

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

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	Germany Proposal – ISC Commitment to World Games	<i>AGENDA #</i>	4.4
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<i>DATE:</i>	30 November 2024	<i>PAGES:</i>	Page 1 of 7

In accordance with Internal Regulations 3.7.3, GER requests the inclusion of the following proposal in the agenda for the 75th ISC Plenary in Rome.

Continued support for ISC athletes to compete at The World Games

Proposal:

The ISC is committed to continued participation in The World Games and will reinvigorate efforts to ensure the inclusion of ISC Disciplines at the 2029 World Games and beyond.

Rationale:

The FAI General Conference committed to continued participation in The World Games (TWG). The proposal made by the German Aeroclub received strong backing (91%) and is reproduced at the end of this document.

This proposal to ISC is based on the same arguments because they also apply directly to skydiving. Skydivers took part in seven past TWGs, drones in one and will be in the upcoming competition, paragliding (2013), aerobatics (2017), and paramotoring (2017) each took part once. Our previous long-time presence in TWG improves our chances of re-inclusion in 2029.

By expressing your support for TWG, ISC Plenary provides the basis on which ISC can build relationships with IWGA and the organising team for Karlsruhe 2029. The commitment by FAI, including funding, significantly reduces the burden on ISC. All ISC stakeholders can benefit in the ways presented to GC from the FAI decision for ongoing involvement in TWG.

I request that you agree to this proposal, which enables our athletes to present themselves on the world stage.

Tash Higman
ISC Delegate – Germany

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August 16th, 2024

118th FAI General Conference Agenda item request for the FAI General Conference

Dear Colleagues,

according to FAI Statute 3.6.1.1.2, we request the following item to be added to the agenda:

Continued support for FAI athletes to compete at World Games

The GERMAN NAC – as active member of FAI - requests that the General Conference decides about the following resolution:

The FAI is committed to continued participation in the World Games and to providing up to CHF 15,000 financial support annually until completion of the 2029 World Games and beyond.

Following the next World Games in 2025, the German Aeroclub urges fellow National Air Sports Controllers to confirm the continuous support of FAI participation in subsequent World Games.

Best regards



Claus Cordes
Präsident
German Aero Club (DAeC)

Mitglied im



Hauptsponsor



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Background:

1. The World Games (WG) are the most important competition for non-Olympic sports and the only civilian multi-sport event to include air sports.
2. In the past when FAI participated in the WG, both the commissions and athletes involved reported very positive experiences and results.
3. It is an opportunity for the air sports community to take advantage of the media exposure to grow membership and sponsorship opportunities.
4. The multi-sport nature of the WG brings forward opportunities and advantages that no other sports competition can provide.

The opportunities to show our excellent level of air sports enhance the visibility of our sports which encourages increased membership in our associations and connect and learn from other sports significantly and outweigh the cost of maintaining an ongoing working relationship with the IWGA.

1. Significance of World Games in the World of Sport

The WG are organised by the International World Games Association ("IWGA") and are considered the top event for non-Olympic sports by National Olympic Committees ("NOCs") or National Sporting Organisations ("NSOs"). This is demonstrated by the increasing number of Memorandums of Understanding ("MoUs") which are being signed between the IWGA and national associations. The MoUs intend to strengthen relationships and cooperation. In 2024 alone, approx. 20 MoUs were signed.

The WG mirror the Olympic Games with a four-year event cycle and the need for athletes to pre-qualify to take part. As a testing ground for Olympic sports, it is the most important non-Olympic multi-sport event. Recently introduced sports at the Olympic Games were previously World Games sports. Winners of Olympic gold medals in some of the new sports at this summer's Olympic Games were World Games Champions shortly before.

Since 1997, at the WG in Lahti, Finland, athletes from air sports have taken part at every single subsequent WG. Overall, air sports have been able to present themselves to new audiences on seven occasions over four continents:

- Europe 3 x (1997 Lahti/Finland, 2005 Duisburg/Germany, 2017 Wroclaw/Poland)
 - South America 1 x (2013 Cali/Colombia)
 - Asia 2 x (2001 Akita/Japan 2009 Kaohsiung/Chinese Taipei)
 - North America 1 x (2022 Birmingham/USA)
- In 2025 we will be presenting our sports in Asia in Chengdu/China.

2. Participants' experiences

The pre-qualification nature of the event ensures that only the best of the best can be selected to compete. Taking part in the WG is a high distinction and honour for the participants, as the athlete statements published on the FAI website clearly demonstrate:

'Likewise, [Cornelia Mihai](#), bronze medallist in the mixed Canopy Piloting in 2017 appreciates the thrill of competing at The World Games: "TWG is a fantastic event and you can only truly understand what I am talking about when you arrive. As skydivers we are used to competing on airfields and we are usually alone there, with no other athletes from different sports. Being in Birmingham with everyone else in the campus was brilliant. I truly felt like an athlete and it's great to get to know people as passionate as us but in different sports. The opening ceremony delights everyone. I still remember the feeling from Cali, Colombia in 2013 (her first time at TWG – Ed)... I felt like an Olympian!"
(<https://www.fai.org/news/air-sports-world-games-overview>)'

'[Killian Rousseau](#), champion drone pilot at The World Games 2022, remarked, "This is, for me, one of the most famous events around the world, and it's an awesome achievement to be invited and able to compete in this event. My experience in 2022 was incredible, the global event was so big and impressive and my wish is to make it to The World Games again. It's a race where every single pilot fought together to be there and a recognition of all our hard work."
(<https://www.fai.org/news/air-sports-world-games-overview>)'

For the athletes for whom we are raising our voice, taking part in the WG is not comparable to competing at an FCE. Although our FCE competitions may cover a large area, (e.g. Gordon Bennett Cup), they are relatively small in terms of the number of athletes and the size of the delegation.

Taking part in the WG is a special experience on a global level for all participants. It sets itself apart from FCEs by including so many different sports and hence a significantly larger number of athletes and other delegation members. In particular, the opening and closing ceremonies are of extraordinary dimensions for our athletes: in Birmingham, they were in front of 30,000 spectators and left lasting impressions on those taking part.

Sport brings people together and connects them, which is of increasing importance in a time of crises and wars.

3. Increased attention

During the WG all participating sports, athletes and officials experience unprecedented attention, recognition and value from the spectators.

There is also a lot of media interest, professional reporting, inter-sport delegation events and delegation uniforms as well as the presence and interest of high level sports representatives, politicians and VIPs, both nationally and internationally. For example, the German delegation was accompanied by a Vice President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), a member of parliament serving on the Committee for Sport and the head of sport in the German Federal Army (Bundeswehr).

Although FCEs are frequently visited by high level officials of the local/host area they are not key national decision-makers on sport support and/or funding.

The WG allow us to demonstrate our sports to an audience which may have never encountered air sports before and not been aware of FCEs. During the last WG, footage "was broadcast on TV in 61 territories, generating close to 1,640 broadcast hours, reaching an audience of 268 million."¹ Live streams and highlights from the same event accumulated over 557 thousand views². Social media reach was over 335 million with 3.91 million engagements.³

Even outside the event taking place, the IWGA has 3.5 times more followers on Instagram as FAI, a medium without language barriers because of its visual nature. Followers of other IWGA sports can be presented with images of FAI sports and may be more likely to investigate air sports.

The improved visibility provides an opportunity to gain more members for our associations. Top performance at top events always rubs off to the general public increasing the visibility and accessibility of a sport. Successful athletes act as ambassadors for a positive image, create interest, encourage others to emulate and provide national pride. They therefore play an important role in generating the grass-roots interest needed to grow our air sports.

The prominence of air sports in the IWGA Athlete of the Year competition should be highlighted as well: Luisa Rizzo, a drone pilot was the runner-up. The YouTube video introducing her had six times the views of the winning athlete, a squash player.

There is also the opportunity to present other aspects of the participating air sport or other air sports in and around our competition venue using less digital communication methods with spectators at the games.

Positive reporting on a global stage, as opposed to negative regional press when there are accidents or incidents, also significantly improves marketing and sponsorship opportunities for athletes and NACs. Most sponsorship agreements are based on the anticipated visibility of a brand. Providing brands with a wider audience than just one or more air sports opens the door to brands currently not interested in supporting our sports. Most of our athletes and organisers are only sponsored by industry players, targeting their market, which limits the value available.

¹ pg. 44 TWG 2022 – Quantum Event Evaluation Report [<https://www.theworldgames.org/files/wg2022/TWG%202022%20-%20Quantum%20Event%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf>]

² pg. 50 TWG 2022 – Quantum Event Evaluation Report

³ pg. 53 of the same report TWG 2022 – Quantum Event Evaluation Report

4. Additional opportunities

National Funding opportunities

FAI has been aiming to increase both participation and funding support at a national level. Taking part in the WG can lead to significantly higher funding opportunities in some countries. This support directly benefits high level sports and could lead to higher participation at FCEs, to the benefit of individual ASCs.

Some NSOs cover WG registration fees, reducing the financial burden on NACs and athletes. In some cases, the costs of judges are also funded by NSOs reducing the financial burden on event officials or FAI.

Idea Exchange Between Sports and Sports Organisations

FAI and air sports can be insular and introspective. There is limited integration with other sporting bodies at national or international levels. In part, this is due to the non-Olympic nature which means air sports are often excluded from NOC activities. Air sports are perceived as elitist by some non-participants. Some air sports have high entry barriers due to safety and cost which is off-putting to many.

The WG provides us with an opportunity to showcase to other sports that the barriers are not as high as they think. The multi-sport environment enables us to share our vision to have "A world where safe participation in air sports and recreational flying is available to everyone at reasonable cost" with a wide variety of fellow sportsmen. The varied nature of our sports means that they are ideal second careers for high level athletes from other sports. We can offer them opportunities to continue a high level athlete career after their first career has ended.

Prime examples are ex-gymnasts and ballerinas competing in skydiving.

Being present at the WG enables our officials to know and trust their counterparts in other sports. Sharing a space with different sports enables networking between stakeholders at all levels. This provides the opportunity to learn about alternative approaches to rulemaking, processes, structures, etc. from other sports.

Even the ASCs that do not participate in the WGs themselves can benefit from this knowledge gain and exchange, for example by establishing an FAI internal reporting system or an internal exchange. The FAI may be able to connect with other international federations and share experiences at that level too.

Shared Values between the FAI and World Games: Olympic Movement

As can be expected the values of the WG match our own values. The WG reinforce principles of high performance and good sportsmanship, combining role-modelling the standards and values of cooperation and collaboration with others. The support of others during the event beyond one's own sport opens new perspectives and can be educational.

The large number of participating nations and sports encourages getting to know and respect other cultures and lifestyles and contributes to the reduction of prejudices and discriminatory patterns of thought. The opportunities for children, young people, women, men and people with disabilities set shining examples for successful youth work, equality and inclusion.

The mission of the WG is to unite and develop different communities in and through sport, an increasingly important international goal. The values of the WG, "Excellence", "Sustainability" and "Inclusiveness" are shared with all air sports.

Importance of World Game Participation to Air Sports

Air sports are a multi-type international, modern trend sport which is taken serious by others. We want to be seen at the WG because we have something to offer.

We need to provide certainty of the financial support to remain in the IWGA from FAI so that our athletes can continue to aim to take part in the biggest sporting event available to them and those supporting the athletes can continue communication with IWGA and learning from its fellow members.

Continued participation in future WG will maintain and could enhance our perceived importance in the world of sport.