

Subject:	USA PROPOSAL TO AMEND CANOPY FORMATION CR 6.2 & 6.3	Annex No. -	34
Author:	Kirk Verner, IPC Delegate, USA	Agenda ref. -	16.3.5
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Proposal: CF competition rule change – reduced-speed viewing

Respectfully submitted by the United States

Motion: to amend Competition Rules for Canopy Formation, sections 6.2 and 6.3, to read as follows:

6.2. The judges will watch each performance once at normal speed to determine points in time. The judges shall start the timing when the first team member (including the team's videographer) leaves the aircraft. At the end of working time, freeze frame of the video image shall be applied. The freeze frame from the first viewing will be applied on each viewing.

If, after the ~~second~~ first viewing has taken place and a clear decision has not been made as to when the working time begins, the Event Judge may guide the Panel of Judges as to when to start their chronometers. At the request of any working judge, a second viewing may be made at normal or reduced speed between 70-90 percent of normal speed. ~~A third viewing at normal speed may only occur when authorised by the Event Judge.~~ At the request of the Event Judge a (3rd) third view of part(s) of the jump may be conducted at normal or reduced speed. The speed of the second and third viewings (normal or reduced) will be determined by the Event Judge. The Chief Judge will decide prior to the start of the Competition the percentage of reduced speed to be used for the different Events.

6.3 If, after all viewings are complete, and within 15 seconds of knowledge of the result, the Chief Judge, Event Judge or any Judge on the panel considers that an absolutely incorrect assessment has occurred, the Chief Judge or Event Judge will direct that only that those part(s) of the jump in question be reviewed at reduced speed in accordance with 6.2. If the review results in a unanimous decision by the Judges that an absolutely incorrect assessment has occurred on the part(s) of the jump in question, the score for the jump will be adjusted accordingly. Only one review is permitted for each jump.

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Commentary:

At the December 6, 2012 competitors' meeting with judges at the Mondial, judges expressed having difficulty with the speed of modern CF performance and were not averse to the suggestion from competitors that perhaps it was time CF was able to employ reduced-speed video as FS was able to during the same championships. Reasons cited included the following:

1. The speed of maneuvers in canopy formation has increased greatly just in the past several years. Skilled 2-way teams at the international level can now turn upwards of 35 and even 50 points per minute, depending on the draw. Average scores at the last World Championships were in the mid- to high 20's for the top three teams.

2. Not allowing reduced-speed judging forces judges to make guesses which can create an uneven playing field. During the post-competition meeting at the Mondial in 2012, one judge admitted that during certain dives, they felt like they were "judging the rhythm," not the actual point. During live judging, competitors had noticed that at least one judge would grant points even before grips were taken for top teams, but not for slower teams. Slow-motion viewing can level the playing field by enabling judges to replay a dive or parts of a dive at a more manageable speed for the human eye, thereby reducing the tendency to guess at points, a process by which judges could subconsciously favor more established teams.

3. Reduced-speed judging has been successfully used in FS competition. The language of this proposal is taken from Competition Rules for Formation Skydiving section 5.4. Given that top-level CF 2-way performance speeds now rival those of half the 4-way FS teams, the time has come to give judges modern-day tools to match the modern-day speeds that they are seeing.