

Technical Secretary's Report to the 2012 CIAM Plenary Meeting

1. World Records

Between April 2011 and the beginning of March 2012, an extraordinary 23 new world records were homologated. World Records are a core element of Aeromodelling and I urge all of you to encourage record attempts in your own countries.

Currently classes with retired records (because of changes to the class specification or record rules) do not appear in the records class list on the records page FAI/CIAM website. This is causing great confusion to those who visit the site. As a matter of course, all the classes in which a world record may be set (ie the same list as in the ABR volume, Part Two – Records, Table 1) should show on the website. I am attempting to have this resolved with the FAI Records department and hope that we soon have a positive outcome.

The historical records section – where retired records as mentioned in the previous paragraph and retired classes such as F8 (autonomous flight) – appear is still not available on the website. It will be a great relief when this is again available and where we can read the details of extraordinary past performances.

Sporting Calendar

There are three concerns regarding the Sporting Calendar on the FAI/CIAM website:

Competitions

The competitions listed on the Sporting Calendar do not currently show the class, or specific type of competition. The generic name of F1 Free Flight or F3 Radio Controlled Flight is simply not sufficient. At the very least, the class name (or names in the case of multiple class competitions) needs to be shown.

World Cup Competitions

It is important for competitors considering entering a particular World Cup series, to know which are World Cup competitions therefore these competitions need to be annotated as such in a prominent place without having to open up the “details” tab of every competition in the category.

Order of Competitions

The Sporting Calendar is listed in reverse date order which is illogical and very irritating to use.

Again, I am liaising with the FAI office in an attempt to improve these aspects of the Sporting Calendar.

Proposals

This agenda has XXXXX number of proposals. As in previous years, there are many proposals that address the same rules.

Sporting Code Volumes

Many of the volumes of the Sporting Code are very large and contain many classes. They are labour intensive in their maintenance and updating and the potential for either mistakes or omissions – especially in consequential changes and cross-referencing – is substantial. I suggest that we undergo a radical change that would be beneficial to both the generation and maintenance of the Sporting Code and also to the Plenary meeting, and that we separate the current volumes of the Code into two types:

- (a) The volumes of the Code to contain only those classes that regularly appear on the Sporting Calendar. The generation, maintenance and publication of the volumes – the “International Volumes” - should remain the responsibility of the Technical Secretary in liaison with the Subcommittee Chairmen.
- (b) The rest of the classes to be contained in “Sub-volumes” which would be maintained by the Sub-Committee Chairman who would have full responsibility for these “Sub-volumes”.

- (c) Both the International volumes and the Sub-volumes would be published and available on the FAI/CIAM website.
- (d) Rule changes for classes in the International volumes would continue to be considered at the Plenary meeting. Rule changes for classes in the Sub-volumes would be considered by the appropriate Subcommittee.
- (e) Proposals for new classes would be considered by Plenary but the rules for such would be considered by the appropriate Subcommittee until such time that there was a request for a class to be included in the appropriate International volume because it would be included on the following year's Sporting Calendar. (See item (g) below).
- (f) I envisage the same time-line as at present:
 - Rule changes for those classes in the International volumes to be considered bi-annually with proposals to FAI by 15th November in any year. Approved rule changes effective 1st January following the Plenary meeting.
 - Those classes in the Sub-volumes to be considered annually but utilising the existing time-line: rule change proposals to FAI by 15th November of any year and approval (or not) by the appropriate Subcommittee by the date of the following Plenary meeting. Subcommittee approved rule changes effective 1st January following the Plenary meeting.
 - Both the International volumes and the Sub-volumes of the Code to be published by 1st January each year.
- (g) When one of the Sub-volume classes is registered with FAI for the following year's Sporting Calendar then the Technical Secretary, in liaison with the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman would check the rules to ensure that they did not contain anomalies, conflicts or errors. If they did then these would be resolved by the Technical Secretary and appropriate Sub-Committee Chairman. The Technical Secretary would move that particular class's rules from the Sub-volume to the International volume for publication by 1st January the following year.
- (h) There are a number of benefits in this system:
 - Possible reduced Plenary meeting agenda.
 - Possible reduction of the amount of time that Plenary has currently to devote to rule amendment proposals.
 - Possible reduction in the volume of work that the CIAM Secretary & Technical Secretary spend in preparing the Agenda for, and Minutes of, the Plenary meeting.
 - Substantial reduction in the volume of work necessary for the Technical Secretary to enable publication of the current volumes of the Code by 1st January each year.
 - Additionally, the volumes of the Code would be easier to use at Championships.

I should like to ask all the Delegates to please give this idea some thought and email me with their views. If there is sufficient support for this idea then we can begin to progress it. To be able to establish whether or not there *is* support, an email to the Technical Secretary is necessary; no response will be considered as supporting the idea.

Of course if we continue to promote provisional classes to official and championship status as frequently as happens, without ever reducing the overall number of championship classes, then the volumes of the Code will continue to increase in size and complexity.

Reduction of Championships & Classes

- In 2010 Bureau was mandated by Plenary to investigate this and produce a proposal for 2011 Plenary. The item has been discussed at Bureau but there has been no positive outcome and, of course, no proposal for Plenary to consider.
- In 2011 two new championships were approved by Plenary as well as at least two new classes.
- For the 2012 Plenary meeting, there are proposals for two more new championships and two more new classes for the 2012 Plenary.
- So, far from resolving the problem, Plenary is being asked to make the problem worse.

Firstly, a number of **European** Championship classes are either not held, or have to be cancelled for lack of entries. I suggest that these are removed from the Continental (European) Championship schedule and are retained only as bi-annual **World** Championships.

Secondly, we need to analyse and establish the “successful” World and Continental (European) Championships with “success” being measured by (a) the number of entries and (b) the number of supporters that attend the Championships. (After all, if the fans do not attend the Championships then there little hope that anyone else would be interested in them.)

Once analysed and established, we then abandon the European cycle for the least successful ones but maintain the 2-year cycle for their World Championships. In a non-World Championship year those categories could hold a World Cup if they do not have another league system such as the F3D Europa Cup and the Soaring Eurotour.

This way:

- there would be a Category 1 competition every two years for competitors to aim for (no different than at present where the “outside-Europe” countries may only enter the bi-annual World Championships);
- there would be a gap year for the organisers to develop funding and resources for the bi-annual Championships;
- those categories’ competitors & NACs won’t need to commit financial resources each year;
- those categories established as successful, continue with an alternative year cycle of World/European Championships.

I would also suggest that we eliminate the “fast-tracking” of championships (ABR rule A.16.2). A number of these “fast-tracked” championship classes have either had lots of rule amendments at the same time as being granted championship status or immediately following the first championship. Stable rules have to be the hallmark of conferring Category 1 status. Permitting a World Championship to run to an untested set of rules is not only folly but diminishes the status of the competition.

World Championship status should be reserved for a class that represents the pinnacle of achievement in each category.

I suggest we revert to our original rules for conferring championship status on a class, or, if that is not acceptable, then we should require the class in question to be run as a World Cup series for two or three years. Then, after this, a formal analysis undertaken of the numbers of competitions held on the Sporting Calendar with the number of countries and entries at each competition. If the analysis proves that the class could be viable as a successful championship, it could then be considered for championship status.

New FAI Website

The new FAI website has been - and continues to be – a huge project for the FAI. I have spent a substantial number of man hours with the FAI Communications Manager in checking, correcting and

advising on how best the CIAM website could work within the new FAI website format. There is still a long way to go. I have been pleased to help and support some of the new FAI staff in their steep learning curves.

Miscellaneous

I have dealt with a great many interesting queries throughout the year.

There are still some outstanding projects that I need to address and I shall do my very best to complete these as soon as possible.

Jo Halman
CIAM Technical Secretary
3rd March 2012