

65th FAI / IPC PLENARY MEETING, VARSHETS, BULGARIA, 31 JANUARY – 01 FEBRUARY 2015

Subject:	WINGSUIT WORKING GROUP REPORT FOR 2014 & 2015 OPEN MEETING AGENDA	Annex No. -	12
Author:	James Hayhurst, Chair of Wingsuit Working Group	Agenda ref. -	10.1
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IPC WINGSUIT WORKING GROUP - CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

The IPC Wingsuit Working (WG) did most of its work in a flurry at the end of the year, for two reasons. First, while having achieved long-sought approval of large formation no-grip records at the IPC Plenary Meeting in Vienna, we made what I now believe was a fundamental mistake by creating a record category based on a document outside a set of competition rules or SC-5.

The working group drafted “Wingsuit Largest Formation Performance Record Rules” with the idea of publishing it on the FAI website, but it should have been written into SC-5. Fortunately, in 2014 there were no world large formation wingsuit attempts. However, in the coming year, there are known plans to attempt wingsuit large formation FAI world records, so we must get the criteria directly into SC-5 and get judges qualified to evaluate large formation wingsuit records. In addition, based on our experience in the U.S., applying these rules to smaller formations (sized 4 to 9), I now believe that for FAI world records, we should start with a minimum size of 10. That item is reflected in the agenda.

Meanwhile, wingsuiting continues to be the fastest growing segment of skydiving, with first-jump students showing up at drop zones exclusively because they are drawn to wingsuiting. These are all future skydiving competitors; but already today we have a robust community with hundreds of wingsuit flyers taking part in dozens of meets each year. Like canopy piloting, wingsuits in flight have a natural visual appeal that draws in the public; these are inherently attractive and dynamic events, which is in keeping with the IPC strategic vision. Around the world, wingsuit flyers are competing in artistic events and performance events—and at a level exceeding many established FAI disciplines!

With the understanding that as chair of WSWG my assignment was to get the competition part of this discipline (artistic and performance) “off the ground,” this summer I took the unusual step of asking the Bureau to allow me to replace two members of the working group (because the limit for a working group is five, not eight as allowed for permanent IPC committees) in order to bring in two respected, veteran wingsuit competitors/organizers from wingsuit artistic/performance flying communities.

These two individuals are Klaus Rheinwald, of Germany—one of the acknowledged performance flying experts in the world; and Zach Schroedel, a well-known US artistic wingsuit flyer who has been running artistic events in the US. In addition, I asked Jarno Cordia, acknowledged leader of the artistic wingsuit flying community in Europe (if not the world) to join Zach in writing a set of competition rules. As it turned out (due to Zach’s unexpected work commitments), Jarno has done most of the work on the artistic rules. However, he coordinated closely with Zach and members of the artistic wingsuit community to fine-tune what were already mature, well-tested rules.

I am pleased to say we now have two sets of draft competition rules on the agenda for consideration. To exercise these rules we’ll need debut FAI wingsuit competitions. Fortunately, for Performance competition we have a bid prepared by reigning Performance World Champion Jackie Harper, from Netheravon, UK. This bid has the full support of the British Parachute Association. Netheravon is one of four DZs that held a Wingsuit World Series event in 2014. The UK competition was the largest with 57 competitors of the 93 who took part in the overall World Series. The bid has the support of DZs hosting performance meets: Skydive Balaton, Hungary (World Series Event 2), Skydive Marl, Germany (World Series Event 3) and Skydive Elsinore, USA (World Series Event 4).

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Additionally, we have a letter of intent from Mr. Cordia, who organizes the largest artistic wingsuiting competition in the world in France, for a bid to host a World Cup of Artistic Wingsuiting. We were not able to fully prepare this bid before the agenda deadline due to an exception family circumstance in Mr. Cordia's family (a new baby with health issues); however, this bid will be prepared well before the upcoming meeting in January so all concerned can give it proper consideration in advance.

The Working Group has much to do in the two months between the writing of this report and the meeting itself. By the time we meet in Varshets, I am confident we will have drafted a functional program for training/transitioning FAI judges in all three aspects of wingsuit judging:

- 1) Large Formation – application of the rules and the grid overlay using photo-software
- 2) Artistic –something like sequential 2-way with a dash of artistic, judges in the “video disciplines” (CF, FS, AE) will find the event quite familiar and easy to learn
- 3) Performance – like Speed Skydiving. Klaus Rheinwald and others have worked for years to perfect the GPS recording device and software used by the Wingsuit World Series; judges will find it a snap to oversee the process of data download and scoring software

Second, over the next two months the working group will review the Performance CRs prepared by Klaus Rheinwald and the Artistic CRs prepared by Zach Schroedel and Jarno Cordia; while these rules are “tried-and-tested,” I expect we will find some minor edits and document “clean up.”

Third, at the meeting we will coordinate with the Rules & Regulation Committee to place the large formation rules in SC-5, so that the grid file is the only added item on the FAI website. If all this goes forward successfully, the final step will be for the working group to write terms of reference and propose that the Plenary retire the working group and establish a permanent committee.

Respectfully,

James L. Hayhurst

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WSWG AGENDA - 2015 VARSHETS:

- Chairman's Report – 2014
- Judge training program
- Artistic Wingsuit Flying Rules
- Wingsuit Performance Rules
- 2015 World Cup bid proposals
- Wingsuit Large Formation Records – adopt minimum size of ten (10); integrate into SC-5
- Wingsuit Records – re-assess viability of the SC-5 3.3.3(3) Wingsuit Time of Fall Record
- Create Terms of Reference for Permanent IPC Wingsuit Flying Committee
- Assess and nominate potential candidates for a Wingsuit Committee (chairman plus eight)