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INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTE COMMISSION

Wingsuiting Working Group Terms of Reference

10 November 2010

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Document Information

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| V1.4 | 10 November | JB | Comments from TW included |
| Author Abbr. JB – Jacqui Bruwer RO – Ronald Overdijk LB – Larry Bagley JC – Jarno Cordia TW – Taya Weiss | | | |

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IPC Discussion Forum: <http://www.fai.org/parachuting/tracker>

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1. Introduction and Background

The Wingsuit Working Group was established and mandated by the International Parachute Commission (IPC) during the 2010 Plenary meeting held in Lausanne in order to investigate the objectives as defined in the Terms of Reference (TOR) as presented and accepted during the Plenary.

The 3 Objectives as defined by the TOR is as follows:

- a) To create a clear working definition of a wingsuit;
- b) To investigate ways to define and judge no-contact wingsuit large formation records;
- c) To make a recommendation to the IPC for consideration of a new unlinked World Record performance category for Wingsuit, Largest Formation.

2. The Working Group

2.1. Team Members

The Working Group Voting Members are Jacqui Bruwer (Chair), Ronald Overdijk and Larry Bagley with advisers, Jarno Cordia and Taya Weiss.

2.2. Reporting and Meetings

Meetings were held throughout the year via Skype and most discussions were held using e-mail as the main correspondence. Minutes of the meetings and all e-mail correspondence are available from the Chair.

2.3. Discussion Forums

The IPC website was used to host two forums, one private and one public. The Private forum was used for comments by Working Group members only and the public forum was open to all interested Wingsuiters in providing commentary and input on the three Objectives. Below are the links to these discussion forums:

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a) Wingsuit Definition

<http://www.fai.org/parachuting/node/1692>

b) No-contact Wingsuit Record Definition

<http://www.fai.org/parachuting/node/2181>

c) Judging systems for wingsuit no-contact records

No discussions on this topic – refer to recommendations.

2.4. Working Group Rules

Rules were established to ensure that the Objectives are reached and that the Working Group is seen to be fair and unbiased.

- a) The only discussion forum on the TOR and objectives to be used by any members, voting and non-voting may be the IPC Discussion Forum. No discussions on dropzone.com or any other websites or Forums;
- b) Approval of comments on the IPC Discussion Forum may only be done by the Chair or if the Chair tasks a voting member to do so;
- c) E-mails directed to the Working Group may only be answered by the voting members;
- d) From the TOR: “Dissemination of the Working Group’s deliberations will be communicated only through the Chair. Dissemination of the Working Group’s deliberations without permission of the Chair will result in removal from the Working Group.”

3. Outcomes of Terms of Reference

3.1. Objective 1 – Wingsuit Definition

The Working Group in conjunction with the Wingsuiting Community has concluded that the definition of a Wingsuit is as follows:

"A piece of equipment that spans flexible material between a parachutists' arms and legs, creating the possibility for sustained forward movement through the air using only gravity as propulsion. The parachutists' body forms the majority frame for the wings of the suit."

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3.2. Objective 2 – Define Parameters for Large Formation Records

The Working Group has listed the following parameters on the Discussion Forum:

a) *Two Dimensional*

Formation designs will be two-dimensional for this record category. How can/should we limit vertical deviation, and should we require evidence of flatness for judging (i.e. a side camera angle)?

b) *Slot Definition*

A slot is a target in the air for each flyer in the formation (some examples: a single point on the head, a shape such as a circle, box, or any other shape around the entire body). How should the rules define slot?

c) *Margin of Error*

Margin of error is a standard for how far a flyer is allowed to deviate from his/her slot (however defined) to still be considered “in” the formation. How should the rules define Margin of Error?

d) *Flight Angle*

Based on the slot position, Flight Angle is the angle at which the flyer is located relative to the next flyer. To which degree, if at all, will we limit the relative angles at which slots within a formation can be flown?

e) *Short Range and Long Range Order*

Depending on the method used, flyers can be judged on their relative position on an individual basis (short range order), or the formation can be judged as a whole by its shape and form (long range order), or both. How should the rules address this?

f) *Glide Ratio/Flight Performance*

Should there be a minimum required glide ratio or overall flight performance of the formation? How would that be measured?

No conclusions were reached and the WG refers to recommendations for the way forward.

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3.3. Objective 3 –Include Unlinked World Record Performance Category

The last objective was to make a recommendation to the IPC for consideration of a new unlinked World Record performance category for Wingsuit, Largest Formation to be added to the IPC Sporting Code. This objective depends on the conclusion and agreement of Objective 2, defining the Parameters. Refer to the Recommendations Section.

4. Recommendations on the Terms of Reference

The Working Group would like to make recommendations to the IPC in terms of the Objectives given in the TOR.

4.1. Objective 1: Wingsuit Definition – Concluded

The Working Group proposes the definition be included in the FAI Sporting Code – Section 5, paragraph 1.1.2. Definitions:

”A wingsuit jump is defined as a freefall jump with the parachutist wearing a wingsuit”

Also included in the Sporting Code – Section 5, paragraph 2.4 Minimum Requirements:

- (10) A Wingsuit is classified as a piece of equipment that spans flexible material between a skydiver's arms and legs, creating the possibility for sustained forward movement through the air using only gravity as propulsion. The skydiver's body forms the majority frame for the wings of the suit.

4.2. Objective 2 and 3 – Not Concluded

The Wingsuiting Working Group was unable to get enough input from the Wingsuiting Community and various factors played a role, one of them being the IPC Discussion Forum not in working order from April to August resulting in a delay with regards to discussions with the wider Wingsuiting community.

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There are also extremely vocal differing camps within the Wingsuiting Community and making the wrong decision with too little information can distance this discipline from the IPC and be counterproductive towards our aim.

The Working Group realised the importance of getting the different (National Aero Club Representatives (NAC's) onboard to ensure more information from different parts of the world are submitted.

Objective three, inclusion of wingsuit large formation records into the IPC Sporting Code is dependent on reaching a conclusion to Objective two, defining the parameters.

5. Go-Forward Plan

The Wingsuiting Working Group would like to make the following recommendations and timeline with regards to No-Contact Wingsuiting Big Way Formations.

5.1. 2011 Plenary: Wingsuit Definition accepted by IPC

Consensus was reached on the definition and will be the starting point for the parameters. Refer to recommendations on Objective 1.

5.2. 2011 – 2012: Setup of Parameters for No-Contact Wingsuit Large Formation Records

A recommendation that the Wingsuit Working Group continues next year to gather more information with regards to the parameters by having examples submitted by different NAC's, groups etc. It was decided that the WS community started participating too late in the year in order to generate enough information. The parameters can be set and a recommendation for the inclusion of Wingsuit Large Formations into the IPC Sporting Code as an outcome.

5.3. 2012 – 2013: Judging Terms of Reference

The Working Group recommends that the Judging Committee be involved to determine the best method of judging big way formations. The Working Group would like to have

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at least 1 member or advisor from the Judging Committee added to it. A possible outcome is the establishing of a formal IPC judging method or system.

Once these objectives have been reached, the Working Group can then recommend further investigations into other events within the Wingsuiting Discipline.

6. Contacting Details of Working Group

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