

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

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	FAI Controllers Report – World Championships Beaufort 2024	<i>AGENDA #</i>	10.2c
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Alberto Martin Paracuellos, FAI Controller		
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FAI Controller Report for the:

26th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships
15th FAI World Artistic Events Championships
5th FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championships
5th FAI World Speed Skydiving Championships
5 - 11 October 2024
Beaufort USA

The event was organised in a unique location on the east coast. Organised by Skydive Chicago and Skydive Paraclete XP and Hosted at Crystal Coast Skydiving in Beaufort

The event was attended by 273 competitors from 23 NACs.

12 Formation Skydiving 4 way open teams
5 Formation Skydiving Female teams
5 Formation Skydiving 8 way teams
4 Vertical Formation
7 Artistic Events Freely teams
44 Speed competitors
38 Wingsuit Flying Performance competitors
5 Wingsuit Flying Acro Teams

In general, the event was well organised and the 3 twin otters were efficiently coordinated and flown. The organisers were holding a test event called MFS at the same time as the FAI sanctioned events which at times were interpreted as the organizers were not giving priority to the FAI competition. In fact, on the Thursday only MFS competitors were flown when the weather was good at the beginning of the day, creating a lot of distress to the competitors.

The weather was very good at the beginning of the event but mid-week a hurricane was approaching and crossed through Florida State. The organisers increased the rhythm and thanks to the commitment of the FS and AE panel of Judges, they were able to finish the Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events by Wednesday the 9th leaving only the Speed and Wingsuit events for the last days of competition. On Thursday the weather deteriorated and only some loads of the non-official MFS event were completed.

There was an incident with the Position Lodging Device (PLD) (called Speed Measuring Device (SMD) in the speed events) used for Wingsuit and Speed events that, as up to this day, for unknown reasons were not connecting to sufficient satellites and thus causing some rejumps. This led the organisers to interrupt the WS and SP events and initiated actions with the FAI and ISC to cover the cost of the rejumps. Details will be given during the plenary.

REGISTRATION

The registration to the event was done using Burble (a program used by Skydive Chicago to manage jumpers and manifest calls) The competitors had to register themselves in the system in order to later be able to register for the competition. NACs could not register the complete delegation as it should be done. This led to numerous errors in the registration procedure causing many issues with competitors

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not entering all the information required or registering themselves on multiple occasions. The program did not query any entry so there were more than 30 doubled competitors on the initial list. It took many hours to determine exactly who was entering which event. The final lists of entrants were created by the scoring provider. There is a need to create a standard registration template in a simple excel sheet to avoid Organizers testing registration systems during a FCE.

FINANCES:

Payments of the Deposit and the Sanction Fees were delayed and were insufficient for unknown reasons. The payment deadlines must be sooner to avoid this situation in the future

JUDGING EQUIPMENT AND JUDGING PANELS

The Judging panel for all the disciplines were conveniently located in a hangar in a very well distributed temporary infrastructure. The Intime scoring system functioned perfectly and the presence of Claire King was much appreciated. The SP and WS Scoring Technical Director- Gary Taylor, helped and assisted the judges when needed suggesting ideas and giving solutions and valuable input. The judging panels for all the disciplines worked extraordinary well, some days until very late at night and helping the other discipline panels when needed in any way possible. The judges were in a nearby hotel and rental vehicles were provided. Lunch at the Drop Zone was the same as for the competitors which was provided in take away plastic boxes. The Chief judges, Pekka Salmela, Silvia Wagner, Mike Pennock and Arnold Hohenegger were given credit cards to pay for the dinners excluding drinks. Many thanks to the Chief judges and the judging panel for their professionalism, fellowship and hard work, thanks to them all the events were promptly and fairly judged

VENUE SITE:

Venue site with team tents and vendor stands formed the competitor's village which created a nice atmosphere. A creeping tent was in the center and professional packers were available. The packing area for the delegations was in their own tent on the grass.

NOTIFICATION SYSTYEM

The organizers did not have a loud speaker system for calling the jumpers but preferred to use a WhatsApp group. This proved to be inappropriate and forced the Competitors to be constantly checking their mobile devices for the calls. Furthermore, the same WhatsApp group was used for Calling the jumpers and any other notification from the organisers, so it made it very complicated to see the calls. Fortunately, there were no protests about the notification system although there were many complaints.

JURY

The Jury had many records to process and with the aid of the remote Juror they were all processed before the end of the event. The Jury had to deal with a protest of a WS competitor whose Wingsuit was not accepted by the Judges Panel. There was also a request to waive WS CR 4.2

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The opening ceremony was organised in an old military fort and was a nice venue, the ceremony and the competitors' briefings were rushed due to the closing time of the fort. The location was very nice but inappropriate for the Competitors briefing.

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The closing ceremony was in a very nice conference center and included a very good dinner. Medals and trophies were awarded to the winners but as usual the ceremony was long.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

During the event, daily reports were sent to the FAI Communication Department and they posted news articles with Pictures and videos from the event in all of the FAI social media. The FAI fielded a professional photographer, Marcus King, to cover the event, and the organiser's photographer Anthony Armendariz also shared his work with the FAI and all can be seen in the FAI social media network.

Alberto Martin Paracuellos
FAI Controller