

**Event Development Service (EDS) Minutes  
Lausanne 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**2023/2024 EDS Subcommittee:**

Chair: Lindsay Muir (UK)

Members:

- Maury Sullivan (USA)
- Benoit Pelard (FRA)
- David Strassman (SWI)
- Andrew Baird (USA) – Chairperson – Competitors’ Subcommittee
- Debbie Spaeth (USA) – Chairperson – Public and Media Relations Subcommittee
- Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL)
- Zoltan Palhegyi (HUN)

**1. Roll call, apologies for absence.**

Present

Lindsay Muir, Benoit Pelard, Andrew Baird, Debbie Spaeth, Arkadiusz Iwanski, Zoltan Palhegyi

Absent

Maury Sullivan (apologies sent via Andy Baird), David Strassman

Observers

Uwe Schneider (GER), Paolo Oggioni (ITA), Christoph Fraisl (AUT), Eun Young Roh (KOR), Steve Ireland (AUS), Hiromi Furakawa (JPN), Claude Weber (LUX), Sam Parks (USA), David Bareford (GBR), Filius Witold (POL), Niclas More (FRA), Bengt Stener (SWE), Erwin Pellegrom (NED), Mark Sullivan (USA), Cheri White (USA), Katsura Endo (JPN), Marc Andre (SUI), David Glead (CAN), Branko Ambrozic (SLO).

**2. Review of 2023 Sanction Events, Technical Delegate Reports**

- 66<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Race – 2023
  - Verbal Report was given by Benoit Pellard & Sam Parks. The event was very well run and the facilities were very good. There was a slight delay of the launch due to the wind conditions. It was reported that the co-pilot of the Polish balloon is now out of hospital and continuing his recovery at home. The authorities have not yet issued an interim report on the accident.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship – 2023
  - Verbal Report was given by Debbie Spaeth & Lindsay Muir. The weather was not particularly good for the event although there were 6 flights and 20 tasks. There was some criticism from the pilots that there was not enough variety and no electronic tasks. The organisers did say at the event debrief that weather conditions and farmland made it difficult to set more complicated tasks. The venue, organisation and local volunteers were excellent.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship – Grudziadz, Poland – 2023
  - Verbal Report from Paolo Oggioni (Jury member). There were 9 flights and 40 tasks completed during the event. However, there were 5 complaints and 4 protests (+ 1 appeal to the FAI).

### **3. Review of planning status for Sanctioned Events for 2024 – 2026**

- 65<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Race

Verbal Report from Uwe Schnedier. Issue of the NAC invitations were delayed which also resulted in the postponement of pilot invitations. This was due to a number of factors including the setting up of a bank account for the entry fees. The team invitations have now been sent out with a deadline for acceptance of the 15<sup>th</sup> April. The organiser received nominations for 30 teams, however the launchsite will only easily accommodate 25 balloons. The organisers are working on how to accommodate more balloons.

- 25<sup>th</sup> World Hot Air Balloon Championship, Szeged, Hungary – 2024

Verbal report from the organiser Zoltan Palhegyi. The first round of invitation is complete and the second round is ongoing. There was an issue with the NAC acceptance to take part in the take part in the championship. There is now a complaint from Italian NAC. This knowledge sparked a discussion regarding what information is required both to be send out with the initial invitation to the NAC and what is require in response.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship – Austria 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

Verbal report from Christoff Fraisl stating that everything seems to be on track.

### **4. Events to be Sanctioned.**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship – 2025

- Brazil have withdrawn their sanction application as they did not receive the financial support that they need.
- They would like to resubmit for 2027

- 26<sup>th</sup> World Hot Air Balloon Championship – 2026

A short verbal report was given by Poland. There will be a presentation at the Plenary meeting. The organizer has held many events since 2000. Good flying area, interesting and picturesque terrain.

### **5. Intentions to Bid 2026 – 2028**

- 24<sup>th</sup> FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship – 2027

- Intention to bid from Poland will be presented

### **6. Documents**

- Sanction application form – Watchmeffy

Claude Weber gave a preview demonstration of the WMF sanction application features as currently programmed. Motion 1 – see below.

- FAI Cloud – EDS Documents have been transferred onto the cloud. However they need to reviewed during the year.

- Sanction application form – Invitation and acceptance dates should be reviewed. There is a proposal to drop the rest period from the sanction application.

### **7. Entry fee structure**

Discussion held about possible need to update the fee structure but there was no conclusion as to what modification might be required.

There was a suggestion from Marc Andre regarding the Gordon Bennett entry fee. The AA Working Group recommended a Sanction Fee of 1250 CHF regardless of number of

competitors. This was going to be discussed in AA working group for possible motion to the Plenary Meeting.

## **8. Scheduling of Events**

There is often a schedule conflict between the Gordon Bennett and the AX World Championship. Also, it was discussed to move the GB sanctioning to the AA working group.

## **9. Category 2 Event Structure**

There was a discussion about Category 2 events including the purpose, benefits, standard of event etc. This will be discussed at an Open Forum.

## **10. New committee members**

None

## **11. Points of Action from 2023 Plenary meeting and Observations and Recommendations from Jury Reports and Event Debriefs**

None

## **12. Any Other Business**

Changes to this committee's structure (merging of EOS and EDS) was agreed in 2023 and the Internal Regulation has been updated to reflect this.

## **13. Motions to the Plenary Meeting**

Motion One

Sanction Process of the FAI Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett to be turned over to the AA Working Group

Motion Two

Effective immediately, Sanction Applications will be submitted through the Watch Me Fly platform.

## **Committee members 2023/2024**

### Chairman

Lindsay Muir (GBR)

### Members

Maury Sullivan (USA)

Lynne Sullivan (USA)

Benoit Pelard (FRA)

Andrew Baird (USA) – Chairperson, Competitors' Subcommittee

Debbie Spaeth (USA) – Chairperson, Public and Media Relations Subcommittee

Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL)

Zoltan Palhegyi (HUN)

Markus Haggenev (FAI Observer)

JC Weber (LUX, Supporting member)

	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
<b>WORLD AIR GAMES – NONE SCHEDULED</b>						
<b>HOT AIR BALLOONS (AX)</b>						
General	World	Szeged, Hungary		Application received from Poland		SA to be received by 12/2026
	Continental		Austria		Intention to bid Poland	
Women's	World		No Event		SA to be received by 12/2025	
	Continental	No Event		SA to be received by 12/2024		SA to be received by 12/2026
Junior	World		No applications		SA to be received by 12/2025	
	Continental	No Event		SA to be received by 12/2024		SA to be received by 12/2026