

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

SUBJECT:	Chief Judge Report – Wingsuit Flying World Championships	AGENDA #	18.2
AUTHOR:	Mike Pennock, Chief Judge		
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Chief Judge Report

Competition	5th FAI World Championship of Wingsuit Flying
Disciplines	Wingsuit Acro and Wingsuit Performance
Location	Beaufort NC, USA 
Date	4th – 11th October 2024
Judges Panel	CJ – Mike Pennock (Ned) EJ Acro – Scott Callantine (USA) EJ Performance – Vera Asquith (CAN) Judge Michaela Belde – (GER) Judge Linda Makaela – (FIN) Judge Yves Letourneur – (FRA) Judge Steve Hubbard – (USA) Asst. CJ – Marylou Laughlin (USA)
Judging System(s)	Intime Scoring / FlySight Intime Operator: Clair King / Dirk Venter Technical Scoring Director: Gary Taylor <u>Position Logging Devices</u> In Beaufort we were confronted with an unusual and high number of re-jumps because of “ <i>bad GPS readings</i> ”. Since WS started to use of Flightsights, we never faced a situation like this and SP, which is using the same device, neither. In WS the re-jump ratio is somewhere between <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance ; 0% to maximum 1%. - In Beaufort it was 5%. • ACRO ; 0% to maximum 11%. - In Beaufort it was 14%. Because of this re-jump situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the competitors received an additional briefing from the Technical Scoring Director “<i>what is necessary from the competitor side to get best GPS readings possible</i>” - as usual the judges strictly followed the mandatory cold-start and warm-start procedures - the technical scoring director and the manufacturer started immediately an onsite and remote analysis of the bad data to identify the causes of this situation A first outcome is, that the devices worked perfect at cold-start/warm-start, handout to competitor, in the plane during taxiing and take off. At an altitude of appx. 100 feet the effected devices lost all satellite signals. This is more than unusual. During pre-event training a couple of competitors made the same experience the first time. A big thank you to Gary Taylor who immediately started with the analysis of the data, beside his important duties as TSD. You did a great job Gary. The device was working very reliable since it was used the first time for WS and SP competitions. It is the wrong approach to question or blame an approved device because one situation in years. I have complete confidence that manufacturer, technical scoring director and both committees involved will have further a sharp eye on this.

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<p>Statistics and evaluation Judges Panel(s)</p>	<p><u>Number of competitors:</u> Acro – 4 NAC's, 5 teams, 15 competitors Performance – 12 NAC's, 36 competitors</p> <p><u>Number of Jumps judged</u> Acro – 2 team practice jumps, 35 team competition jumps, 5 rejumps Performance – 14 practice jumps, 423 competition jumps, 20 rejumps Total 399 jumps judged</p> <p>To prepare the judges for the competition and to get the panel on the same level, we had 2 online sessions in the 6 weeks prior to the competition. 1 session was dedicated fully for the use of InTime and was given by Claire King from Intime. This pre-competition online training proved to be very useful. We also used the Judges conference day to train for both disciplines</p> <p>All judges performed their duties with a high standard and worked exceptionally well as a team. A special thanks goes out to the voluntary work of Tamara Koyn who came to the WSC to offer her help.</p> <p>Throughout the competition the work of the judges included: For the Performance Event: Set-up and preparation for the Performance event (weighing, tagging, inspecting), uploading and analyzing data, transferring helmets to and from the charging area in the hanger to the distribution area on the other side of the tarmac. checking FlySights, wingsuits and lane assignments at the separate boarding area. Random weighing was done under supervision of the CJ. Checking landings was done by the judges, because of experience in the previous 2 competitions. For the Acro Event: Set-up and preparation, video judging</p> <p><u>There was 1 protest concerning a Wingsuit that was not according to the rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We first talked with the HOD, but the answer was not to their satisfaction - A complaint was made in writing - The protest was handled by the Jury and the decision by the judges was upheld. <p>Personal Note; This competitor showed behavior that could be seen as a breach of S5 5.4 (2) (b) (2)(c)</p> <p><u>Scores and publications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the competition, the scores had been published according to the WS CR article 5 5.2.10. - Because of several rejumps, caused most likely by the geo-magnetic storms, most scores were posted on the day the rejumps were made. <p><u>There was 1 complaint that was handled verbally</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The complaint was based on the WS CR article 5.4.5 that states the Meet Director must ensure that the horizontal spacing must be no less than 600m. This will be expressed to the competitors as a time, in seconds. - The time table to determine time between competitors, had been handed to the MD by one of the EJ's before the competition started. - After consulting with the Meet Director she confirmed that this time between competitors had not been told to the competitors, prior to each jump. - The competitor exited 8 seconds after the previous competitor, where the MD should have instructed the competitors to keep 13 seconds between each competitor for that jump, according to article 5.4.5 - Using S5 article 6.7.1 (4) that states The CJ will control the evaluation of score sheets, It was my evaluation that the penalty as described in art 5.5.3 of the WS CR, should not be applied because the prerequisite in WS CR article 5.4.5 had not been met as stated and confirmed by the MD.
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	<p><u>I have asked the Jury for a Jury decision on the last day of the competition.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because the WS CR 4.2 states The Performance and Acrobatic events shall not be run concurrently, I already worked out a plan on the day before the last day of competition. - My goal was to be able to finish both events for all competitors. - The request to run both events concurrently, with the assistance of all of the AE and SP judges, where 1 judge hold a Y-2 for Wingsuit, and the assistance of the 2 WS Trainee Judges, all under the supervision of the EJ's and the CJ and CJT, was granted by the jury. - These extra Judges were only retrieving helmets. All jumps have been evaluated by the appointed Wingsuit panel Judges only. - This proposal by the CJ and the positive decision by the Jury, made it possible to finish both events at the last possible moment of the last day of competition, only 3 hours before the closing ceremony started. <p><u>There was 1 error in the last round of the competitor who finished last, on the last day of the competition.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitor 707 had a malfunction and PLD failure on round 3, Speed task - In order to finish the competition, the competitor did not re-jump that task and accepted a Zero for that round - The panel of judges had mistakenly used the data for round 3, Distance and evaluated that data in round 3, Speed. The zero was put in round 3 for the Distance task. - This mistake was brought to our attention at the closing ceremony and the jury was informed as soon as the competitor informed the EJ and CJ. - These scoresheets were removed immediately from the ISC result center - The scoresheets and intime were adjusted on the 12th of October, under the supervision of the CJ the next morning - The adjusted scoresheets were uploaded to the ISC result center on the 14th of October. <p>The Jury was included in every step of this process.</p>
<p>Organisation Evaluation</p>	<p>The competition in Beaufort was challenging in many way's. Mainly because this was not the home drop zone of the organizer.</p> <p>In 2023 the WS and SP CJ's coordinated online meetings with the organizer in Prostejov and it this was a success.</p> <p>To help the organizer, Both SP and WS CJ scheduled combined online meetings with the organizer and the FAI controller. We had our online meetings on the 7th of March, the 3rd of June and the 13th of September. I hope the advice was not misunderstood as interference but was only given in the best interest of the competitors.</p> <p>The goals were to share as much as possible practical information about both disciplines to give the competitors the best possible circumstances for their discipline. According to article 4.1.1 for Wingsuit I strongly suggested to the organizer to use a dedicated meet director for Wingsuit. This advice was based on experience from previous Fce's. The organizer decided to use 1 general Meet Director.</p> <p>This joint preparation with the WS CJ prior the competition was very well and paid off on arrival at the DZ and during the event.</p> <p>The WS and SP judge panel was not just close in the hanger, we gave each other a hand whenever it was needed. At the last competition day, when we run out of volunteers, the AE Judges assisted WS und SP too. This was a special and good</p>

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	<p>experience as well and was made possible by the overall setup the organizer arranged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organizer provided rooms for all Judges in the same hotel, only 15 minutes from the DZ. - We had rental cars for our transportation during the whole period, including arrival and departure travel. This proved to be very useful, especially considering that each discipline finished work at a different time each day. - Breakfast was provided in the hotel, lunch at the DZ. The opportunity to select from a variety of restaurants for dinners was especially nice. - The provided helmet storage and charging rig is a clever and working solution, it can be proposed to other organizers <p>We had, however, a major challenge because there was no manifest that announced the calls. We had to rely on Burble and Whatts App. But because of the poor WiFi, I myself and some of the Judges had to buy data themselves to use for navigation while driving the car from and to the airport and to keep track of all calls and information.</p> <p><u>It is my recommendation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to check all Bids to ensure than an announcement system is available, and if not, sim cards need to be available for all Judges. - If the organizer provides cars, they should contain a working navigation system, without the use of personal data. - If the organizer does to provide a sound system for the calls, at least S5 4.3.1. (8) should be provided “The organizer must provide a fast, and secure internet connection”
<p>Rule Changes - Proposals:</p>	<p>During the competition the TSD Gary Taylor was constantly in contact with both CJ's for Speed and Wingsuit. We worked very well together and shared the same space for loading of the PLD's and SMD's</p> <p>As a result of a complaint, subsequent Protest and requests which came from the competitors meeting, the advice to the Wingsuit Committee is to look at the following possible adjustments of the CR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add examples to the “add-on” rule - Add extra guidelines for measuring the Wingsuits - Adjust the penalty for flying to close to another competitor <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allign CR rules with Speed where possible - Allign Alternate for National team with Speed and CP <p>After the competition the jury brought to the attention that WS rule 7.1.4 is in direct contravention of Section 5 5.2.10. This topic has been addressed to the WS committee who have acknowledged they will address this and adjust the WS-CR</p>
<p>Personal Remarks</p>	<p>I want to express my personal respect and gratefulness, for all the work the jury has done during this competition. The jury was available at all times during the competition, was available for advice and have handled all of the records that where set.</p> <p>The preparation and cooperation with the Speed CJ went very well and paid off on arrival at the DZ.</p>

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	<p>The Speed and Wingsuit Judges worked very well together and help was offered by the AE judges when we needed extra help on the last day.</p> <p>The Meet Director, Melissa Nelson, was willing to learn and was prepared to ask for help and advice, during the competition.</p> <p>Marylou Laughlin did an amazing job as the ACJ.</p> <p>4 G-1 World Records and 7 Continental records were set as competition records 6 G-2 Records were set as Performance records 1 Continental record was set in Acro All record claims have been handled by the jury, working together with the CJ, during and immediately after the competition.</p>
Name Signature	Mike Pennock (CJ)
Date	November 11th 2024

The Chief Judge: Must submit a report to the Chair of the Judges Committee, the Chair of the relevant Discipline Committee and the ISC Recording Secretary within 30 days of the completion of the competition so that, if possible, it can be distributed to all delegates and posted on the FAI ISC website.