



COMPETITION TITLE – 5th FAI World Cup in Canopy Piloting

LOCATION – Carletonville Airfield, Carletonville, Merafong, South Africa.

IPC JURY REPORT TO FAI REGARDING FATALITY AT THIS FCE

Date of Accident: Thursday 3rd December 2009

Time of Accident: approximately 07.55

Name: Maxim Mozhaev

Age: 36 years.

Nationality: Russian

Canopy: Velocity 96

Container: Javelin

Time in Sport: 12 Years

Number of Jumps: 4000

On the 2nd pass on the 5th load this jumper was 2nd to exit the aircraft (PAC XL 750) and had no control problems noticeable from the ground. The canopy appeared to be in the normal configuration and the parachutist to be in full control prior to the incident. Conditions were suitable and within the rules regarding wind speed. Other competitors had no turbulence or other problems navigating the course. The wind speed was recorded as 2.7 m/s as the competitor entered the course. All Jury members witnessed the incident.

The competitor struck the water very hard, bounced, then tumbled before impacting in the water again. Medical assistance was provided within seconds and the jumper was given mouth to mouth while still in the water before being removed on a backboard when CPR was started, an ECG attached and medications administered. All possible assistance to this competitor appears to have been given and the Jury commends the medical staff on their expertise and care. The medical superintendent Mr Gerrit Bradnick is an advanced paramedic with trauma training and he is licenced by the South African government. The competitor was declared dead at 08.15 at the site and police and the coroner informed. The Jury was shown a copy of the Declaration of Death showing no heart rate, fixed and dilated pupils and no breathing. A Post Mortem was conducted the following day.

The HoD for Russia, Vladimir Gazetov, was on site and present for the fatality and undertook to contact the consulate and inform the Next of Kin. The HoD informed us this was done in person on the day of the incident.

The Meet Director advised all competitors that a fatality had occurred and asked them not to talk to media or anyone outside the competition until the Next of Kin had been informed. A counsellor was arranged promptly and was available for anyone who wished to be debriefed.

The Competition was suspended for approximately 4 hours to allow for the investigation and for competitors to receive counselling if required. Some team members and officials used this counselling and it seemed beneficial.

The FAI was notified and informed the Jury that Casualty Guidelines would be sent by email. This was done promptly.

The Jury did not see any media or news of the event although it was informed that a short segment of the impact and paramedic in the water with the competitor was shown on the evening news. The Russian HoD said that the competitor's face was identifiable in the footage. Local media were on site and used footage they had recorded even though they were asked not to. The news also allegedly reported incorrectly that this was the second fatality. The Russian HoD expressed concern that this could happen and felt that a closer scrutiny and control of media should occur. This could be in the form of a written agreement with the organisers that any footage in relation to an accident must be cleared, before use, with a person nominated by the organiser.

The Organisers are to be commended for their handling of this unfortunate incident. From the Sporting Code Section 5:

4.5.3 Organiser's Responsibility

(3) The immediate medical care (First Aid) of delegation members is the responsibility of the Organiser during the period of the event, including official training days.

The organisation here had an ambulance and senior paramedic on site at all times. This was for competitors and officials only. A helicopter could be made available from Johannesburg in serious cases. This would be the minimum standard that we believe should be acceptable and that 4.5.3 (3) should be expanded to include this.

From the Sporting Code Section 5:

4.4.2(6) The NAC, by including a team or competitor in the Delegation, certifies that each team or competitor is qualified and competent to participate in the event(s) entered.

The competitor had approximately 4000 jumps and had competed in a World Cup of CP in 2007 so was an experienced competitor. He competed at the Russian National Canopy Piloting Championships this year without incident.

Questions arose from the Judges as to how this competitor should appear on the scoreboard. The decision made was to ask the Russian HoD how he would like this to be handled. The HoD asked that the competitor's name remain in the results and this was done.

Recommendation: The FAI Casualty Guidelines be added to the list of required documents for the Jury in the Jury handbook.

Recommendation: The FAI consider adding trauma counselling to the Casualty Guidelines.

Recommendation: The FAI consider developing an agreement that organisers could use for release of sensitive information by media outlets.

Recommendation: The FAI develop a protocol for scores produced by teams or competitors that are involved in a fatal accident during a competition.

Recommendation: Change Section 5: 4.5.3(3) to: The immediate medical care (First Aid) of delegation members and Event officials is the responsibility of the Organiser during the period of the event, including official training days. At a minimum this will include an ambulance with resuscitation facilities and a paramedic on site at all times during competition and official training.

Liam McNulty Jury President
Pia Berggren Jury member
Fiona McEachern Jury Member