6

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING ACTIVITIES
# Chapter 6: 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 Parachuting 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 Parachuting Commission (IPC) 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 Airsport 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 Parachuting Commission.

1.3.2 In the case of organizing IPC-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 IPC events.

1.3.3 USPA should make every possible effort to ensure that its contractors fulfill all commitments made to the IPC, FAI and USPA.

2 IPC Plenary Meetings

2.1 Purpose
2.1.1 Annual IPC plenary meetings are the policy and decision-making forums of the IPC.

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 IPC events, and address other matters related to international parachuting activities.

2.1.3 In the days immediately preceding IPC plenary meetings, all IPC committees and working groups conduct open meetings.

2.1.4 It is in NAA’s and USPA’s best interests that U.S. IPC 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 IPC 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 IPC meetings:
   • advisors to IPC 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 IPC plenary meeting.

2.3 Financing

2.3.1 Travel and subsistence costs for the IPC delegate and alternate delegate to attend IPC meetings will be provided by USPA, per the financial operating procedure in the USPA Governance Manual.

2.3.2 Financial support for observers attending IPC meetings may be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

2.4 Hosting IPC Plenary Meetings

2.4.1 USPA Board members or the USPA executive director may propose that the U.S. bid to host an IPC meeting.

2.4.2 Proposals must include a budget, and must be approved by the USPA Board before submitting a bid to the IPC.

3 DELEGATES

3.1 U.S. Delegate

3.1.1 The IPC delegate is the official voice representing USPA policy in the international parachuting community.

3.1.2 To fulfill this important role effectively, USPA’s IPC 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, IPC 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 foreign cultures and working effectively with delegates from foreign NACs

   3.1.2.4 Have personal experience in competing and/or judging at IPC First Category Events.

   3.1.2.5 Have no appearance of a conflict of interest, financial or otherwise, with any IPC-related activities.

3.1.3 Duties and obligations

   3.1.3.1 Ensure that all proposals for IPC 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 IPC 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 IPC plenary meeting about the activities of the IPC.

3.2 Alternate U.S. Delegate

3.2.1 The IPC alternate delegate should assist the IPC delegate, fulfill the delegate’s duties if the delegate is unavailable to do so, and serve as the interface between the IPC and USPA Headquarters.

3.2.2 Duties and obligations

3.2.2.1 Report all decisions approved by the IPC to USPA Headquarters and provide copies of all IPC-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 IPC-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 IPC entity
- all registration forms for U.S. Skydiving Teams attending IPC-sanctioned events to the appropriate entity in a timely manner
- international competitions which are using IPC 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. IPC delegate should be a member of the USPA Board of Directors who has the qualifications listed in this Section.

3.3.2 The IPC 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 IPC 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 IPC 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 IPC 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/IPC-related Events

4.1 Event Organizers

4.1.1 USPA desires to have IPC-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 IPC 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 IPC First Category Events.
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4.1.3.2 USPA Headquarters will publish the schedule of planned First Category events to provide prospective organizers with equal access to information from which bids can be submitted to USPA.

4.2 FAI Event Categories

4.2.1 IPC Events are defined in the IPC Sporting Code, Section 5.

4.2.2 First Category Events are defined by the FAI/IPC as World Air Games, World, Continental, and Regional Championships, and other International Sporting Events approved by the IPC.

4.2.3 Second Category Events are other international sporting events organized in the U.S. by or under the authorization of NAA/USPA.

4.3 Proposals for Organizing IPC Events (First Category FAI Events)

4.3.1 The format for proposals will be similar to that provided in the IPC First Category Event Sanction Procedures document for World Parachuting Championships or World Cups.

4.3.2 Proposals may be submitted to USPA Headquarters at any time and must include at least the following:

4.3.2.1 the competition event(s) to be included
4.3.2.2 the venue(s) for the event(s)
4.3.2.3 the arrival and departure dates for the participants
4.3.2.4 the type of aircraft (and exit speed, ± 5 knots) to be used for each competition event
4.3.2.5 the cost of entry fees for competitors, delegation officials, and accompanying persons
4.3.2.6 whether or not accommodations, food, or local transportation will be provided; and if not, the availability and costs of such
4.3.2.7 intentions for media coverage and exploitation
4.3.3 Evaluation, approval, and promotion of proposals

4.3.3.1 Typically, decisions whether to approve proposals and forward them to the IPC will take place at the USPA Board meeting following receipt of the proposal, unless the USPA Executive Committee determines that there is a special need to make an interim decision prior to that meeting.

4.3.3.2 Once a proposal is received at USPA Headquarters, it will be distributed to the USPA Competition Committee, the IPC delegate, and the alternate IPC delegate for written reviews.

• 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 IPC delegate should determine if the proposal complies with FAI and IPC regulations and how it may compare with competing proposals presented to the IPC for this same event and similar IPC events held previously.
• The IPC alternate delegate should determine the effects that the proposed event may have on USPA in general (staff time, expenses, media coverage, member benefits, etc.).

4.3.3.3 The three written reviews will be distributed to the USPA Board, and the organizer will be invited to present the proposal during the board meeting when the decision on the proposal will take place.

4.3.3.4 For USPA-approved proposals, the IPC delegate or alternate delegate will collaborate with the prospective event organizer to prepare a proposal for submission to the IPC using the IPC proposal form and following all IPC-designated procedures for submitting proposals to host IPC-sanctioned events.

4.4 Financial

4.4.1 Proposals must be submitted to USPA with a non-refundable $100 fee.

4.4.2 Event organizers conducting FAI-sanctioned events in the United States will pay USPA a sanction fee for each registered participant in addition to sanction fees imposed by the IPC.
4.5 **Letters of Agreement**

4.5.1 All organizers of IPC-sanctioned events must sign an FAI organizer agreement, which is available for review on the FAI-IPC website.

4.5.2 All hosts must sign an agreement with USPA.

4.5.3 The agreements specify the proprietary rights to be held by each party.

5 **FAI Sporting Calendar**

5.1.1 The FAI maintains and publishes an international sporting calendar (reference FAI Sporting Code General Section).

5.1.2 For an event to be recognized as an international airsport event, it must be registered in the FAI sporting calendar.

5.1.3 The FAI and NACs will recognize only airsport events that are held in accordance with FAI rules.

5.1.4 FAI is entitled to withhold or withdraw the sporting license of any competitor entering a non-recognized airsport event.

5.1.5 Event registration must be received by the IPC alternate delegate in time to notify the FAI secretariat at least three months prior to the start of the event.

6 **IPC Jury Members**

6.1.1 Because the IPC 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.

6.1.2 Only those approved by an individual’s NAC may be placed on the list.

6.1.3 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.

6.1.4 Individuals on the approved list may be removed by written request from the individual or by decision of the IPC Rules and Regulations Committee, which must be approved by a majority decision of the IPC Plenary.

6.1.5 Once approved by the USPA Board, the individual’s name will be forwarded to the USPA IPC delegate for inclusion on the IPC list.