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IPC ANNUAL REPORT to FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2010

DIRECTION

The mission of the FAI International Parachuting Commission is the pursuit of excellence in sport parachuting. This was the theme of a draft mission plan that was adopted at the IPC Plenary meeting in January 2009, and expanded on last year's FAI General Conference in Incheon, Korea.

To fulfil this mission, the International Parachuting Commission has commenced activity by launching initiatives in partnership with the FAI to develop sport parachuting as an attractive and dynamic activity.

The initiatives cover:

- Competition formats
- Selection process for international events
- Promotion of safety

All competition disciplines except Para-ski were involved in establishing new rules specifically for the two high profile invitational events in 2009 in which parachuting is involved, being the World Air Games, Turin, and the World Games, Kaohsiung. The experience in both these events has led to further reviews with the aim of enhancing the presentation of parachuting as an attractive and dynamic activity.

DEVELOPMENT

The Asia Pacific Parachute Federation continues to work closely with IPC in developing parachuting activities in the Asia Pacific region. With some assistance through FAI from the Association of Recognised International Sporting Federations, courses have been run which have resulted in an increase in the number of competition judges in the region.

A competitor from Iran participated in a World Championships this year under the FAI flag. This marks a further spread of parachuting around the world.

South American countries have revitalised their region's association of parachuting nations, COLPAR, and IPC is working to encourage more international involvement with these nations, particularly with Technical and Safety issues.

FINANCE

IPC has reached a stage where it has sufficient resources behind it to implement its strategic plan and meet its expenses. At present, IPC is evaluating responses for supply of an electronic scoring systems to our competitions designed to enhance presentation and bring real time results for media purposes.

Delegates will have seen a paper from IPC outlining its position, and opposition to a proposal put to ASC Presidents at a mid year meeting with the Executive Board, whereby Air Sport Commissions would face an FAI levy on competition revenue to fund FAI office expenses. This is a very divisive

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proposal and strikes right at the heart of the benefit of all air sports coming together under the one Air Sport umbrella. Air Sport Commissions have already given away their media rights to the FAI. There is no room for further exploitation of Air Sport Commissions in this manner, and IPC will continue to strongly oppose any such suggestion.

COMPETITIONS

Except for Para-ski, odd numbered years are set aside for World Cups, which are often used to test changes to World Championship rules. The following is a list of the international parachuting events for 2010, as listed on the IPC web pages. First Category Events are signified by shading.

06 Jan to 17 Jan 2010	2010 Dubai Parachuting Championship and Gulf Cup Dubai (United Arab Emirates)	Canopy Piloting 4-Way Event Accuracy Landing
10 Feb to 18 Feb 2010	7th Jeddah International Skydiving Championship Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	4-Way Event Accuracy Landing
10 Mar to 13 Mar 2010	5th FAI European Paraski Championship Predazzo - Bellamonte (Italy)	Accuracy Landing (Men, Juniors) Accuracy Landing (Women, Seniors) Accuracy Landing (Men, Seniors)
11 Mar to 13 Mar 2010	8th FAI World Cup of Paraski Predazzo - Bellamonte (Italy)	Accuracy Landing (Men, Juniors) Accuracy Landing (Women, Seniors) Accuracy Landing (Men, Seniors)
27 May to 30 May 2010	45th Bulgarian Open National Parachuting Championship and Open Championship of South-East Europe in Precision Landing Erden, Montana (Bulgaria)	Accuracy Landing
01 Jul to 10 Jul 2010	13th ASIANIA Parachuting Championship & Indonesian Merdeka International Open Surakarta Solo Central, Java (Indonesia)	2-Way Sequential 4-Way Event Accuracy Landing
15 Jul to 27 Jul 2010	35th CISM World Military Parachuting Championship Buochs (Switzerland)	4-Way Event (Men) 4-Way Event (Women) Accuracy Landing (Women) Accuracy Landing (Men)

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Freefall Style (Men)

Freefall Style (Women)

31 Jul to 06 Aug 2010	19th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships Menzelinsk, Tatarstan (Russia)	4-Way Event (Open) 4-Way Event (Women) 8-Way Event (Open) VFS 4-Way event (Open)
31 Jul to 06 Aug 2010	14th FAI World Canopy Formation Parachuting Championships Menzelinsk, Tatarstan (Russia)	2-Way Sequential 4-Way Rotation 4-Way Sequential
31 Jul to 06 Aug 2010	8th FAI World Artistic Skydiving Championships Menzelinsk, Tatarstan (Russia)	Freeflying Freestyle Skydiving
07 Aug to 15 Aug 2010	3rd FAI World Canopy Piloting Parachuting Championship Kolomna (Russia)	Accuracy Canopy Piloting Distance Speed
28 Aug to 04 Sep 2010	31st FAI World Style and Accuracy Parachuting Championship Niksic (Montenegro)	Accuracy Landing (Men, Seniors) Accuracy Landing (Women, Seniors) Freefall Style (Men, Seniors) Freefall Style (Women, Seniors)
28 Aug to 04 Sep 2010	5th FAI Junior World Style & Accuracy Parachuting Championships Niksic (Montenegro)	Accuracy Landing (Men, Juniors) Accuracy Landing (Women, Juniors) Freefall Style (Men, Juniors) Freefall Style (Women, Juniors)

The IPC's First Category Event Sanction Procedures and associated Organiser Agreements continue to provide a good understanding of expectations on behalf of all stakeholders for the successful conduct of premier world parachuting events. The application of sanction fees has assisted the IPC to cover the costs of Jury and Judge travel costs, and to assist IPC to follow its mission plan. IPC is absolutely opposed to asking its volunteers to collect additional competition revenue imposed by FAI to pay for FAI office jobs in the new building in Lausanne.

In line with the FAI's vision and mission statements, work in the IPC continues on bringing elite parachuting events to the public, with increasingly timely use of the FAI web site. IPC pays a small retainer to a volunteer to undertake this work, which has its difficulties due to the limitations and complexities of the existing FAI web site.

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RECORDS

Records continue to be set as performance levels improve.

Perhaps the most notable was in the 4-way team event at the World Championships in Formation Skydiving Menzelinsk, Russia, where two teams set a new World Record of 56 points in 35 seconds of working time .

SAFETY

The IPC's Technical and Safety Committee continues to play an important role in monitoring parachuting safety worldwide. It produces an annual safety survey, which identifies trends in parachuting accidents. For this it relies on input from participating countries. There has been a decline in the number of returns being received for this valuable safety survey, and I would therefore make a plea to all NAC delegates to do what they can to ensure parachuting safety returns are filed annually.

The T & S Committee also provides an advisory service to those countries that are establishing or updating their regulations and operational procedures for parachuting. In addition, it produces Information Notices to alert parachutists around the world to certain incidents or experiences in the field and to reports from equipment manufacturers.

An incident database which collects information from national parachuting organisations utilising the FAI website is now operational and provides valuable information to IPC.

It is my melancholy duty to report that IPC has recorded its first known fatality at a First Category Event. In November 2009, a competitor was killed during the running of the World Cup of Canopy Piloting in South Africa. IPC is most concerned at this tragedy, and has reviewed its practices and procedures accordingly.

CONCLUSION

I wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work by the myriad of volunteers that contribute to the work of the IPC.

I also wish to acknowledge the work and efforts of the FAI office and the Executive Board in dealing with IPC matters. The apparent decline in the ability of the FAI office to fund its operations from NAC subscriptions is an issue that if not resolved soon and without recourse to taxing its Commissions, has the potential to divide the FAI permanently. This must be addressed in the spirit of fairness, goodwill and recognition that FAI is a much stronger body with all of its participants travelling in the same direction in a spirit of unity and trust.



Graeme Windsor
President, IPC
September 16, 2010