

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

Subject:	ISC Speed Skydiving Committee Annual Report 2024	Annex No.:	17
Author:	Gernot Rittenschober, Speed Skydiving Committee Chair		
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SPEED SKYDIVING COMMITTEE Annual Report - ISC MEETING 2025



Content:

- **Committee members**
- **SP competitions 2024**
- **Proposals for changes to competition rules 2025**
- **Future competitions**

Committee members 2024:

Chair: RITTENSCHOBEN Gernot
Deputy Chair: MIKAELSSON Elisabet
Members:
COOPER Michael
FRIESS Moritz
HAM Bert
HEPP Marco
HOHENEGGER Arnold
LOVEMORE Michael
LUNDQVIST Sara

Changes after 2025 plenary

I ask for bureau nomination of chair/ deputy (IRs 6.3) and for plenary approval of the whole c'tee (IRs 6.4):

Two members: Elisabet MIKAELSSON (who retired from the Committee as per her wishes expressed during the 2024 plenary session) and Moritz FRIESS are replaced by invited new members Niklas DANIEL (USA) and Shane TURNER (AUS)

Moritz will continue as an appointed advisor to the SP Committee and Arnold shall be the new Deputy Chair. Written NAC approval was obtained for all changes.

FAI FCE Competition – 2024

Oct 2024 – 5th World Championships – Beaufort/ USA.

We could experience a huge and well organized championship with some technical challenges with the SMDs acquiring satellites. All key players worked together to the benefit of the competitors and the common goal to conclude a successful event.

In spite of the very high entry fee, SP again had an increase in the number of participants (**+42%**), and the implementation of the new “mixed team” event also contributed to an increase of female participation (32% female competitors)

Several new FAI records were established and no complaints or protests were brought forward at the Speed Skydiving championship.

The discussions during the competitor’s meeting were positive and constructive, and a video recording was made available to all absent SP Committee members. This demonstrates that the primary goal of the whole SP Committee (to share knowledge and to provide best conditions for all SP competitors), has been achieved. With good representation from the competitor’s side but also having technical and judging experts as members of the SP Committee, from the Chair’s point of view, we are on the right track.

Big Thanks to the hosts Skydive Chicago, Paraclete XP and Crystal Coast Skydiving, to Meet Director Melissa Nelson and her staff, to FAI controller Alberto Martin Paracuellos and to Chief Judge Arnold Hohenegger with his panel, and for their professional work.

Participation: 44 participants including 14 female, 2 junior, 7 national and 12 mixed teams

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Other Competitions – 2024

ISSA

There are 7 ISSA World Series events on the 2024 calendar of which two (Bad Saulgau/GER and Fano/ITA) were also registered as FAI Second Category Events (SCE), Perhaps one more ISSA organizer will apply for SCE status as one of the main Speed Skydiving goals is to be fast and to break FAI records. <https://www.issa.one/issa-world-cup-series-2024/>



ISSA also maintains an eternal ranking list with the personal best of every Speed Skydiving athlete. Since last year the list has grown from 240 to 292 names which shows the worldwide potential of Speed Skydiving. <https://www.issa.one/speed-skydiving-eternal-ranking-gps/>

Several Nationals and smaller scale SP competitions were organized worldwide and a general observation is that there are growing numbers of participation at the National level as well.

Changes to SP Competition Rules 2025

No major changes are foreseen unless sound proposals are brought up during the open meeting in Rome and adopted in the follow-up closed Committee meeting.

The proposed changes, clarifications and layout amendments on SP CRs and SC5 were thoroughly discussed and elaborated by all SP Committee members via Discord and some were synchronised with WS Committee as well (e.g. SMD-> PLD and 10m/s rule 2.4). A summary of all changes is attached to this report.

A 2025 plenary approval of the attached rule changes is requested.

Future Competitions:

The SP Committee is ready to “*solicit bids for future FCE’s*”¹

FCE 2025

6th SP World Cup and 5th European Championships 2025, Bulletin 1 will be published at fai.org

FCE 2026

One bid for the 6th SP World Championship 2026 was reviewed by the SP Committee and it has to be mentioned that, in general, ISC FCEs have unproportional high entry fees.

We (ISC and NACs) should find a balance between well-organized championships (at professional dropzones) and affordable entry fees as not many Speed participants are fully subsidized by their NAC or by a sponsor².

NACs should strive to come up with more potential hosts so we can come past the current situation to accept whatever high entry fee or to have a year without championships.

¹ according to c’tee task in ISC Internal Regulations Annex 5 2. (5)

² It is hard to explain why a SP competition **on the same dropzone** with **the same number of jumps** can be organized for 150\$ + jump ticket (i.e. **appr. 450\$ total entry fee**) in Dez 2024 or for **597\$ as FAI FCE** in 2022 and then at the next FCE bid for 2026 the entry fee shall be **1050\$** (+ 1xx CHF ISC sanction fee) or as it was in 2024 even **1.260\$** + 115CHF sanction fee (in 2024 including lunch)

Of course there are some FAI overhead costs for officials and ceremonies, medals etc. to be added for FCEs but if this justifies **200% increased entry fee** for a single competitor compared to an ISSA event at the same dropzone, shall be discussed before the plenary is voting on the next FCE.

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FCEs 2027 and beyond

7th SP World Cup and 6th European Championships 2027

7th SP WSC 2028

unknown, NACs are welcome to come forward with bids. If a World Cup would be organized outside Europe (including the continental championship there (as required by SC5 4.1.2.(3)), also a stand-alone European Championships could be an option.

NAC delegates are kindly asked to check the possibilities in their home country.

SCEs / ISSA

The ISSA plan for 2025 is to continue with the World Series Events and to have ISSA Events (potential SCEs) also on continents outside Europe (USA, Australia).

My best wishes and a sincere thank you goes out to our departing Committee members Moritz and to the Deputy Chair, Elisabet, who contributed to the success of the SP Committee from the very beginning and during difficult times.

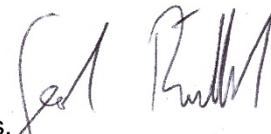
They made it easy for me, as Chair, to continue on solid ground.

All the best for your life after ISC and I hope that I can count on your expertise in case there are difficult questions to be solved and in the event that historical memory would be needed (e.g. as recently about the Tim Mace Trophy vs. Cup) and Moritz' research on PLDs.

My sincere thank you also goes to the other SP Committee members who contribute to Committee decision making and reporting and who do the grassroots work that keeps Speed Skydiving as a stable and steadily growing ISC competition discipline.

Namely the new Deputy Chair Arnold Hohenegger who is our main link to Judges Committee and to ISSA, being the "grandfather of Speed", is to be credited for a huge portion of the successfully working SP Committee.

Best Regards,



Gernot Rittenschober
Speed Committee chair

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Attachement 1 to SP c'tee annual report and ISC plenary agenda annex

Changes on SP 2025 CRs

(completed after the WSC and competitor meeting in Beaufort and wording finalized by SP c'tee)
Plenary approval of these changes is requested.

2.1. ~~SPEED MEASURING~~ POSITION LOGGING DEVICE (~~SMD~~) (PLD)

A device used to ~~determine the vertical speed~~ record the real-time, three-dimensional (3D) position of the skydiver, which is mounted on the skydiver's helmet ~~body or equipment~~.

Rationale: same wording as WS CRs and add alternate mounting (4.1.7)

also change SMD -> PLD in 2.3, 2.5, 4.1.6..... and 41 other positions in the SP CRs

2.4 PERFORMANCE WINDOW

The performance window is the scoring part of the speed jump, which starts ~~at exit~~ when the competitor's vertical speed first reaches 10 m/s. The end of the performance window is either 7,400 ft. (2,256 metres) below ~~exit~~ the start of the window or at Breakoff altitude whichever is reached first.

Rationale: At the moment, the performance window starts at exit altitude. But the moment of exit is not very well defined--different scoring systems use a different method to determine exit, the GNSS position measurement is less accurate than it is at the moment the competitor crosses 10 m/s, so the latter is inherently a more accurate reference point.

10m/s vertical speed is reached about 6 to max. 10 m below the exit (depending on equipment, body position,...)

This rule should be implemented in synchronization with WS rules (TBC) with the main goal to make the results more reproducible between different scoring systems and to get a significant impact on the reproducibility of scores.

Additional remark:

The theoretical reduction of the performance window in an extremely rare circumstance if a jump run is just a few feet above the lower end of standard exit altitude (i.e. 13.000ft + 1 up to 30 ft) until the 10m/s speed is reached, mathematically 1 second/ 16ft) was discussed in the SP c'tee and considered to be marginal both for the competition score or for record validation and can be ignored. Jump planes shall fly at an altitude between 13.000 and 14.000ft so this theoretical possible situation would only occur if the pilot would use the lower 2% of the given range.

So there is no change necessary in the other rules that define minimum standard exit altitude (13.000ft), length of performance window (7.400ft) or break off altitude (5.600ft).

3.1 EVENT DESCRIPTION

3.1.1 The discipline will be comprised of the following event:

Speed Skydiving Open Within the Speed Skydiving Open event, separate classifications will be made for:

Speed Skydiving Female
Speed Skydiving Junior
Speed Skydiving Junior Female Speed
Skydiving National Team

3.1.2 The placements in the separate classifications are determined during the Open event rounds using the Open event scores, not through separate jumps. The minimum number of participants in a classification to be valid and to award medals is four (4)

Rationale: This additional text in SP CRs clarifies the requirements for a valid classification.

The requirements of SC5 4.10 are applied for the whole Speed Skydiving Open Event (individual and team).

4.1.4. ... If any equipment does not meet the requirements as determined by the Chief Judge, Meet Director or FAI Controller, this equipment will be deemed to be unusable for the competition. This decision is not grounds for protest and in any case the responsibility for using a safe gear at any jump rests with the individual competitor.

Clarification only. The gear check by FAI officials or a rigger does not imply a liability in case any still unsafe equipment might lead to an accident. This responsibility is always on the individual skydiver.

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4.1.9. Prior to the start of the competition the ~~(SMD)~~ (PLD) will be attached on the competitor's helmet by a member of the judging staff and the helmets remain under the custody of the judges throughout the competition. The ~~(SMD)~~ (PLD) will...

Clarification only, current practice but not covered by the rules.

7.1.3. To establish new World and Continental Speed Skydiving ~~competition~~ records.

Rationale: Also Performance records can be established

9. 2 NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPION

The team which accumulates the highest aggregated score using each team members aggregated scores. On the result list all scores are displayed in average values.

Clarification only (average is needed also for records)

Annex 1 Mixed Team

Team Composition:

- 2 individuals of different genders representing the same NAC.
- The team members shall be registered NAC competitors who participated in regular SP rounds.
- Team composition must be determined before the start of the Mixed Team competition.
- Each participating NAC can have as many as possible mixed teams (within the limits of 8.1.3 and 8.1.4.)

Clarification only, more than one mixed team is allowed.

Housekeeping. Layout or semantic only:

4.1.2. re-jumps

4.1.7. ... the eChief jJudge

5.3.1. It is the responsibility of the Meet eDirector ...

5.3.4. ... The competitor must make an immediate decision and inform the Chief Judge of the if decision; otherwise a re-jump will be granted automatically.

(either competitors and their decision or competitor and his/her/the)

6.3.3. In case if-the round is incomplete

8.2.1. ... unless the Head of Delegations s or Team Manager disagrees

Sporting Code Section 5 change

In the 2025 edition of SC5 the paragraph (4) shall be removed from 3.3.4 and only remain in altitude/fall 3.3.7.(5)

3.3.4. (4) The performance shall, if possible, be determined with an overall margin of error of +/- 1%. If the overall margin of error in the determination of the performance is no more than +/- 1%, the value of the record shall be equal to the figure determined rounded down to the nearest whole number together with the margin of error. If the overall margin of error in the determination of the performance is greater than +/- 1%, the value of the record shall be equal to the lower limit of the actual error range, rounded down to a whole number.

Rationale:

The 3.3.4.(4) with 1% margin and further description of error range and rounded values is not applicable for SP records that are established with the utilization of **approved scoring systems and judging procedures** as described in SP CRs.

(remark: this text was written in SC5 for altitude/fall record attempts long before 2014 when Speed Skydiving became a FAI discipline, SP CRs have been published and approved scoring systems were introduced.

It was then copied into the SP § of SC5 where it is remaining since then, but has never been used for G-2 records that were broken at SP competitions. And some of the provisions of this rule were not used for the Eustage/ Baumgartner records either (e.g. rounded to whole number)