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International Parachuting Activities



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1. General

1.1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this document is to establish the means by which USPA and its representatives interact with entities and events related to the International Skydiving Commission of the FAI.

1.2. National and International Air Sport Entities

- 1.2.1 Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) is the sole internationally recognized governing body for airsports worldwide, which governs airsports competitions, world records, awards, and controls and owns all rights for FAI-sanctioned events.
- 1.2.2 International Skydiving Commission (ISC) is the FAI body whose primary activity focuses on parachuting competition and world records, but also includes promotional, media, technical, safety, and certification activities.
- 1.2.3 National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is the National Airport Control (NAC) of the United States, is the FAI member representing airsports interests in the United States, and serves as the official conduit between USPA and FAI.
- 1.2.4 U.S. Parachute Association (USPA) is recognized by the NAA as the sole official parachuting body in the United States and the organization delegated FAI sporting powers over parachuting competition and records.

1.3. Responsibilities and Obligations

- 1.3.1 The NAA will be a party to any agreements that USPA or its contractors make when awarded FAI events by the International Skydiving Commission.
- 1.3.2 In the case of organizing ISC-sanctioned events, USPA fully accepts this responsibility and is obligated to fulfill all commitments made by event organizers who are contracted by USPA to organize ISC events.
- 1.3.3 USPA should make every possible effort to ensure that its contractors fulfill all commitments made to the ISC, FAI and USPA.

2. ISC Plenary Meetings

2.1. Purpose

- 2.1.1 Annual ISC plenary meetings are the policy and decision-making forums of the ISC.
- 2.1.2 Delegates from FAI member nations assemble each year for this plenary meeting to determine the content of the FAI Sporting Code Section 5, approve competition rules, sanction NACs to organize ISC events, and address other matters related to international parachuting activities.
- 2.1.3 In the days immediately preceding ISC plenary meetings, all ISC committees and working groups conduct open meetings.
- 2.1.4 It is in NAA's and USPA's best interests that U.S. ISC delegates attend all of these meetings so that the interests and opinions of the U.S. skydiving community can be effectively represented.

2.2. Composition, Rights, and Authority

- 2.2.1 ISC delegates—
 - 2.2.1.1 Each FAI member-nation may be represented at the plenary meeting by one delegate and one alternate delegate.
 - 2.2.1.2 Only these delegates have the guaranteed right to speak at plenary meetings.
 - 2.2.1.3 The U.S. delegate has the right to cast votes on behalf of the U.S.
- 2.2.2 Other members of U.S. delegation
 - 2.2.2.1 Observers, as designated below, may accompany the delegate and alternate delegate at ISC meetings:
 - advisors to ISC committees, working groups, and task forces
 - technical representative, such as competitors, judges, and safety experts
 - officials from NACs, national parachuting associations, and government entities
 - contractors, such as event organizers, equipment vendors, etc.
 - others, including interpreters, invited guests, spouses, and interested parties
 - 2.2.2.2 With due cause, the U.S. delegate has the authority to restrict any observer from attending the ISC plenary meeting.

2.3. Financing

- 2.3.1 Travel and subsistence costs for the ISC delegate and alternate delegate to attend ISC meetings will be provided by USPA, per the financial operating procedure in the USPA Governance Manual.
- 2.3.2 Financial support for observers attending ISC meetings may be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

2.4. Hosting ISC Plenary Meetings

- 2.4.1 USPA Board members or the USPA executive director may propose that the U.S. bid to host an ISC meeting.
- 2.4.2 Proposals must include a budget, and must be approved by the USPA Board before submitting a bid to the ISC.

3. Delegates

3.1. U.S. Delegate

- 3.1.1 The ISC delegate is the official voice representing USPA policy in the international parachuting community.
- 3.1.2 To fulfill this important role effectively, USPA's ISC delegate should possess as many of the following qualifications and credentials as possible:
 - 3.1.2.1 Be well respected within the international parachuting community
 - 3.1.2.2 Be knowledgeable and well-versed on:
 - USPA Skydiver's Competition Manual
 - USPA policies related to competition rules and events, judging, world records, and safety matters
 - FAI Sporting Code General Section and Section 5, ISC Internal Regulations and Competition Rules
 - 3.1.2.3 Be capable of:
 - conducting oneself in a professional and respectable manner when representing USPA and the U.S.
 - writing documents and corresponding in a professional manner
 - developing coherent and comprehensive proposals in a timely manner
 - analyzing and reacting to proposals (prepared by others) in a coherent and objective manner
 - public speaking in an effective manner
 - being a team player and contributing effectively to committee projects in a timely manner
 - operating computers, communicating by e-mail, and using the internet as a resource-gathering tool
 - easily adapting to international cultures and working effectively with delegates from international NACs
 - 3.1.2.4 Have personal experience in competing and/or judging at ISC First Category Events.
 - 3.1.2.5 Have no appearance of a conflict of interest, financial or otherwise, with any ISC-related activities.
- 3.1.3 Duties and obligations
 - 3.1.3.1 Ensure that all proposals for ISC policy changes are presented to USPA's Board of Directors and also to USPA Headquarters in a timely manner to receive USPA Board direction on these issues.
 - 3.1.3.2 Ensure that all proposals, policy statements, and votes related to ISC matters are conducted in full accordance with USPA Board policy.
 - 3.1.3.3 Provide an annual report to the USPA Board of Directors at the first USPA Board meeting following the annual ISC plenary meeting about the activities of the ISC.

3.2. Alternate U.S. Delegate

- 3.2.1 The ISC alternate delegate should assist the ISC delegate, fulfill the delegate's duties if the delegate is unavailable to do so, and serve as the interface between the ISC and USPA Headquarters.
- 3.2.2 Duties and obligations
 - 3.2.2.1 Report all decisions approved by the ISC to USPA Headquarters and provide copies of all ISC-approved documents to USPA Headquarters so that this information can be dispersed to USPA members and related entities as appropriate.
 - 3.2.2.2 Submit in a timely manner:
 - all ISC-approved competition rules to the USPA Competition Committee; also to USPA Headquarters for publication
 - all applications and renewals for FAI Judge rating to the appropriate ISC entity
 - all registration forms for U.S. Skydiving Teams attending ISC-sanctioned events to the appropriate entity in a timely manner
 - international competitions which are using ISC rules and taking place in the U.S. to the FAI for inclusion in its calendar of events

3.3. Appointment of Delegates

- 3.3.1 The U.S. ISC delegate should be a member of the USPA Board of Directors who has the qualifications listed in this Section.

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- 3.3.2 The ISC alternate delegate should be a member of the USPA staff, selected by the executive director, and possess as many of the qualifications and credentials as the ISC delegate as possible.
- 3.3.3 Procedures
- 3.3.3.1 The choice of individuals to serve as delegate and alternate delegate will be made at the seating of each new USPA Board.
- 3.3.3.2 The USPA Board selects the ISC delegate according to the same procedures in the USPA Governance Manual used for selecting USPA Board officers.
- 3.3.3.3 The executive director submits these names to the NAA for confirmation and submission to FAI.
- 3.3.3.4 NAA submits these names to FAI.
- 3.3.3.5 ISC formally approves the appointment of delegates and alternate delegates at its annual plenary meeting.
- 3.3.4 If the delegate is unavailable to fulfill the functions of this position, USPA's president will appoint a replacement, whose name will be submitted to the NAA for submission to FAI.

4. Hosting FAI/ISC-Related Events

4.1. Event Organizers

- 4.1.1 USPA desires to have ISC-sanctioned parachuting events conducted in the United States and recognizes that the United States is home to experienced event organizers capable of organizing and conducting international parachuting events in a professional manner.
- 4.1.2 ISC First Category Events should be organized and conducted by professional event organizers in the U.S., including (but not limited to) drop zone operators.
- 4.1.3 Bidding for Events
- 4.1.3.1 Event organizers in the U.S. should have an equal opportunity to bid for ISC First Category Events.

4.2. FAI Event Categories

- 4.2.1 ISC Events are defined in the ISC Sporting Code, Section 5.
- 4.2.2 First Category Events are defined by the FAI/ISC as World Air Games, World, Continental, and Regional Championships, and other International Sporting Events approved by the ISC.
- 4.2.3 Second Category Events are other international sporting events organized in the U.S. by or under the authorization of USPA.

4.3. Proposals for Organizing ISC Events (First Category FAI Events)

- 4.3.1 The format for proposals will be similar to that provided in the ISC First Category Event Application document (FCEAD) for World Skydiving Championships or World Cups.
- 4.3.2 Proposals intended to be considered at an ISC meeting must be submitted to the USPA Director of Competition by September 1 in the year prior to the ISC Plenary Meeting and must include all the required information of the FCEAD.
- 4.3.3 Evaluation, approval, and promotion of proposals
- 4.3.3.1 After recommendation by the Competition Committee the decision to approve proposals will be made by the USPA Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee if an interim decision is necessary.
- 4.3.3.2 Once a proposal is received at USPA Headquarters, it will be distributed to the USPA Competition Committee, the ISC delegate, and the alternate ISC delegate for review.
- The USPA Competition Committee should review the technical components of the proposed event to determine if all necessary technical elements and personnel will be in place (aircraft, judging, operations facilities, air space, communications, competitor preparation facilities, etc.).
 - The ISC delegate should determine if the proposal complies with FAI and ISC regulations and how it may compare with competing proposals presented to the ISC for this same event and similar ISC events held previously.
 - The ISC alternate delegate should determine the effects that the proposed event may have on USPA in general (staff time, expenses, media coverage, member benefits, etc.) if any.
- 4.3.3.3 The Competition Committee will then decide whether to recommend acceptance of the proposal and the Chair will forward all materials to the USPA Board or Executive Committee, as appropriate, for final approval.
- 4.3.3.4 For USPA-approved proposals, the ISC delegate or alternate delegate will collaborate with the bidder to prepare the final proposal for submission to ISC.

5. FAI Sporting Calendar

- 5.3.1 The FAI maintains and publishes an international sporting calendar (reference FAI Sporting Code General Section).
- 5.3.2 For an event to be recognized as an international airsport event, it must be registered in the FAI sporting calendar.
- 5.3.3 The FAI and NACs will recognize only airsport events that are held in accordance with FAI rules.
- 5.3.4 FAI is entitled to withhold or withdraw the sporting license of any competitor entering a non-recognized airsport event.
- 5.3.5 Event registration must be received by the ISC alternate delegate in time to notify the FAI secretariat at least three months prior to the start of the event.

6. ISC Jury Members

- 6.3.1 Because the ISC uses the nominated jury system, it maintains a list of approved and qualified jury members to serve on juries at First Category Events, in accordance with the FAI Sporting Code, Section 5.
- 6.3.2 Only those approved by an individual's NAC may be placed on the list.
- 6.3.3 Those wishing to be placed on the list should submit a résumé to the USPA Competition Committee chair no later than the summer USPA Board of Directors meeting of each year with at least the following information, as applicable:
 - Current USPA membership number
 - Skydiving experience, e.g., competition management, judge ratings, and meets judged, etc.
- 6.3.4 Individuals on the approved list may be removed by written request from the individual or by decision of the ISC Rules and Regulations Committee, which must be approved by a majority decision of the ISC Plenary.
- 6.3.5 Once approved by the USPA Competition Committee, the individual's name will be forwarded to the USPA ISC delegate for inclusion on the ISC list.