8/22/2023

Team : 411 SDC Rhythm XP

Rand #2

Rule 4.8.3

At the orders of the meet director we have been asked to jump rather then second guess the spot, weather conditions or his command to exit. On this particular jump while we could see cloud below us we chose to follow the Italian team out the door in the spirit of the meet directors request. After the exit & into freefall the jump became icy & hard for our cameraman to handle with an open face camera helmet. To the point that it became progressively harder to focus on what was needed, this effect would be considered outside the scope of "adverse weather conditions" depicted in rule 4.8.3. These icy conditions were conformed by both camera men of the other two teams on the same load. The Italian cameraman has a full face helmet & managed it well. We exited second & the third cameraman when landing was asked by the meet director how the conditions were. The answer was simply "ICY". The plane at altitude was immediately asked to come down & all jumping was suspended. Our team immediately took out situation to the meet director who acknowledge that all jumping had been stopped and we should go through the regular chain of getting the jump judged and take it from there. We submitted a request to chief judge asking for the situation to be assessed.

Chief judge wanted to know why it had taken so long to protest. Truth is we were following meet directors directions after notifying him immediately after landing. Fact.

Italian team will confirm that these was ICE from exit door to 2000 meters & then rain under canopy. Their cameraman could handle it as he had a full face helmet. Ours didn't.
Qatar camera will also attest to "ICY" conditions as he was the one that the meet director asked before suspending jumping.
Our team captain specifically asked the meet director at the captains briefing last night about this sort of outcome. We were asked to exit on his command & that we would only be jumping in good conditions & "non compromising".

The chief judge doesn't think the evidence is substantial enough but we need to remind ourselves that ICE doesn't stick to glass lenses & that's fact. It wasn't rain that you could visibly see. It was the felt distraction (pain) that interfered with normal jump conditions. Qatar didn't want a rejump as they had one of their better jumps. Also they exited 20 seconds ltr than us & could have enjoyed better conditions too.

In summary,
One team (Amnesia/Italy) managed the situation through the use of a full face helmet.
A second team had a great jump but it was their camera man that said "Ley" when asked by the meed director. how it was.
Our team unfortunately didn't come out unscathed.
We want to continue trying to jump in trialing conditions in the spirit of competition but this wasn't the outcome we were expecting.
We are requesting a re jump based on these grounds.

Yours faithfully

Doug Barron team captain

Sally Williams team coach

Johnny Gunn HOD/TM USA

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