FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

BALLOONING COMMISSION CIA
COMMISSION D'AEROSTATION

REPORT ON CIA BUREAU DISCUSSIONS & DECISIONS 2013 – 2014

1. April 22, 2013

SC S1 "No-Show" rule.

On a proposal from the Statutes, By-Laws & Sporting Code Working Group chairman, the CIA Bureau decided to amend the wording of SC S1 para. 5.6.6, approved by the Plenary in Rio, to read in in the *Note* to para. 5.6.6.1:

Note: The event proposed as force majeure must pass three tests:

1. ***Externality**: The entrant must have nothing to do with the event's happening*
2. ***Unpredictability**: If the event could have been foreseen, the entrant is obligated to have prepared for it. Being unprepared for a predictable event leaves the entrant responsible. Lack of resources (equipment, finances, crew, and time) is a typical example of things that can be prepared against, and cannot therefore constitute a valid reason.*
3. ***Unpreventable:** The consequences of the event must have been unpreventable (illness is only acceptable **if the entrant can prove that his physical condition would have prevented him to exercise his pilot licence privileges during the event).***

The amended text to come into immediate effect with the publication of the SC S1 version 2013.

2. May 8, 2013

EDS Membership

On a proposal from the EDS chairperson the Bureau has decided to welcome Zydrunas Kazlauskas from Lithuania as a full member of the Event Development Sub-Committee.

3. July 18, 2013

CIA Budget 2014

Following the CIA Plenary's decision to leave the 2014 Budget approval process to the CIA Bureau, the Bureau decided to approve the 2014 CIA Budget as presented by the President.

4. October 18, 2013

Change of location of the 2014 AX Worlds

Following the request from the event organisers to change the host city of the 21st FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship from Sao Carlos (SP) to Rio Claro (SP), the CIA Bureau has decided to authorize the organisers, in accordance with Sporting Code Section One para. 5.4, to change the location of the event. The official venue for the 21st FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship will therefore now be Rio Claro.

5. October 21, 2013

CIA Competitors for the FAI Registered Testing Pool

On request from the FAI EB to select 4 competitors to be part of the 2014 Registered Testing Pool the CIA Bureau has decided to adopt the following random selection method:

- The candidates will be selected from competitors ranked between 1 and 100 on the latest CIA WRL.
- CIA Bureau to provide a set of 10 randomly determined sequences of 4 integers with a value between 1 and 100, with the random.org method.
- CIA Bureau to randomly determine with the random.org method one sequence between 1 and 10 for the final selection to be presented to the FAI EB.
- EB to randomly determine with their own method the final two candidates from the previously determined sequence.

In accordance with these procedures the random.org method was used to generate a number between 1 and 10 and the result was sequence number 3. The corresponding names of sequence number 3 were transmitted to FAI. The names of the selected competitors shall not be made public.

6. October 25, 2013

Change of Jury for the 2013 Tochigi Hot Air Balloon International Championship (Nov. 20-24, 2013)

On a request from the CIA Jury Board chairman, Jury member Martine Besnainou (France) has been replaced with Jury member Gren Putland (Australia).

7. January 9, 2014

Maximum number of entrants for the AX World Championship in Brazil

On a request from the organisers the CIA Bureau has decided to allow the 2014 AX Worlds organisers to increase the maximum number of entrants to 104. The organisers have been immediately informed of this decision.

8. January 23, 2014

Formal notice to the organisers of the 21st FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship

In view of the many problems affecting the invitation process for the AX Worlds in Rio Claro, the CIA Bureau has decided to serve a formal notice to the organises of the event. The CIA President is tasked to write the following letter to the organisers:

Mr. Edson Romagnoli, president
Confederacao Brasileira de Balonismo (CBB)

Dear Mr. President,

You are undoubtedly aware that the publication on the event website of the equipment transport conditions to the 21st FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Rio Claro is presently seriously affecting the invitation process for the event.

Indeed, many of the invited pilots who had intended to attend are now re-considering their participation on the grounds that it is unacceptable to exclude non-European competitors from the "free transport" offer sanctioned by the CIA and to charge competitors, entitled to benefit from the "free transport", with any cost related to the equipment transport to and from the event.

In view of the promises made by the organisers

1. *in the CIA Sanction Application:*

"Special travel arrangements and assistance: ***Free transportation to Brasil and back for 50 complete balloons from Europe, from Paris or from Frankfurt. In case of more pilots from Europe, we will provide transportation for the others for the envelopes and burners. The baskets, cylinders and fans will be provided in Brasil."***

2. *In the CBB letter to the CIA President dated March 20, 2013:*

"In respect to clarify eventual issues about the transporting of balloon equipment from Europe to Brazil and back to Europe, for the 21st World Hot Air Ballooning Championship 2014, the CBB (Brazilian Ballooning Confederation) would like to say that ***any additional need regarding the FAB (Brazilian Air Force) transportation, will be undertaken by the CBB responsibility****, which is up to fifty (50) ballooning equipments and twenty (20) ballooning envelopes."*

3. *Verbally by the Brazilian CIA delegate at the 2012/2013 CIA Plenary meetings:*

The transport info on the event website (update Dec. 28) says that delivery deadline for transport from Europe is June 28. Transport back is August 8..
Total transport time: 49 days

- *In 2012 the Brazilian delegate said that "Two days after the end of the event the equipment will be shipped back to Frankfurt, Germany" (July 30)*
- *In 2013 the Brazilian delegate said that transport from Europe would be 1 week before the event. (July 10)*

Total transport time: 20 days

the CIA Bureau is therefore obliged to require the ***organisers to abide*** *by these promises and to immediately inform all concerned parties of the changes made.*

Also, in order to avoid the event becoming a major calamity for all involved, with many of the World's top competitors and important ballooning nations risking to boycott the event, the CIA Bureau has therefore decided,

- *to require the organisers to change the first round registration deadline from February 28 to March 31, 2014,*

- *to require the organisers to change the second round registration deadline from March 31 to April 30, 2014,*
- *in accordance with rule 3.5.3.1. of the Sporting Code General Section to fix the minimum number of NACs that shall have entered the event at the end of the registration period to 20.*
- *in reference to 5.6.1.5. of the Sporting Code Section One, that a minimum of 20 NAC's and a minimum of half the top 30 pilots on the WRL shall have entered by the end of the final registration deadline. If not, the results from the 2012 Worlds will be used to determine the extra places for AX World Championship in 2016.*

The CIA Bureau would like to stress that it is in the best interest of all concerned to have a successful World Championship in Brazil and that it will make every effort to achieve this goal. The CIA Bureau is expecting the organisers to fully cooperate in this respect.

Best regards,

JC Weber, president
FAI Ballooning Commission

9. February 27, 2014

Formal letter to the organisers of the 21st FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship

In view of the remaining problems affecting the invitation process for the AX Worlds in Rio Claro, the CIA Bureau has decided to task the President to write the following letter to the organisers:

Dear Mr. President, dear Edson,

Thanks for your extensive answer to my earlier message.

While I absolutely understand and recognize the cultural differences between continents and nations throughout the world, I do however believe that some universal values have to be agreed to by all people dealing in international relations. This is true especially in Sports where we all subscribe to the same values of fairness and sportsmanship.

When your NAC and Federation presented their bid to organize the FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Brazil in 2014, promises were made and conditions were agreed to. As it turns out, these promises are now given various interpretations and some parties seriously question if promises were made at all or if they are kept at all. This is not surprising, exactly because of cultural differences.

I am pleased to see that tremendous efforts are being made on your side and on the participants side to overcome the problems generated by these various interpretations, but I have to admit that I find the organizers' decision to change the entry-fee policy unacceptable and contrary to the Sporting Code Section One para. 5.4. which prohibits any such change. Indeed, the entry fee policy approved with your bid for the event applies and should you wish to change this policy then this must be

authorized by the CIA. But I can assure you that the CIA would not have agreed to your decision for fairness reasons.

Therefore I reiterate my suggestion that your offer for free entry-fee and other services should be extended to all entered competitors, regardless of any selective criteria that you may have applied until now. Later today I will inform the CIA delegates about your change of policy and ask them to encourage their concerned competitors to call on you to also give them the benefit of your generous offer.

Thank you for your understanding,

Best regards,

JC Weber, president
FAI Ballooning Commission

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