

Minutes of Paramotor Subcommittee meeting at CIMA Plenary 2015

Maison Du Sport, Thursday November the 5th, starting at 13:00, finished at 19:30

1. Attendance and Proxies

Norway (proxy for Denmark)
Poland (proxy for Israel)
Italy (proxy for Spain)
Germany (proxy for USA)
Thailand (proxy for Korea)
Great Britain
Japan
France (proxy for Algeria)
Czech Republic
Taiwan (proxy for Hong Kong China)
Malaysia (proxy for China)
Russia

2. Matters arising

Issues with team medals for pilots - to be discussed later.

3. Presentation from Wojtek (Poland) on safety in slaloms

A working group was set up in WPSC2015 to study all flights. Statistics from results presented to meeting.

786 flights total, 20 incidents logged:

4 ground touches, 6 pylon touches, 1 timing gate touch, 9 collapses.

From these, 2 broken hands and 1 fatality.

Pilot who died had touched pylon 3 times - video clearly showed that he saw this as the correct technique to fly the task

Wing modifications by pilots have increased likelihood of collapses.

Most of severe collapses happen on approach to timing gates.

Video shown of all major incidents

Recommendation to have an experienced pilot in competition watching how pilots fly slaloms and recommending technique or cautioning dangerous pilots.

Key improvements:

- promote clean flights
- Penalty for touches
- Penalty for collapses
- 30m before open/close of course is also counted for touch penalties

- One worst result removed so pilots know they can not worry about the slalom timing to sort out a collapse
- Forbid any modifications to wings. Pilots must declare no modification, or possibly deliver manufacturer certification to approve mods.

Various options for how penalties are applied to points discussed

French are planning all 2016 slalom comps to be over water.

RMH: asks: are the small canopies evolving because of the competitions or because pilots want to fly that normally?

Wojtek: two phenomena happening at same time. 1: pilots choosing this equipment for comps. 2: wing design evolution is naturally allowing for smaller sizes generally. Pilots are ordering both 15 and 16 m to test. The 15 is faster in a straight line but slower to turn. Round a course, the 16 or 18m wings are proving faster.

RMH: the collapses appear to be worse on the smaller wings. Questions whether CIMA should be promoting slaloms in this format. Result of Classic comp format is a very good safety record relative to paragliding. Following regulation on paragliding comps, manufacturers started cheating... Means that a requirement for manufacturer certification of pilot wing mods will not be trustworthy.

RMH: There is now a massive financial incentive for some pilots do well in eg. WAG - some countries will pay pilots up to 200,000 euro for a gold medal. Creates a "win or die" scenario.

How can we develop tasks for slalom comps that don't rely solely on time?

Water in comps is better but People won't be able to practice over water.

Nayot (Thai) questioned if there was data for wing loading in WPSC. Wojtek said no they're all about 8kg per m². Generally the smaller the canopy the higher the pressure internally and the less likely of collapses. So the main issue is pilot behaviour and technique.

Wojtek: Collapses happen, if pilots continue the task they can be bad but if the use normal collapse behaviour and forget the task they are usually safe enough. Argues for better training of pilots.

4. World air games

All tasks over water.

Standard slalom.

Also new ones includes a foot drag and a wing tip touch in 360. Wojtek asks about safety while wing tip touch, Joel (France) answers it is over water, the format was expected by organiser and is confirmed officially in bulletin.

Also different layout for when it is windy-head to head race.

Details in WAG bulletin.

5. World League Cup

Presentation from Wojtek.

7 competitions were used for it. 1 was cancelled and 1 didn't have enough pilots.

Thailand in lead for 2015.

RMH pointed out that translations of Thai names can change and lead to problems.

6. Electric paramotors

Presence at WPSC2015

Use in World Games 2017

RMH idea: what about a maximum thrust limit on slalom paramotors?

7. Presentation of future competitions

Spain EPSC 2016 Bornos. Presentation is on CIMA wiki. All flown over water.

2016 bid for Estonia world endurance paramotor championship. No presentation
Voted to recommend we allow Estonia to host first world paramotor endurance
championship:

In favour 11

Abstain 5

Against 1

2017 Asia Oceania paramotor championships TBC. Thailand will bid if China don't.

2017 world paramotor slalom championship in France (possibility)

2018 10th WPC in Thailand. Near to Bangkok.

8. Voting for recommendations on proposals

1: need for an FAI licence to receive a Colibri proficiency badge:

In favour: 0

Against: 4

Abstentions: 13

2: clarification of scoring system:

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

3: withdrawn

4: shorten time for complaints:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

5: change text description of allowable complaints - “any matter” becomes “director decision”:

In favour: 0

Against: 1

Abstentions: 17

6: publication of complaints

In favour: 1

Against: 13

Abstentions: 4

7: withdrawn

8: backtracking

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

9:entry fee refunds:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 7

10: changes to slalom scoring (GBR)

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

11: new slalom task proposal ‘precision wing handling’. 2 sticks only.

Proposal to modify wording for a ‘proper’ wing landing as per S10: I.e it only has to touch the ground - no slack lines needed.

Vote on amendment to wording:

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Subsequent vote on proposal:

In favour: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions: 5

12: new slalom task proposal ‘precision wing handling’. 2 sticks and mini cones

Proposal to amend wording to require task directors to specify distance between cones in local regs for individual classes so pilots can train for it. Russia said they have tried this successfully with PL but with longer cone distance.

Vote on amendment to wording:

In favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions:4

Subsequent vote on proposal:

In favour: 12

Against: 1

Abstentions: 8

13: new task catalogue and local regulations for slalom competitions as new annex to S.10.

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

14: fast slow scoring - score only difference

In favour: 4

Against: 6

Abstentions: 11

15: requirement to fly slalom comps over water

Vote on proposal:

In favour: 11

Against: 7

Abstentions: 3

Proposed amendment to remove requirement for specific depth:

In favour:13

Against:0

Abstentions:4

Vote on placing the requirement in Paramotor Slalom Competition Model Local Regulation (expected Annex 7

In favour: 15

Against: 2

Abstentions: 4

Also note for S.10 editor: the text makes is slightly unclear, but this proposal is definitely meant to apply ONLY to cat 1 slalom-only competitions, NOT slalom tasks in classic comps.

9. Any Other Business

Medals for teams:

Difficult to order ahead when no idea how big the team will be.

The procedure to get medals for teams after competition is finished exists, and special order form is available on CIMA wiki. Problem: FAI office is not co-operative so far.

Voted to order to next bureau to work out medal problems.

Minutes compiled by Barney Townsend 05/11/2015