

Richard Meredith-Hardy

To: CIMA Delegates list; CIMA Information list (cima-info-l@fai.org)
Subject: EPC 2013 - CIMA Bureau position at 19 Dec 2012

Dear All

FAI is a group of 100 or so members from around the World who cooperate in an organized way to manage aviation records and championships. In order to apply consistency and fairness to all members and the people they represent in these activities, FAI maintains a set of rules as to how this should be done. These rules are maintained in an entirely democratic manner throughout the FAI structure.

If a member wins a bid to hold a championships, then the rules say there must be a formal agreement between FAI and the NAC of the Organizer. This is the Organizer Agreement, and since it is a legal document, it is managed for all air sports by the people the FAI members employ to do this sort of thing within FAI Secretariat. The OA is a standard text, and across all air sports it is signed by 45 to 50 championship organizers every year. When it is signed by all parties, then amongst other things the organizer has agreed the event will be run to FAI rules, and FAI agrees to give its sanction for the event to proceed as a FAI event to which any of its members may enter teams.

Paap Kolar, organizer of EPC 2013 was told a very long time ago that for FAI to sanction EPC 2013 in Estonia the Organizer Agreement must be signed on behalf the Estonian NAC in time for the November 2012 CIMA Plenary.

Despite extensive correspondence and discussion with FAI Secretariat, It was not.

The Plenary granted an extension until 15 December 2012.

As of 19 December 2012 there is still no signed organizer agreement for EPC 2013, the reason for this is because the Estonian NAC has not signed it.

With no Organizer Agreement there is no FAI championship.

When there is a signed OA, then the NAC has agreed the Organizer will run the championship to FAI rules.

In this case, the FAI rules are the rules for Paramotor Championships contained in the FAI Sporting Code. The model for organizers to use is published in Annexes 3 & 4 of Section 10. This model is a tried and tested implementation of the rules, and nearly every single word in it has been examined in infinite detail at some time or other in the last 25 years, and everything in it is there for some very good reason. It is the agreed text constituting the collective wisdom of years of practical experience.

Nevertheless, it has been customary to allow organizers to amend the agreed text subject to the approval of CIMA at the final plenary before the event, usually this is to allow variation peculiar to the local circumstances. Since it is a complex business and CIMA operates in a multi-lingual environment there are rules for how these variations should be introduced. They are all contained in Annex 2 to Section 10, which basically say that differences to the model must be listed, and the reasons for them, and all this must be done in good time before the meeting so all interested parties have a chance to study them.

In the case of EPC 2013 none of this was done. The proposed Local Regulations was published for the first time on the CIMA wiki in the middle of the night immediately preceding the first meeting; the proposed task catalogue was not published until after an overnight delay was agreed by the Plenary, and even then it was only produced a matter of minutes before the meeting started. You can make your own conclusions as to why it was done this way, but in either case there was no possible opportunity for any CIMA delegate to properly study these complex documents. Furthermore, they contained no indication of differences to the model - and there are many.

The Plenary therefore resolved to defer the decision to approve the LR and TC by giving it to its elected representative outside of Plenary sessions; the CIMA Bureau. Additionally, the Plenary gave some guidance in

respect of some of the proposed amendments to the model text, and it set a deadline of 15th December 2012 for this all to be done.

Since there is no FAI championship if there is no Organizer Agreement, the Bureau informed Paap after the Plenary that it would attend to the proposed LR & TC the moment the OA was signed.

The OA is still not signed.

Nevertheless, to prevent delays, the CIMA Bureau has been considering the proposed local regulations so it could transmit its comment on the LR & TC to the organizer of EPC 2013 the moment there is evidence of a signed OA.

At this stage it must be said that this is not an easy task because the proposed LR is in a completely different format to the model. The proposed drafts are at <http://wiki.fai.org/x/u4Lr> for all to review, and still contain those items which were specifically refused by the Plenary. Besides that, there appears to be many other differences too, notably a proposed change to team scoring which is always a very controversial issue when it is discussed at Plenaries.

==== So where do we go from here? =====

There is no point in arguing about what Paap says in his letter he published on monday, the volumes of correspondence speaks for itself. I am happy to copy it to anyone who cares to read it.

FAI Secretariat has given the EPC 2013 organizers one last chance to get evidence of a signed copy of an OA back to Secretariat as soon as possible.

The deadline set by the Plenary is now past so all guarantees set by the Plenary are now off. Once there is an OA signed by the organizer, the CIMA Bureau will decide whether it still wants to sign it on behalf of CIMA. If the Bureau decides it should still proceed, it will then address the matter of LR and TC, and set an immovable deadline for an agreed result.

The CIMA Bureau and FAI Secretariat have consistently tried to help get this championships to happen, but for it to be a FAI championships everyone must stick within the FAI rules. In the case of Secretariat and the OA, these are the rules set by the General Conference and Executive board, in the case of the LR & TC it is the Sporting Code mostly set by CIMA. None of these rules are a mystery; in the case of Category 1 championships an Organizer either complies, and the championship happens under the FAI flag, or does not, and it doesn't.

At this moment it seems the organizer of EPC 2013 is no closer to compliance with the rules than at the Plenary a month ago. In an overall context this does not give the Bureau a very warm furry feeling about the potential success of the event. Nevertheless, the CIMA Bureau still hopes the event will happen under the FAI flag but the initiative is with the organizer to comply with the rules. Since this cannot go on interminably, the window of opportunity is getting smaller as every day passes.

The CIMA Bureau will of course keep everyone informed of developments.

Regards

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CIMA President