

SUBJECT:	Proposal from Italy to Amend WS Competition Rules	AGENDA #	18.1.1
AUTHOR:	Sandro Gargini, Delegate for Italy		
DATE:	12 November 2024	PAGES:	Page 1 of 4

AERO CLUB OF ITALY

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE "FAI – COMPETITION RULES WINGSUIT FLYING"

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The proposed changes affect [SECTION 3.2](#) as well as [12 ADDENDUM D](#).

3.2 EQUIPMENT

3.2.1 All competitors must wear a wingsuit for all competition jumps.

3.2.1.1 For a wingsuit to be eligible for competition, the manufacturer must submit a document containing information about the wingsuit to the Head of the ISC Wingsuit Flying Committee via email no later than April 2nd of the year in which the competition is held. The information to be provided must include, at a minimum:

- The name of the wingsuit,
- A photograph of the entirety of the wingsuit laid flat with its back facing the ground,
- A photograph of the entirety of the wingsuit laid flat with its front facing the ground.

Manufacturers may submit multiple wingsuits for consideration.

The email address for submissions is: isc-ws@fai.org.

It is the responsibility of the ISC Wingsuit Flying Committee to distribute the received information to the national representatives via email, or an equivalent method if email is unavailable, by April 3rd. If this deadline cannot be met, the information will be shared as soon as feasible. Additionally, the ISC Wingsuit Flying will ensure that this information is available to anyone who requests it after the specified date.

3.2.1.2 Wingsuits that have competed in any FAI Wingsuit Competition prior to or during 2021 are exempt from the requirement to submit documentation as specified in 3.2.1.1.

3.2.2 All equipment will be inspected by the panel of judges. No "add-ons" are allowed. This determination will be made by the panel of judges ~~This decision is not grounds for protest~~ referencing the publicly available information regarding the equipment being inspected or the information provided by the equipment manufacturer.

3.2.2.1 An "add-on" is any modification to the equipment that makes it different from the version publicly available for purchase on the market. However, modifications and/or configuration changes shall not be considered "add-ons" if they are authorized by the manufacturer. Modifications for fitting, repairs, or aesthetic reasons (such as stickers, patches, and color markings) are also not considered "add-ons."

3.2.2.1.1 Further clarification: In the context of inspecting a wingsuit, an "add-on" is any modification that does not align with the information provided under section 3.2.1.1.

Modifications and/or configuration changes shall not be considered "add-ons" as long as they are permitted in the information provided under 3.2.1.1.

Modifications for fitting, repairs, or aesthetic reasons (such as stickers, patches, and color markings) are not considered "add-ons."

Modifications in order to route part of the skydiving rig inside the wingsuit are also not considered "add-ons."

3.2.2.2 In the event that "add-ons" are suspected and the publicly available information or the documentation provided under 3.2.1.1 is insufficient to make a clear determination, the judges will refer to the information

75th FAI/ISC PLENARY MEETING, 1-2 FEBRUARY 2025, ROME. ITALY

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	Proposal from Italy to Amend WS Competition Rules	<i>AGENDA #</i>	18.1.1
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Sandro Gargini, Delegate for Italy		
<i>DATE:</i>	12 November 2024	<i>PAGES:</i>	Page 2 of 4

supplied by the manufacturer or its representative. In the absence of such a representative, the judges will be responsible for determining whether "add-ons" are present.

3.2.2.2.1 If the judges determine that "add-ons" are present, leading to the equipment's ineligibility for competition, the judges shall provide the competitor with a formal written explanation in a timely manner. This explanation must reference the applicable rule and the objective criteria used in the decision. This rejection shall also constitute valid grounds for the competitor to lodge a formal complaint and/or protest.

3.2.2.2.2 A manufacturer's representative is a person who is either present at the event or available via video call to provide information to the judges. The manufacturer must designate this representative and provide their name and contact details to the judges. If the designated representative is unavailable, the manufacturer may appoint an alternative representative. Competitors cannot act as the manufacturer's representative.

MOTIVATIONS:

- To prevent any future "unclear" situations from being resolved by a judge's decision without the need to provide objective technical reasons to support it;
- To avoid any possible confusion which might exist using wording such as "the judges shall CONSIDER manufacturer's information regarding the suit" or similar ("considering" implies the possibility of disregarding a certain evidence);
- To ensure that Competitors are informed in advance about which suits will be allowed in the competition, giving them sufficient time to choose the wingsuit they will deemed best for them (with enough time to train) and to decide whether they want to invest time and money in training and participating, especially if any potential unfair situations might arise;
- To avoid the technical development of Wingsuit Flying equipment to become stagnant due to the extreme difficulty of investing in Research and Development due to extreme risk of the suit being rejected not because of a technical reason;
- To grant wingsuit manufacturers the freedom to design wingsuits as they see fit, as long as such advancements comply with the current written set of rules and at the same time pushing toward these advancements being made available to ALL COMPETITORS interested in using them.

12 ADDENDUM D – GUIDELINES FOR MEASURING A WINGSUIT.

~~The measurement will be made with the suit laid on a flat floor with zippers done up and the wingsuit fully stretched out~~

~~The maximum distance between the furthestmost parts of the suit along the direction perpendicular to the direction of flight, may not exceed the competitor's arm span, measured between his(her) longest finger on both arms at full arm extension.~~

12.1 The wingsuit must always be measured while laid flat on the floor, with all zippers fully closed, on top of the measuring tape and the suit stretched both lengthwise and spanwise.

A force gauge will be used to verify the application of 5±1 Newtons of tension during the measurement.

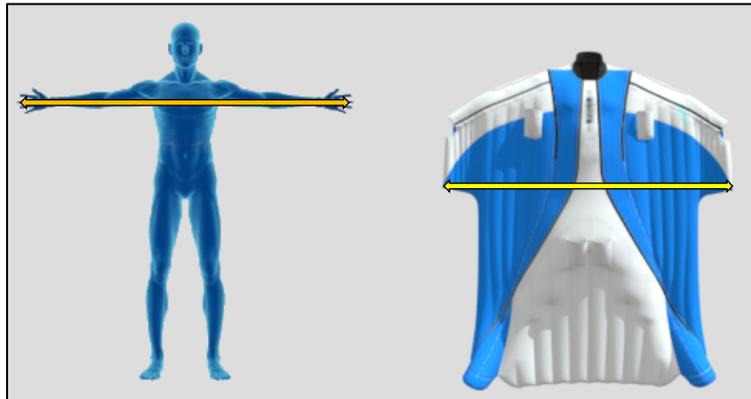
12.2 The wingsuit will be measured at least one time while laid flat on the floor with the back surface against the floor and at least one time while laid flat on the floor with the front/belly surface against the floor.

12.3 The wingsuit shall not be attached to any skydive parachute system during the measuring process.

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	Proposal from Italy to Amend WS Competition Rules	<i>AGENDA #</i>	18.1.1
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Sandro Gargini, Delegate for Italy		
<i>DATE:</i>	12 November 2024	<i>PAGES:</i>	Page 3 of 4

12.4 The maximum horizontal width of the suit, will be measured perpendicular to the direction of flight and must not exceed the competitor's arm span, defined as the distance between the tips of the longest finger on each hand with arms fully extended.

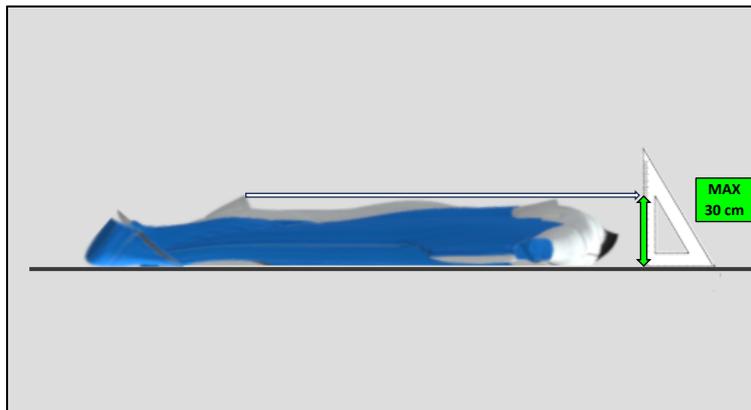
The competitor's arm span will be measured with the competitor standing flat with their back against a wall and with thumbs facing upward.



Picture 12.4 – 1:

On the Left Side, in orange, the competitor's arm span.
On the Right Side, in yellow, the wingsuit's horizontal width.

12.5 The maximum vertical width of the suit will be measured using a set square (or an equivalent instrument) to determine the highest point in relation to the floor. The maximum vertical width must not exceed 30 centimeters.



Picture 12.5 – 1:

In green, the wingsuit's vertical width.

MOTIVATIONS:

- Provide a clearer explanation of the measuring process, especially avoiding possible damage to the suits due to the tensioning;
- Providing a guidelines for vertical width measurement*

This point has become extremely important due to the introduction of WINGLETS in the recent years. Some might suggest to consider such features as "part of the total width" therefore adding their measure to the wingsuit's horizontal width.

75th FAI/ISC PLENARY MEETING, 1-2 FEBRUARY 2025, ROME. ITALY

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	Proposal from Italy to Amend WS Competition Rules	<i>AGENDA #</i>	18.1.1
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Sandro Gargini, Delegate for Italy		
<i>DATE:</i>	12 November 2024	<i>PAGES:</i>	Page 4 of 4

It is important to stress that Winglets are NOT wings' extensions.

Winglets are a feature typically implemented when extending the wings any further isn't possible or desirable and therefore other means are required in order to improve flying characteristics.

Therefore, explained such premises, if a "maximum width" is enforced (as it currently is in the present set of rules of Wingsuit Flying) manufacturers will always choose to extend the wings, rather than implementing Winglets IF that results in sacrificing possible width.

Worded in such a way, the rules would clearly favor Wingsuits designs which rely on wings extension without Winglets while at the same time forcing Wingsuits designs implementing Winglets out of the Competition.

Winglets can provide better performance, control and safety for Wingsuit Flying as a whole, and up until now no reason exists to justify why their implementation should be ostracized.

The 30cm measurement was chosen taking into account an height of 5 to 10 cm for Wingsuit's fabric and gripper. This results in a maximum possible winglet vertical extension of around 20-25cm, which is roughly HALF of the length of the wings extensions allowed to participate in 2024 World Championship which proved not to be a factor for safety or general comfort and were all approved by the panel of the judges.