **5.5.1 Official Observers**

The officials who control a record performance must be registered with a NAC as official observers. Official observers are empowered to control and certify events for FAI records. They must know and understand the Sporting Code, the data collection requirements and the rules for the specific events to be certificated. ASC shall determine in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code qualification criteria for official observers. Such qualification shall be certified by the official observer's NAC. Criteria might be different for records set during a competition.

#### **5.5.1.1 Eligibility**

Official observers in any record or attempt must be independent and not be perceived to have a conflict of interests.

#### **5.5.1.2 Observation**

The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code specify the required data which must be observed in order to certify a record attempt. Observation may be made by direct observation or by remote observation and analysis of live or recorded video or other relevant data types. An ASC may define in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code the conditions under which official observers may make direct or remote observations.

##### **5.5.1.2.1 Direct Observation**

Official observers making a direct observation must be present at the event for which certification is required and must be in a position to make a direct visual observation of the required data. Official observers may use binoculars and other similar devices to enhance the visual observation.

##### **5.5.1.2.2 Remote Observation**

Official observers making a remote observation do not have to be physically present at an event. However, the official observers must be able to attest to the veracity and validity of the live or recorded data used to make the observation. Remotely observed data may include but is not limited to live or recorded video, photographs, GNSS position and timing data, other sensor data (e.g. radar, ADS-B, barometer) and data derived from these sources through analysis.

### **5.5.2 Temporary Status**

#### **5.5.2.1 Air Traffic Controllers and First Category Event Officials**

Temporary official observer status is assumed for air traffic controllers on duty for observation of take-offs, start and finish lines, turn or control points and landings. Officially registered assistants and officials during a World or Continental Championship or other competitions as specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code, acting under the authority of the Event Director of the Championship, may also act as official observers.

### **5.5.2.2 Independent Witnesses**

Where an occurrence takes place outside the operational area of an official observer, the occurrence may be certified by two independent witnesses within whose skills or competence it is, who give their addresses and state in writing the information required by the pertinent Section of the Sporting Code. Certification by other than official observers must be countersigned by an official observer after he/she has verified the statements.

### **5.5.3 Withdrawal of Official Observer**

In case of violation of duty, the appointment of an official observer will be withdrawn. Negligent certifications or wilful misrepresentations will be grounds for disciplinary action by the NAC concerned.

### **5.5.4 Records During Events**

Where a record may have been achieved as part of an international sporting event, the organiser shall, if requested, cooperate with the claimant in assembling and submitting the information and taking other actions required, such as notifying the relevant NAC and FAI within the set period (see 7.8) for international records. The claimant is still responsible for ensuring that claim procedures are carried out.

## 6 PENALTIES, COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS, APPEALS

### 6.1 PENALTIES

#### 6.1.1 Penalising

Any participant in a FAI sporting event may be penalised for an infringement of the FAI Sporting Code and FAI Code of Ethics. Unless specified otherwise in a Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or by mistake. The penalties must be applied in compliance with the provisions defined in the present Sporting Code General Section and in the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### 6.1.2 Categories of offences

Unless specified otherwise in a Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, the offences may be prioritised and defined as follows.

##### 6.1.2.1 Technical infringements

Violations of rules or failure to comply with requirements which may be considered to have been committed:

- By mistake or inadvertence and from which no significant advantage has been gained;
- Deliberately, assuming no advantage could have been gained.

##### 6.1.2.2 Serious infringements

These may be characterised by:

- Violations of rules or failure to comply with requirements which are not considered technical infringements.
- Repetition of technical infringements even if committed by mistake or inadvertence.
- Dangerous or hazardous behaviour or action even if committed by mistake.

##### 6.1.2.3 Cheating

Cheating may be defined as an intentional breaking of rule(s) in order to obtain an advantage over other competitors or teams. Cheating is correlated to the deliberate violation of a rule.

##### 6.1.2.4 Unsporting behaviour

Unsporting behaviour is deemed as conduct by a participant who violates the generally accepted rules of sportsmanship and fair play. Typical examples are:

- Cheating, repetition of serious infringements of rules, falsification of documents, use of a forbidden equipment, tampering with equipment, failure to comply with requirements to report back or return equipment.
- Unfair action in order to gain a competitive advantage.
- Any conscious effort to influence, intimidate, or threaten other participants with the intent of gaining an advantage, irrespective if this occurs directly before, during, or directly after an event.
- Violation of airspace.
- Deliberate attempts to deceive or mislead officials.
- Abusive or taunting language, false accusation.

- Aggressive or violent action, physical abuse, threats.
- Wilful interference with other participants.
- Use of prohibited substances or drugs.
- Abusive activity on social media.
- Bringing the sport or the FAI into disrepute.

### 6.1.3 Types of penalties

Each ASC may prescribe in their Specialised Section of the Sporting Code what they consider to be technical or serious infringements and the associated penalties. As a guide, penalties could be:

- Operational disadvantage such as a percentage reduction of the result of the task or round, or a points' penalisation to the score.
- Warning.
- Elimination or disqualification in a task or a round.
- Disqualification from an event.

### 6.1.4 Cheating or unsporting behaviour

Cheating or unsporting behaviour may be punishable by a disqualification from an event of the participant(s) concerned.

Cheating or unsporting behaviour by any member of a delegation may lead to a penalty, including disqualification from an event for the entire team where appropriate and not only for the member of the delegation concerned.

### 6.1.5 Disqualification from an event

A participant disqualified from an event has no right to claim back any part of the entry fee and will not be eligible for any diploma, medal or prize awarded for the event.

As soon as possible, the Jury President or the Event Director shall send to the President of the relevant ASC and to the President of the NAC concerned (or to the FAI Secretary General in case of a FAI competitor) a written summary of the facts justifying the disqualification from the event.

Disqualification from a FAI event may be grounds for disciplinary action by the NAC concerned. Such action may consider if the withdrawal of the Sporting Licence is appropriate.

### 6.1.6 Penalties imposed during an event

Penalties are imposed by the Event Director.

Penalties may also be imposed by other officials when specified in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

A disqualification from an event may only be imposed by the Event Director after consultation with the FAI Jury.

### 6.1.7 ASC Bureau actions

After a serious matter has been reported to the ASC President by the Jury President or the Event Director concerned, the ASC Bureau may consider and imposed additional penalties according to the provisions specified in the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code and/or may ask the FAI Executive Board to conduct a disciplinary procedure according to the FAI Disciplinary Code.

Such matters include but are not limited to violent conduct, alcohol abuse, cheating, unsporting behaviour, disqualification from an event...

This may concern any participant or the organiser.

## **6.2 COMPLAINTS**

The following provisions relative to complaints apply to First Category events. They also apply to all Second Category sporting events unless specified otherwise in a Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

The purpose of a complaint is to obtain a correction without the need to make a formal protest.

A complaint shall concern only one matter. In case of different matters, separate complaints must be made.

A joint complaint may be made subject the different complainants have the same position on the matter concerned.

### **6.2.1 Complaint prior to an event**

Complaints must be made in writing in English to the host NAC with copy to the organiser and to the President of the relevant ASC.

A joint complaint must be signed by all the complainants.

For a First Category Event, a complaint may only be made by NAC(s). Except for a complaint concerning a failure of the organiser to comply with regulations for entry or the eligibility or refusal of an entry, the NAC(s) must first ask the organiser for assistance. If dissatisfied, the NAC(s) may then make a complaint to the host NAC.

For a Second Category Event, a complaint may be made by individual(s) or NAC(s). For any matter, the individual(s) or the NAC(s) must first ask the organiser for assistance. If dissatisfied, the individual(s) or the NAC(s) may then make a complaint to the host NAC.

The complaint shall be dealt with by the host NAC as soon as possible and no later than 15 days after the complaint has been received.

In case the complaint has not been dealt before the start of the event, then the complainant(s) have the possibility to complain at their arrival to the event according to 6.2.2

The decision on the complaint shall be sent by the host NAC to the complainant(s) with a copy to the organiser and to the President of the relevant ASC.

### **6.2.2 Complaint during an event**

Complaints may be made orally or in writing in English or in a language authorised for the event unless specified otherwise in a Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

In case of a joint complaint made orally, all complainants must be present.

In case of a joint complaint made in writing, the list of the complainants with their signatures must be on the complaint paper.

At any time during an event, a competitor(s), or a team leader(s) in case of an event with national teams, who is (are) dissatisfied with any matter must first ask the organiser or the appropriate official for assistance. If still dissatisfied, the competitor(s), or the team leader(s) in case of an event with national teams, may then complain to the Event Director or, where applicable, directly to the official concerned.

Complaints must be made as soon as possible after the occurrence giving rise to the complaint and shall be dealt with expeditiously.

The jury must take attention not to handle complaints in order to keep its independence in case of a following protest. But there is no objection that the official concerned by a complaint or the Event Director discusses the matter with the jury to get some advice which may minimise the risk for the official to be disproved in the situation of a following protest.

The Event Director will inform the complainant(s) of the result of the complaint as soon as possible after the complaint has been dealt with.

If deemed useful, the Event Director may publish the complaint and its ruling.

When the results of an event may be affected by the ruling of a complaint, they shall not be considered as official until the complaint has been ruled upon.

If dissatisfied with the decision, the complainant(s) concerned must inform the Event Director as soon as possible of the intention to submit a protest. The Specialised Section of the Sporting Code may define deadlines to submit a protest.

### **6.2.3 Complaint after an event**

Within 15 days after an event, a complaint can be made. Complaints must be made in writing in English with the Event Director with a copy to the President of the relevant ASC and, where applicable, with the President of the Jury.

In case of a joint complaint, the list of the complainants with their signatures must be on the complaint paper.

For a First Category event, a complaint may only be made by NAC(s).

For a Second Category event, a complaint may be made by competitor(s), or by NAC(s).

The complaint shall be dealt with by the Event Director as soon as possible and no later than 15 days after the complaint is received.

The decision on the complaint shall be sent to the complainant(s) by the Event Director with copy to the President of the relevant ASC and, where applicable, to the President of the Jury.

### **6.2.4 Complaint for a record attempt.**

Complaints must be made in writing in English to the FAI Secretary General with copy to the President of the relevant ASC within 30 days after the written explanation of any refusal is sent to the NAC by the FAI. A joint complaint must be signed by all the complainants.

A complaint may only be made by NAC(s).

The complaint shall be dealt with by the relevant ASC Bureau in cooperation with the FAI Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than one month after the complaint was received.

The decision on the complaint shall be sent to the complainant by the President of the relevant ASC with copy to the FAI Secretariat.

## **6.3 PROTESTS**

The following provisions relative to protests apply to First Category events. They also apply to all Second Category sporting events unless specified otherwise in a Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

A protest shall concern only one matter. In case of different matters, separate protests must be made.

A joint protest may be made subject the different protestors have the same position on the matter concerned.

Any protest must be made in writing in English.



The protest is without a suspensive effect of the complaint decision. It must be lodged within two hours after the ruling on the complaint has been published or as defined by the ASC in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

The protest must be accompanied by the payment of a protest fee. The amount is established by the relevant ASC for a protest relative to an event, and by CASI for a protest relative to a record attempt.

In case of a joint protest, every protesting person or NAC must pay the protest fee.

The protest fee is returnable only if the protest is withdrawn before proceedings begin or if the protest is upheld.

### **6.3.1 Protest prior to an event**

A protest against a decision on a complaint made prior to an event as described in 6.2.1 must be made before the start of the event.

The protest must be sent to the President of the relevant ASC.

For a First Category Event, a protest may only be made by NAC(s).

For a Second Category Event, a protest may be made by individual(s) or NAC(s).

The protest shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the relevant ASC Bureau as soon as possible. It must be dealt no later than 15 days after the protest has been received and, as far as possible, before the start of the event.

In case the protest has not been dealt before the start of the event, then the protestor(s) have the possibility to protest at their arrival to the event according to 6.3.2.

The decision on the protest shall be sent by the President of the relevant ASC to the protestor(s).

### **6.3.2 Protest during an event**

If dissatisfied with the decision on a complaint made during an event, Competitors, or a team leaders in the case of an event with national teams, have the right of protest. If competitor have no separate team leader, they may lodge the protest themselves.

Each ASC may define the time limits considered to be appropriate for lodging protests during an event in situations such as:

- The validity of an entry, qualification of the officials, contest rules, flying and contest area, etc.
- An incident occurs involving an event official.
- After a task/round is finished.
- After publication of the final results before the prize-giving.

The protest must be submitted to the Event Director together with the protest fee(s).

No person (competitor or team leader depending on the event category) is permitted to present two consecutive protests on the same incident.

Protests relative to an event will be dealt with by the Jury appointed for the event.

The Event Director must present the protest to the Jury President without delay. The Jury President shall call a meeting of the Jury as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of receiving a protest, unless a different period is specified in the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, or the local regulations.

The Jury shall hear all involved parties on the matter of any protest, applying the relevant FAI regulations and the rules for the event.

The President of the Jury shall report the result and a summary of any relevant considerations in writing to the Event Director, within the period defined in the Specialized Sections or the rules of the event, who shall make public the President's report.

When the results of an event may be affected by the ruling of a protest, results shall not be considered as official until the protest has been ruled upon.

### **6.3.3 Protest after an event**

A protest against a decision on a complaint made after an event as described in 6.2.3 must be sent by the NAC(s) concerned to the President of the relevant ASC within 15 days after the complaint was ruled.

The protest shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the relevant ASC Bureau as soon as possible and no later than one month after the protest has been received.

The decision on the protest shall be sent by the President of the relevant ASC to the protestor(s).

### **6.3.4 Protest for a record attempt**

A protest against a decision on a complaint made for a record attempt as described in 6.2.4 must be sent to the FAI Secretariat in writing in English by the NAC(s) concerned within 15 days after the decision on the complaint has been notified to the NAC.

Protests shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the FAI Secretary General in cooperation with the CASI Bureau as soon as possible and no later than one month after the protest was received.

The decision on the protest shall be sent to the protestor(s) by the FAI Secretary General with copy to the CASI President and the President of the relevant ASC.

## **6.4 APPEALS**

A NAC may appeal to FAI on matters concerning international sporting events and record attempts and against a decision relating to a dispute of a sporting nature in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

The right of appeal to FAI rests with the NAC(s) concerned, except for matters under 4.10.2 for which the person(s) concerned has a right of appeal. The FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI) is responsible for the treatment of appeals.

An appeal may be made only after a protest has been filed by the appellant on the matter concerned.

A joint appeal may be made subject the different appellants have made a protest and have the same position on the matter concerned.

### **6.4.1 Notice of Appeal**

For each appeal, a Notice of appeal must be made in writing in English and addressed to the FAI Secretary General by the authorised representative of the NAC(s) concerned, or by the individual(s) concerned in matters under 4.4.2. It shall be accompanied by all necessary documents.

### **6.4.2 Administrative fee**

An administrative fee must be paid to appeal. In case of a joint appeal, each of the appellants must pay the administrative fee in full. The amount of the administrative fee is defined in the FAI Schedule of Fees document.

Unless the appellant has withdrawn the appeal prior to the initial hearing of the International Appeal Tribunal established by CASI, the fee is kept whether the appeal is successful or not.

### 6.4.3 Time limit

An appeal to FAI and the corresponding administrative fee(s) must be received at the FAI Secretariat within 90 days. The time limits fixed under this paragraph shall begin the day after the incident, action or announcement of the decision leading to the appeal was made public. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits. If the time limit ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Swiss public holiday, the deadline lapses on the following working day.

This time limit may, in special circumstances, be extended by the CASI Bureau.

### 6.4.4 Treatment of Appeals

CASI will establish an International Appeals Tribunal (IAT) of three members one of whom shall be appointed Tribunal Chairperson. The members, who shall be independent of the parties involved, will be appointed by the CASI Bureau, upon recommendation from the CASI President, who shall also designate the Tribunal Chairperson.

In situations of different appeals on the same matter, a single- IAT may be established.

The IAT will work in accordance with the provisions of the FAI International Appeals Tribunal Manual.

In any case, the FAI shall communicate the IAT decision to the involved parties at the first reasonable opportunity. No one may use the decision in order to institute proceedings against the FAI or against any person. The IAT or the FAI Secretariat may prepare a Summary of the decision which may be published on the FAI website for educational reasons. This summary does not require the names of the involved parties to be included.

Decisions of the IAT are final unless an appeal is filed within 21 days of the publication date of the Tribunal's decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, or unless major new factual issues which could have affected the decision are revealed after the decision, in which case CASI shall decide on further action. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of 21 days. If the time limit ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Swiss public holiday, the deadline lapses on the following working day.

## 7 INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

### 7.1 DEFINITION

An international record is a World record and/or a Continental record. It represents the best performance certified by the FAI and established in a FAI class, sub-class, category or group as specified in the Sporting Code General and/or Specialised Sections. Classes are listed in 2.1 above. Sub-classes, categories and groups shall be defined in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

#### 7.1.1 Types

Types of records (e.g. altitude, altitude with payload, distance and/or speed over different courses) should be specified for each FAI Class in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### 7.1.2 Compliance

Any performance being submitted for recognition as an international record must be in compliance with all relevant provisions in this General and in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

#### 7.1.3 Certification

A performance may meet the certification criteria for a World record and/or a Continental record. The certification claim must state whether certification is requested as a World record, a Continental record or both. The administration fee charged by FAI for certification of each international record will be charged only once, even if both World and Continental

#### 7.1.4 Continental Regions

For record purposes, continental regions shall be as defined in 2.5 above for Continental Championships, with one exception: an ASC may stipulate in its own Specialised Section of the Sporting Code that part of the Russian Federation East of the 61° meridian shall be assigned to Asia.

#### 7.1.5 Continental Records

Each ASC shall decide if Continental records may be established in its activity and, if so, in its own Specialised Section of the Sporting Code, shall set out any specific criteria to be applied to the participants and/or other terms and limitations applicable thereto.

#### 7.1.6 New Records

Each ASC shall notify FAI secretariat of all new international records introduced in their Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code. The notification must include an example of how the performance is to be calculated.

#### 7.1.7 Other Definitions

- Aeronautics - Aerial activity, including all Air Sports, at a height equal to or less than 100 kilometres above the earth's surface
- Altitude - The vertical distance above the reference surface. from mean sea level (MSL). See also "QNH", and "Height".
- Astronautics - For FAI purposes, activity more than 100 kilometres above the earth's mean sea level
- Barogram - Record of atmospheric pressure measured by a barograph or similar instrument
- Barograph - A self-recording aneroid barometer
- C (Temperature) - Celsius
- Certification - The signature on and preparation of certificates and other documents concerned with the process of flight verification with a view to validation of a FAI Flight Performance

- C of A - Certificate of Airworthiness
- Earth Model - The mathematical surface upon which geometric calculations are performed. Earth models in use are ellipsoidal, spherical, and planar.
- Ellipsoid - A surface formed by the rotation of an ellipse about one of its axes.
- FAI Sphere - This has a radius of 6371km exactly
- g - Acceleration due to gravity (9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>)
- G - Multiple of gravity force on an aircraft under acceleration
- Galileo - The European GNSS system, equivalent to the Russian GLONASS and the US GPS satellite navigation systems
- Geodesic - The path of the shortest length between two points on a surface.
- Geodetic Datum - A Geodetic Datum is an Earth-based frame of reference. It allows the conversion of a position with respect to satellites to a position with respect to the surface of the Earth. It consists of a defined surface and a set of clock parameters used to locate the prime meridian on that surface. The Geodetic Datum for all FAI purposes is WGS 84.
- GLONASS - Global Orbital Navigation Satellite System, the Russian GNSS system similar to the US GPS
- GNSS - Global Navigation Satellite System (Generic term for all systems such as the Russian GLONASS and the US GPS)
- GPS - Global Positioning System (US GNSS System presently managed by the Department of Defense)
- Homologation - The validation of a Flight Performance by an NAC or FAI for record purposes  
hPa – Hecto Pascal (Pressure unit, equal to a millibar)
- ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organisation (HQ in Montreal, Canada) IGC – International Gliding Commission, an Air Sport Commission of the FAI
- ISA - International Standard Atmosphere as defined by ICAO.
- OO - Official Observer
- Space - More than 100 kilometres above the earth's surface.
- UTC - Universal Time Co-ordinated (ex-GMT)
- Validation - An act of ratification or official approval. In FAI terms, the act of approving a Flight Performance (or an element of one such as reaching a Turn Point) for FAI purposes.
- Verification - The process of checking and assembling evidence with a view to validating a Flight Performance
- Vincenty Method - An empirical method used to calculate the distance between pairs of points on the WGS84 ellipsoid

Example: <https://www.fai.org/page/world-distance-calculator>

- Wind Tunnel - A vertical or horizontal tunnel in which an airstream is generated by power enabling body flight similar to that achieved in freefall.
- WP, Waypoint - A generic term for either a start, turn or finish point claimed as part of a flight performance.
- WGS 84 - The Geodetic Datum used by FAI and the vast majority of airspace authorities, civil aviation organisations, electronics manufacturers, and map makers. It is the worldwide standard
- WGS 84 Ellipsoid - The surface used by the WGS 84 Geodetic Datum. It is an ellipsoid with a semi-major axis of 6378.1370 km and a semi-minor axis of 6356.7523 km. The minor axis is taken as the Earth's polar axis.

## 7.2 ABSOLUTE RECORDS

The types of records recognised by FAI as absolute records shall be determined by the ASCs and will be shown in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

## 7.3 HOLDERS OF RECORDS

An international record may be held by a person or team, or as otherwise stated in the respective Specialised Section of the Sporting Code. Team may be composed of FAI or International competitors.

Where an international record is in the name of more than one person or NAC, FAI will list those persons and NACs in alphabetical order unless a different order is directed by the claimants' NAC.

## 7.4 ADMINISTRATION

### 7.4.1 NACs Responsibility

The NAC which issues the FAI Sporting Licence of any person attempting an international record or, in cases of team attempts, the NAC that issued FAI Sporting Licences to the largest number of team members (the Organising NAC) is responsible for certifying the international record claim dossier prior to submission to FAI, regardless of where the record attempt took place.

### 7.4.2 Multi-NACs Issues

#### 7.4.2.1 Over Foreign Territory

When a record attempt both originates and terminates in a country other than that of the organising NAC, the local NAC shall control the attempt by authorising the official observers involved in accordance with 5.5. The local NAC in these circumstances shall be known as the controlling NAC. If necessary, and/or if so requested by the organising NAC, a controlling NAC shall also provide control of record attempts which either originate or terminate in its country.

#### 7.4.2.2 Over Two Territories

Where the record attempt crosses or is made over the territory of another NAC, the organising NAC is responsible for informing, if necessary and applicable, that other NAC in advance of a planned record attempt over its territory.

## 7.5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTHORISATIONS

A person wishing to attempt a record is responsible for everything required for the execution, control and certification of the attempt, including obtaining any authorisations, permits and clearances. When a claim is submitted, it must be shown that a valid Sporting Licence, which covered the period of the performance, was held by the claimant.

## 7.6 SIMULTANEOUS RECORDS

On any date that a record is broken by more than one claimant, the best performance only will be awarded the new record except if an Air Sport Commission has a special provision for such a situation which is described in its Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

Simultaneous records are possible if more than one claimant performing at the same time achieves exactly the same performance in the same conditions as another. In this case the record will be registered in the joint names of the concerned persons.

In all cases, not only the date of the performance should appear in the record claim but also the local time at which the performance occurred and, where applicable, the round of the competition in which it took place.

## 7.7 MULTIPLE RECORDS

A person or a team may attempt more than one record in the same attempt provided that the records belong to the same Class, are permitted in the Specialised Section of the Sporting Code concerned, and are controlled by the same verification and certification methods as if they were separate records.

## 7.8 CERTIFICATION

### 7.8.1 Supporting File

An international record claim must be supported by a file containing all the information and certification necessary to prove that the conditions have been met. The file must be submitted by the organising NAC and must be received by the FAI Secretariat within 120 days of the attempt, unless an extension is granted by the relevant ASC president having reviewed any factors that make it difficult to submit the file in the normal timescale. The request for extension shall be submitted to the ASC President within the time limit described above and a copy of the request submitted to the FAI. The FAI secretariat shall acknowledge receipt of the record file to the claimant and the organising NAC. The file must be in compliance with any requirements set out in the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code or, if none are specified, in any appropriate format and shall include a statement that the attempt was made in accordance with the Sporting Code.

### 7.8.2 Record Claim

The record claim shall include, as applicable:

- Classification (class, subclass, etc.) of the record being claimed.
- Its title and description, including the record performance.
- Place (course), date of the attempt and local time of the performance.
- Name of competition and competition round in which the performance was achieved.
- Name, gender and citizenship of the competitor (s) and/or country represented.
- Number and expiry date of the competitor's Sporting Licence and the name of the issuing NAC.
- Certification by the official observers appointed in accordance with 5.5.
- Type of aircraft and registration or identification marks.
- Type of engine(s) or power source, power and identification number(s).
- Name of the NAC responsible for the control of the record attempt.
- Any other information required by an ASC, as specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

### **7.8.3 Submission**

Written notice (to include fax and email) and telephone notice formally registered by FAI of a preliminary claim for an international record must be submitted by either the organising or the controlling NAC, or the official observer controlling the attempt, or the sport event organisation (5.3), or the claimant and must be received by FAI within 7 days of its completion as a record attempt, unless an extension is granted by the relevant ASC President having reviewed any factors that may have made it difficult to submit the file in the normal timescale. The FAI secretariat shall acknowledge the receipt of the notice of a preliminary claim by posting the details on the FAI website and by way of an email notification to NACs, ASCs delegates and Presidents. NACs are expected to keep the claimant informed of the progress of claims.

### **7.8.4 First Category Events**

Each ASC may include provisions in its Specialised Section that will allow notification directly to FAI of a record performance set during a First Category event. Such a notification will not be required to follow the provisions of 7.8.1 and 7.8.3, but must include information necessary to prove that the conditions have been met. However, the notification sent directly to FAI must also be sent to the record claimants NAC, so that the requisite administration fee may be paid.

## **7.9 VERIFICATION**

The FAI Secretariat and the concerned ASC reserve the right to request further information or documentation and shall advise the NAC of acceptance or refusal without delay. In the event that some evidence is missing or there might be a conflict within the rules, the FAI will request the ASC concerned to give advice. The FAI will give a written explanation of any refusal.

## **7.10 NOTIFICATION**

### **7.10.1 Before Certification**

The FAI Secretariat shall inform as soon as practicable of record claims by posting the details on the FAI website and by way of an email notification to NACs, ASCs delegates and Presidents.

### **7.10.2 After Certification**

The FAI Secretariat shall notify all NACs of the final certification of new records by posting the details on the FAI website and by way of an email notification to NACs, ASCs delegates and Presidents. Certification shall become final if no appeal has been lodged against it within 90 days of the date of publication of the original notification.



## 8 MEASUREMENTS, CALCULATIONS, MARGINS

### 8.1 MEASUREMENTS

#### 8.1.1 Units

The system of units to be used shall be the metric system (SI units), with the exception of angular units. Bearings shall be measured in degrees clockwise from True North. Coordinates shall be in units of degrees, with a preferred format of 'degrees and decimal minutes.' The ASC may allow other units to be used in competitions (such as feet for altitude)

#### 8.1.2 General

The methods and standards of precision for measuring and recording of position, distance, time, altitude, mass, and other primary values, as well as equipment technical standards, shall be determined by each ASC and specified in the appropriate Section of the Sporting Code. In the case of record flights, the conformity of the specific measuring and recording instruments and equipment used shall be checked by the official observer to be of the same type as approved by the respective FAI ASC. Note: in this Section, the term 'approved' means approved by the ASC concerned.

#### 8.1.3 Position

Position may be measured directly, by reference to approved maps, or by GNSS fix. If by GNSS fix, all fixes, points, locations, coordinates, and any maps concurrently used must be referenced to the WGS84 Geodetic Datum.

#### 8.1.4 Distance

Distance may be measured directly or determined from approved maps.

#### 8.1.5 Bearing

Bearing may be measured directly or determined from approved maps. The bearing at a point is the bearing from that point.

#### 8.1.6 Time

Elapsed times and time of the day may be measured either by approved timepieces or by GNSS.

#### 8.1.7 Altitude

Pressure altitude may be measured using approved pressure-measuring devices. Geometric altitude and/or height above the surface may be measured using GNSS, optical methods or radar.

#### 8.1.8 Mass

Mass shall be determined using scales and methods approved by the ASC concerned. The take-off mass of an aircraft shall be its total mass at take-off including flight crew.

### 8.2 CALCULATIONS

#### 8.2.1 General

The methods and standards of precision for calculating distance, bearing, altitude, speed and scores shall be determined by each ASC and specified in the appropriate Section of the Sporting Code. Note: in this Section, the term 'approved' means approved by the ASC concerned.

#### 8.2.2 Earth Model

The ASCs are responsible for the specification of the basis of geometric calculations. If not otherwise specified by the ASC, the earth model to be used for geometric calculations shall be the WGS84 ellipsoid. If a sphere is specified, it shall be the 'FAI Sphere.' If a planar model is to be used, then the projection must be strictly defined.

### **8.2.3 Distance**

If calculated from coordinates, distance shall be taken as the length of the geodesic on the earth model in use.

### **8.2.4 Bearing**

If calculated from coordinates, bearing shall be taken as the initial bearing of a geodesic from a given point on the earth model in use.

### **8.2.5 Altitude**

The methods for calculations of corrections to measured altitudes (if required) shall be specified by the ASC. If a standard pressure model is required, it shall be the ICAO standard atmosphere.

### **8.2.6 Speed**

Speed will be calculated from distances and elapsed times.

### **8.2.7 Scores**

The methods for calculations of scores shall be specified by the ASC.

## **8.3 MARGINS AND PRECISION**

### **8.3.1 Margin**

Each ASC is responsible for specifying the margins by which a record claim must exceed an existing record, subject to paragraph 8.4.2 of this chapter.

### **8.3.2 Precision**

Each ASC shall determine the precision with which a performance will be recorded. A performance must not be certified with a higher precision than the technologies used to determine it.

## **8.4 APPROVALS**

### **8.4.1 Method**

As an alternative to specifying algorithms, each ASC may meet its obligation to specify computational methods by approving specific flight evaluation and scoring programs. If this method is used, then the ASC must implement procedures for testing, approval, and version control of the flight evaluation and scoring programs.

### **8.4.2 Control**

The FAI Executive Board reserves the right to review the standards of certification and the methods of analysis of any international record claims.