

**FAI SPORTING CODE
GENERAL SECTION**



2018 Edition

Effective 1st January 2018

Approved by the Air Sport General Commission, October 24, 2017

Ver. 1.0

FAI – FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE – THE WORLD AIR SPORTS FEDERATION

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4. SPORTING EVENTS

4.1 CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

A Sporting Event is any air sport event or other defined contest organized by or on behalf of either an NAC or FAI. For classification purposes, the definitions in 4.1.1 to 4.1.5 apply. Other definitions and classifications may be contained in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

4.1.1 NATIONAL SPORTING EVENT: a Sporting Event open only to participants of the organising NAC.

4.1.2 INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT: a Sporting Event in which entry is open to more than one NAC or to individual participants, all of whom hold a valid Sporting License, which collectively are issued by more than one NAC.

4.1.3 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

4.1.3.1 CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP. An International Sporting Event open to participants from all NACs within a specific Continental Region defined in the Sporting Code (see para 2.5) and, in case of vacancies, to participants from other invited non-eligible NACs. The competitor, or team from one of the NACs within that specific region, with the highest aggregate score at the end of the event, shall be the winner and be awarded the title of Continental Region Champion.

4.1.3.2. CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR OTHER REGIONAL GROUPINGS. As above but for other regional groupings of countries not included in 2.5 but approved by the Air Sport General Commission for the specific championship concerned. This includes groupings within continents or trans-continental groupings.

4.1.4 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP. An International Sporting Event open to participants from all NACs, and in which the winner is awarded the title of World Champion.

4.1.5 WORLD AIR GAMES. An International Sporting Event involving several FAI air sports at the same time and open to participants from NACs. Rules for the WAG are available from FAI. CASI will approve the General Rules for the WAG. For the WAG, where these General Rules are in conflict with the Sporting Code, the General Rules will prevail.

4.1.6 MULTI-SPORT COMPETITIONS. A Competition where Sporting Events for one or more Air Sports are included, but which also include Sports other than Air Sports. To the extent that the Events are under FAI control, the FAI Sporting Code and, as far as possible, the Competition Rules for First Category Events will be used. To fit the concept of the

Competition these Rules may be adapted by the ASC(s) concerned and the FAI Executive Board/Head Office may agree to propose a special event. The final Event Rules shall be approved by both the ASC(s) and the FAI EB as per 4.4.3.

4.2 REGISTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS.

The FAI maintains and publishes an International Sporting Calendar. In order to be recognised, an International Sporting Event must be registered in the FAI Sporting Calendar by the NAC(s) authorizing or organizing it. Such registration must be received by the FAI Secretariat a minimum of thirty days before the starting date of the event or at an earlier time if specified by an ASC in its Specialised Section.

4.3 RECOGNITION OF SPORTING EVENTS

4.3.1 Unless otherwise decided by the FAI General Conference, Sporting Events registered in the FAI Sporting Calendar (4.2) must be held in accordance with FAI rules.

4.3.2 In addition to 4.3.1, registered Sporting Events taking place in a year will only be recognised if the organising NAC has fulfilled all its obligations to FAI.

4.4 SPORTING EVENTS LISTED IN THE FAI SPORTING CALENDAR

4.4.1 FIRST CATEGORY EVENTS

4.4.1.1 World Air Games, as approved by the General Conference.

4.4.1.2 World and Continental Regional Championships, as approved by the ASCs and confirmed by the Executive Board as part of its approval of the FAI Sporting Calendar (Statute 4.2.2.11)

4.4.1.3 International Sporting Events approved by

4.4.5 FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF EVENTS: each ASC **ASC Air Sport Commission** shall determine the frequency and location of its events in accordance with the following principles:

4.4.4.1 World and Continental Championships should be held approximately every two years in any discipline or class in accordance with the provisions of the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code.

4.4.4.2 As far as possible World and Continental Championships should not be held in the same calendar year

4.5 PARTICIPANTS

4.5.1 ENTRANT: a person or NAC from whom a completed entry form has been received for participation in a sporting event. A person or persons unable to represent an NAC may be authorized to participate by the FAI Executive Board or the ASC concerned, such person

or team being defined as FAI Participants

4.5.2 COMPETITOR: a person entered and competing in a sporting event.

4.5.3 TEAM: a group of two or more competitors, the combined performance of which is counted for the result.

4.5.3.1. NATIONAL TEAM. A group of two or more competitors representing one NAC.

4.5.3.2 INTERNATIONAL TEAM. A group of two or more competitors, who collectively represent more than one NAC or are FAI Participants, as defined in 4.5.1 but excluding an FAI team.

4.5.3.3 FAI TEAM. A group of two or more FAI Participants.

4.5.4 CHAMPION: the title conferred upon the winner of a World or Regional Championship.

The winner of a World Air Games competition will be awarded the title World Air Games Champion for the competition concerned.

4.6 PARTICIPATION

4.6.1 International Sporting Events taking place in a year are open only to NACs that have met

all their obligations to FAI.

4.6.2 Every NAC organising an International Sporting Event must make every reasonable effort to ensure admission into its country to any entrant entitled to participate in the event. If the organizing NAC finds that, for any reason, an entrant of another country may be or will be refused admission, it shall immediately inform the FAI Secretary General, the ASC President concerned and the NAC of the entrant.

4.6.3 FAI Participants may be invited to participate in international sporting events providing that the organizing NAC and the relevant ASC approve.

4.6.4 In team events the relevant ASC may restrict the participation of International Teams in First Category Events.

4.7 REPRESENTATION RIGHTS

4.7.1 In First Category international sporting events, a competitor represents the NAC that issued the FAI Sporting Licence, unless he belongs to a international team. NACs are responsible for ensuring that holders of their FAI Sporting Licences who participate in Second Category international sporting events abide by the FAI Sporting Code and the rules and regulations for the event.

4.7.2 FAI competitors or teams complying with 4.5.1 and/or 4.6.1 may be invited to participate in international sporting events, providing that the organizing NAC confirms that vacancies exist.

4.8 OFFERS TO HOST FAI SPORTING EVENTS

4.8.1 BIDS: bids by or on behalf of an NAC to hold a First Category Event shall comply with the specific regulations issued by the ASC responsible.

4.8.2 ADMISSION INTO A COUNTRY: the bid must provide details of any conditions of admission of participants to the country or location of the event. If any restrictions are proposed or found, the FAI Executive Board shall decide whether they are acceptable, having taken advice on sporting aspects from the ASC concerned and the CASI Bureau.

4.9 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR FAI SPORTING EVENTS

4.9.1 FIRST CATEGORY EVENTS: General Regulations for First Category Events shall be contained in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code. Competition Rules for a particular event shall not conflict with the rules in the Sporting Code. They shall be approved in advance by the ASC concerned and must not be changed thereafter.

4.9.2 SECOND CATEGORY EVENTS: General Regulations and Competition Rules for Second Category Events shall be based, as far as appropriate, on those for First Category Events and must not conflict with them in principle.

4.9.3 FAI AUTHORITY: the Rules, Regulations, programme and all other official documents shall carry the statement of FAI authority and display the FAI logo.

4.9.4 COURTESY INVITATIONS: organizers shall ensure in respect of First Category Events, that courtesy invitations are issued (e.g. to the Opening / Closing ceremonies) to the FAI President and to the President of the relevant FAI Air Sport Commission. Such invitations shall make clear the extent of the hospitality, if any, which the Organizer is in a position to offer.

4.9.5 LANGUAGE: the rules, regulations and information circulated to NACs and competitors or issued during the event shall be in English and, at the discretion of the Organizers, French and/or the language of the host country. In all interpretations the English language version shall prevail.

4.9.6 INSURANCE: Competition organizers should consider obtaining Public Liability Insurance to protect participants and Organizers. Organizers should consider recommending that participating NACs and/or competitors carry individual health and accident insurance. Where an organiser of an FAI event provides or facilitates insurance for such an event, then any such insurance must comply with the minimum requirements set by the contest rules.

4.10 ENTRIES.

Entry applications to a First Category Event shall be made only through the NAC of which the applicant

holds a Sporting Licence or, in the case of an FAI applicant, through the FAI.

4.11 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTRANT

4.11.1 ACCEPTANCE OF SPORTING CODE, RULES AND REGULATIONS: The entrants and competitors are required to know, understand, accept and abide by the Sporting Code and the rules and regulations for the event, and by entering are deemed to accept them without reservation. They should appreciate that they represent the National Team of their NAC, or, in Second Category Events, are ambassadors for their country and that they should compete in a sporting manner and that their behaviour must be beyond reproach.

4.11.2 DOPING, ALCOHOL, ILLNESS AND INJURY: this is a brief outline from the document "FAI Anti-Doping Rules and Procedures", published by FAI and agreed by the World AntiDoping Agency (WADA) for application to Air Sports.

4.11.2.1 Definition. Doping consists of the use or attempted use of one or more prohibited substances or methods, or of blood or blood products, or of manipulation aimed at making these difficult to detect. This may be intentional, unintentional, involve negligence or omission, or in any other circumstances. A doping offence is also committed by refusal or failure to comply with doping control testing, tampering with doping control, possession of a prohibited substance or method, or aiding a doping offence.

4.11.2.2. Policy. FAI policy is to prevent misuse, malpractice and cheating, in this case where doping is concerned. Doping is contrary to the FAI principles of equity and fair play and is potentially damaging to the health and safety of participants in Air Sports.

4.11.2.3. Prohibited Substances. These are those in the WADA standard list valid at the moment of testing (listed on www.wada-ama.org). The FAI also includes alcohol (above a defined level) for flight safety reasons.

4.11.2.4 Competitor responsibilities. All competitors entering sporting events under FAI rules shall accept that they may be required to submit to, and co-operate with, doping control measures. Entrants with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method must before the event concerned have obtained a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) in accordance with FAI Anti-Doping rules. In addition, for reasons arising during or

immediately before the event, a competitor taking any drug or medication, or suffering from a medical condition, illness or injury, which might either compromise safety or invalidate a licence, must inform the Contest Director in writing before competing.

4.12 ACCEPTANCE OF ENTRIES

4.12.1 An entry shall be accepted only if made on an official entry form accompanied by the full

entry fee and received by the specified closing date.

4.12.2 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Organizer only when there is good

reason for the delay and if there are sufficient vacancies.

4.12.3 Entry form details and procedures shall be determined by an ASC and Organizers must

make such forms and procedures available on any internet web site for the event. Entry forms which are incomplete or contain inaccurate information may not be accepted.

4.13 CHANGE OF ENTRIES

Change of entries may be made only up to the time stated in the Com of protests made, together with the numbers of protests withdrawn, upheld or failed, and the respective Jury decisions.

4.14 REJECTION OF ENTRIES

The Organizer of the event may not reject an entry to a First Category Event made in good faith and complying with the terms of the entry.

4.15 RETURN OF ENTRY FEES

4.15.1 If an event does not take place, entry fees shall be returned in full. If the event does take place, but for reasons of force majeure, it is cancelled or stopped, unused fees, as determined by the relevant ASC, shall be paid back. Before a cancellation decision is made, the relevant ASC shall consult the FAI Secretary General who will inform and consult as necessary. Actions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In cases with political implications for FAI, the Executive Board may be involved.

4.15.2 A competitor who or a team which withdraws from an event after having had their entry accepted may be entitled to a full or partial refund of the entry fees paid, in accordance with criteria established by the relevant ASC. Such criteria must be clearly stated in the FCE bid regulations issued by the relevant ASC (see 4.8.1)

4.16.3 PRIZE-GIVING

4.16.3.1 At First Category Events the FAI flag must be flown and the FAI Anthem played. The flags of the countries of the competitors placed first, second and third in each class must be flown and the national anthem of the countries of the champions must be played.

4.16.3.2 The FAI shall award gold, silver and bronze medals in each World or Continental Region Championship and for the World Air Games. These medals shall be supplied by the FAI Secretariat or, if not supplied by the FAI Secretariat, shall conform to the FAI medal specification. They will be awarded to competitors placed first, second and third in the overall Championship, including Women's and Junior categories if appropriate. All medals are funded from within the ASC concerned. Costs may be passed on to the Organizer if the ASC so decides. If requested by an ASC, FAI gold, silver and bronze medals may also be awarded to all members of teams competing for a single placing (for example, formation skydiving, team racing in aeromodelling, etc). Where teams are based on individual results achieved in the championship, gold, silver and bronze medals may be awarded to the team managers only of such teams placed first, second and third, and, if the ASC decide, smaller FAI Team medals may be awarded to all members of such teams. The large FAI medals for winning teams are to be forwarded by the team manager to the appropriate NAC or other body which the team is representing. An FAI Diploma may be awarded to other competitors if an ASC so decides. The Organizers may award further prizes at their discretion, and additional diplomas may be awarded where the results for male and female competitors are separate.

4.16.3.3 All medals, diplomas and prizes, whether trophies or money, which are referred to in the Sporting Code or the Rules and Regulations of an event, shall be presented not later than at the official prizegiving. Any exceptions to this provision may be authorised by an ASC.

4.17 EQUIPMENT/ DEVICES

In each Specialised Section, ASCs may specify the technical standards and criteria for any equipment, electronic or mechanical devices and scoring systems to be used.

4.18 AGE CATEGORIES

Each ASC may define Age groups classification that will be followed for Category 1 or Category 2 events.

(Seniors, Juniors, Under-18, Under-20 etc)

A competitor shall be eligible to compete in an age group competition under FAI Rules if he is within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification. A competitor must be able to provide proof of his age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of documentation issued by a competent authority. A competitor who fails or refuses to provide such proof shall not be eligible to participate in such a group.

5. CONTROL OF SPORTING EVENTS

5.1 NAC RESPONSIBILITY

5.1.1 CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION: Each NAC is responsible for the control and certification of all FAI sporting events, records and badge flights made under its control.

5.1.2 VERIFICATION: The FAI may at any time request proof that a performance, record or event was controlled in accordance with the Sporting Code regulations. It may refuse recognition if it finds the evidence to be insufficient.

5.2 OFFICIALS CONTROLLING PERFORMANCES.

5.2.1 OFFICIAL OBSERVERS: the Officials who control a performance must be registered with an NAC as an Official Observer. Official Observers are empowered to control and certify events for FAI records and badge flights. They must know and understand the FAI Sporting Code and the rules and regulations for the specific events to be certificated. ASCs will determine qualification criteria for official observers in their respective air sport activities, and publish these criteria and duties in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code. Such qualification shall be certified by the official observer's NAC.

5.2.2 ELIGIBILITY: an official observer in any record or badge flight attempt must be independent and not be perceived to have a conflict of interests.

5.2.3 PRESENCE: an Official Observer may only certify an event related to a performance if he

is present at the event for which certification is required. He may certify a constituent fact if he arrives soon after and there is absolutely no doubt about verification.

In the event a performance is evaluated on video evidence, only one Official Observer need be present to verify the recording and the performance may be evaluated using that recording by the required number of official observers at a later date or through an internet

connection.

5.2.4 TEMPORARY STATUS

5.2.4.1 Temporary Official Observer Status is assumed for Air Traffic Controllers on duty for observation of take-offs, start and finish lines, turn or control points and landings. Officially registered assistants and officials during a World or Continental Championship or other competitions as specified in the Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code, acting under the authority of the Director of the Championship, may also act as Official Observers.

5.2.4.2 Where an occurrence takes place outside the operational area of an Official Observer, the occurrence may be certified by two independent witnesses within whose skills or competence it is, who give their addresses and state in writing the information required by the pertinent section of the Sporting Code.

Certification by other than Official Observers must be countersigned by an Official Observer after he has verified the statements.

5.2.5 VIOLATION OF DUTY: in case of violation of duty the appointment of an Official Observer will be withdrawn. Negligent certifications or wilful misrepresentations will be grounds for disciplinary action by the NAC concerned.

5.3 RECORDS DURING FAI SPORTING EVENTS

Where a record may have been achieved as part of a sporting event, the Organizer shall, if requested, cooperate with the claimant in assembling and submitting the information and taking other actions required, such as notifying the relevant NAC and FAI within the set period (see 7.8) for International Records. The claimant is still responsible for ensuring that all claim procedures are carried out.

5.4 OFFICIALS IN FIRST CATEGORY INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

5.4.1 INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS

5.4.1.1 Matters of advice, arbitration or rule interpretation shall be the responsibility of the International Jury, as defined in 5.4.2. Matters of subjective evaluation of performance shall be the responsibility of FAI Judges, as defined in 5.4.3.

International Jury members and FAI Judges are International Officials acting on behalf of the FAI and shall have been appointed or approved by the ASC concerned.

5.4.1.2 An International Official may hold only one of the above offices in an event. He may not be a competitor, nor hold any operational position in the organisation.

5.4.1.3 The International Officials in any one group or position must be resident in a country, whose NAC is not currently suspended from FAI membership and must all be from different countries, unless the ASC concerned specifies otherwise.

5.4.2 THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

5.4.2.1 An FAI First Category event shall have an International Jury to deal with protests and monitor the conduct of the event and ensure that the officially accepted entry list and results are sent to the FAI Head Office in accordance with 4.16.2.1. The composition of the International Jury may be either representative or nominated.

The Specialised Sections of the Sporting Code shall state which Jury system is to be used and may state further criteria for qualification as a Jury Member.

5.4.2.2 Representative Jury - is one in which the Jury President is appointed by the ASC governing the event and in which the members are one from each competing NAC. They shall qualify for the jury service according to the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code.

5.4.2.3 Nominated Jury - is one in which the President is appointed by the ASC concerned. The members consist of two or four persons appointed by the ASC according to the relevant Specialised Section of the Sporting Code. Each Jury Member must be resident in a country whose NAC is not currently suspended from FAI membership.

5.4.2.4 Jury President. In addition to being the Chairman at Jury meetings, the Jury President has the right to require the Organizer to abide by the FAI Sporting Code and the published rules and regulations for the event. If the Organizer fails to do so, the President of the Jury has the power to interrupt the event until the situation has been reviewed by the Jury. The Jury has the right to cancel the event if the Organizer fails to abide by the FAI Sporting Code and published regulations. Consequences pursuant to the Organizer Agreement which may be applicable are in any event reserved. They may recommend to the FAI Head Office that all entry fees be returned.

5.4.2.5 Jury Members. A Jury member must possess a thorough knowledge of the relevant Sporting Codes and the rules and regulations for the event. An International Jury Members Handbook is available from FAI if desired by an ASC.

At least one Jury member is to be on site during competition operations.

5.4.2.6 Meetings of the International Jury

5.4.2.6.1 Attendance. Participation at Jury meetings is compulsory for Jury members, either in person or remote or as specified on the Specialized volumes of the Sporting Code, except for special reasons such as illness or emergencies. In such cases an eligible replacement nominated by the Jury member concerned, or by the President of the ASC or his representative may be accepted by the Jury President. The Event Director and the Claimant have a right to give both written and oral evidence before a jury. Treatment of protests is dealt with in 6.3.

5.4.2.6.2 Recording of Evidence. The record of jury actions, the decision and the reasons for it, and copies of evidence, shall be sent to FAI by the Jury President in case an appeal to FAI is made later.

5.4.2.6.3 Quorum. A quorum for a Representative Jury is 2/3 of the total membership, including the President of the Jury. A quorum for a Nominated Jury is three, including its President.

5.4.2.6.4. Voting. Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority. A secret ballot shall be held, if requested by a jury member.

5.4.2.7 Dissolution of the International Jury

5.4.2.7.1 The Jury shall only cease its functions after it has given its decision on all protests which have been correctly made. If no protests are outstanding it shall not cease its functions until the time limit set for the receipt of protests following the last task.

5.4.2.7.2 The last action of the Jury is to verify and approve the competition results of the event and declare the event valid providing it has been conducted in accordance with the rules and the decisions of the Jury.

5.4.3 FAI JUDGES

5.4.3.1 ASCs shall appoint Judges for events requiring, in whole or in part, subjective evaluation of a performance or for other duties as specified in the specialised sections of the Sporting Code.

5.4.3.2 The ASC concerned shall decide upon the qualifications, experience and knowledge of rules and regulations required for its Judges.

5.4.3.3 NACs shall submit to the ASC concerned the names of candidates for recognition as International Judges. Upon recognition the ASC will make available to FAI a list of those Judges.

5.4.3.4 The Chief Judge shall be appointed by the ASC concerned and has the responsibility to organize the work to be carried out by the International Judges and to report results to the Event Director.

5.5 OPERATIONAL OFFICIALS

The NAC hosting a First Category Event shall appoint an Event Director, Stewards and such other

Operational Officials as is required by the ASC concerned.

5.5.1 THE EVENT DIRECTOR

5.5.1.1 The Event Director shall be in overall operational charge of the sporting event.

He shall have a Deputy Director and Technical Officials to assist him. The Event Director and Deputy shall be approved by the relevant ASC.

5.5.1.2 The Event Director is responsible for good management and the smooth and safe running of the event. He shall make operational decisions in accordance with the rules of the Sporting Code and competition rules. He can penalise or disqualify a competitor for misconduct or infringement of the rules. He shall attend meetings of the International Jury and give evidence if requested.