

Competitors Sub Committee (CSC) Minutes

2024 CSC Meeting – Lausanne, Switzerland

1. Current Members

Andrew Baird	USA	CHAIR
Paolo Oggioni	ITA	
Gerald Sturzlinger	AUT	WRL
Uwe Schneider	GER	WRL
Maury Sullivan	USA	
Hiromori Soejima	JPN	
Sam Parks	USA	
David Strasmann	GER	
Sylvia Meini	GER	
Igor Miklousic	CRO	
Dominic Bareford	GBR	

2. Roll call, accounting for absences

Present

Andrew Baird	USA
Paolo Oggioni	ITA
Uwe Schneider	GER
Hiromori Soejima	JPN
Sam Parks	USA
David Strasmann	GER
Sylvia Meini	GER
Igor Miklousic	CRO

David BAREFORD GBR

Hiromi FURAKAWA JPN

Eric DECELLIERES FRA

Branko AMBROSIC SLO

Christoff FRAISL AUT

Katsura ENDO JPN

Eun Young ROH KOR

Arkadiusz IWANSKI POL

Filus WITOLD POL

Benoit PELARD FRA

Bengt STENER SWE

Niclas Mure SWE

David Gleed CAN

Sebastien Eimers GER

Apologies Received

Maury Sullivan USA

Observers

Mark SULLIVAN USA

Cheri WHITE USA

Lindsay MUIR GBR

3. World Ranking List update

- a. List keepers TBD
- b. Update on WRL hosting/updates
- c. Alternative WRL Formulae Discussion

Uwe Schneider reported that there have been no changes to the WRL formula. The list is being updated 4 times per year. As we know, only World CAT-1 events (World Championships and World Air Games), plus national rankings are included. If we wish to include other events, such as Continental CAT-1 events, or CAT-2 events, we will need to create a new formula.

4. Discussion and Review of 2023 Events

- a. Jury Reports
- b. Rules

- c. Scoring
- d. Safety
- e. Other
 - i. Supplementary Briefing Procedures / WhatsApp
 - ii. Handling of Collisions

These topics were discussed, where necessary within other agenda items – such as the survey answers.

5. EDS: Invitation to chairman of EDS to speak to CSC regarding event issues

- a. Discussion of EDS items
EDS topics had already been discussed in the Survey Review

6. 2024 CSC Pilot Survey results

- a. Discussion of results and action to be taken
*See competitor issues below and recommendations and motions.
Results from the survey can be reviewed here:*

Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-zk2NOrp7A3yotmdypNfSGQ_3D_3D/

password: CSC_results_2024

7. Competitor / Rule Issues

- a. Supplementary Briefing Procedures / WhatsApp
Committee agreed with the survey results:
*Task/Flight cancellation OK with WhatsApp, but should not be the ONLY method of cancellation.
Informational / Safety updates are OK with WhatsApp. For example: powerline positions, weather changes, target position change that does not cause a change in the task (“Target displayed ~60m NE of coordinate on task sheet”).
WhatsApp should NOT be used for task changes. Task changes must only be made with a true briefing.*
- b. Handling of Collisions / Penalties / BLS Safety Analyzer
As discussed in other committees, there is a proposal for a rule change allowing the director to use the next HIGHER penalty from the COH chart, if necessary. Also, the committee notices that even when there is a dramatic collision, the dangerous flying penalty is rarely used.
- c. ‘Yellow Card’ Proposal
*The Committee agrees with the survey results: that a system of tracking dangerous flying across multiple events is useful, including the ability to potentially ground a pilot from flying for repeated overly aggressive flying style. HOWEVER, the following comments were noted:
The formula should be constructed that a flying ban cannot be triggered by a single ‘occurrence’
If expanded to more than just CAT-1 events, the formula should not unfairly affect pilots who fly at numerous events, compared to pilots who only fly a few events.
There should be an appeal process.*
- d. Tasks – new vs modification
Discussed at previous meeting. We note that there is a proposal for at least one new task. We encourage this approach, and will continue to monitor this subject.

e. Social Media

No action from this committee at this time. However, it is noted that it is in the best interest of our sport, if pilots and crew continue to publish positive social medial posts about the events we attend.

f. Event Standards – CAT-1 CAT-2

The committee agrees with the Pilot survey results. We should look into changing the CAT-2 structure to make it more widely used. Important factors are as follows:

There should be a benefit to Competitors – which could be....using the AXMERS, having a quality Director and team, using certain safety practices, such as the Balloon Live Safety Analyzer.

There should be a benefit to organizer, either in attracting competitors, or sponsors – by being a higher-quality event.

*There should be a benefit to the FAI – mostly from having a bigger global footprint
The fees should be kept to an absolute minimum. If the cost is not justified, events will not participate – which is the situation now.*

Having a sporting license should not be a requirement, but COULD be a requirement if the CAT-2 events feeds into the World Ranking List.

CAT-2 events could also be a training ground for new Directors and officials.

8. Competitor Issues for 2025 / Survey topics

Skills that should be tested during competition, and who we should be testing (pilot, navigator, or both)

On board Camera (vertical).

9. Old Business (updates or action needed)

a. Cat 1 invitation process

The invitation process was discussed as part of the survey results. And produced one recommendation (see below).

It is in the best interest of competitors AND event organizers to have a full-field of competitors. However, given the current timing, it is likely that if the second round ends 60 days prior to the event, empty slots cannot be filled. The following recommendations were reached.

1. *Make sure that the final round ends with sufficient time to invite additional pilots to fill vacant slots.*

2. *Shorten the registration time for each round. With current technology, it is possible for pilots to receive and respond to invitations quickly – we no longer rely on physical invitations going through the post.*

3. *Encourage (or make standard) the use of a third round, to fill available slots.*

Note: Current rules state that invitations cannot be LESS than 60 days for a World Championship and 45 days for a Continental Championship. However, this is the minimum and the Final Round deadline can easily be before, without needing a rule change.

b. Operator of the controls/ release of physical markers

This is still a hot topic, especially as it relates to operating the controls. No action was taken at this meeting, but it will remain on the agenda as we develop a system of defining what skills we should be testing, and then how we should control those tests.

c. Remote competitions

No discussion at this time

10. New Business

- a. 2023/2024 Feedback from previous committee/working group online meetings
Activities and feedback from other committees were discussed, and incorporated into the recommendations, where needed.
- b. Any other new business
None

11. Summary of CSC-Working Group recommendations and Proposed Motions to the CIA Plenary Meeting

MOTIONS: NONE

RECOMMENDATIONS: 3

1: Working Group: "Responsible Flying Score"

Develop a temporary working group with members from several subcommittees, such as CSC, Safety, Officials, Jury, and S1, to create proposed rule(s) for penalties to carry forward from event to event to track do discourage overly-aggressive flying.

2: Invitation processes

Recommendations to EDS, S1 working group and organizers to:

- *Make sure that the final round ends with sufficient time to invite additional pilots to fill vacant slots.*
- *Shorten the time for each round. With current technology, it is possible for pilots to receive and respond to invitations quickly – we no longer rely on physical invitations going through the post.*
- *Encourage (or make standard) the use of a third round, to fill available slots.*
- *Consider redefining the 'waiting list', if necessary, to allow slots to be filled on short notice, if needed.*

3: Protests

Recommend that we include information in the COH as to how to file a complaint or protest including instructions that they should be professional and not personal

COLLISSIONS

Recommendation to Officials

Use the Dangerous flying penalty when the conditions warrant it.

Look into definition of term "Disqualification". It may be that a 'grounding' is a better term because it does not have sporting license consequences.

12. CSC Members and Chairperson for 2024/2025

- a. Review of active members, call for new members
All members would like to remain on the subcommittee

<i>Andrew Baird</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>PROPOSED CHAIR</i>
<i>Paolo Oggioni</i>	<i>ITA</i>	
<i>Gerald Sturzlinger</i>	<i>AUT</i>	<i>WRL</i>

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<i>Dominic Bareford</i>	<i>GBR</i>	

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15