

## Portuguese Proposals

### Background

- a) When reporting (in the 2005 Guatemala Plenary) about the selection process for the 9<sup>th</sup> FAI World Paragliding Championship (2005 - Governador Valadares - Brazil) Mr. Olivier Burghelle (CIVL President at that time) stated:

*«The team size rule decided in 2000 has been working quite well up to now. With the reallocation system, until the Portuguese Championship, we could provide all the slots requested by the various countries. Now I believe, with the growth of the sport and the improvement of the pilots skill in new coming countries, this rule **has to be reviewed**.*

*In Portugal 34 countries competed compared to 44 in Brazil.*

*As well the female pilot's competition experience is improving and in Portugal only 22 pilots qualified. In Brazil 33 female pilots qualify.*

*All in all we only have been able to reallocate 14 slots that was not enough to satisfy all the NAC wishes. 7 places have been reallocated to female pilots and 7 to male pilots.*

***I think next year we should already try and find a solution for the 2007 World Championship.»***

- b) Due to the 2000 team size rule, in the 9<sup>th</sup> FAI World Paragliding Championship (2005 - Governador Valadares – Brazil) teams with a total number of 7 pilots (5 male and 2 female) were competing with teams with only 2 male pilots. This was not because these teams didn't have more male pilots that qualify, but in the majority of the cases because the team size rule didn't allow them more than 2. As a result a group of 9 teams delivered a request to be removed from the nation results lists and only the individual scores appear in the results lists. They were followed shortly after by another group of teams delivering the same request. Their reasons were that they are not allowed a full scoring team, so have no chance to be scored in the top nations results, even if they have top pilots.
- c) It seems highly **unfair** to have teams with 5 male pilots contending teams only allowed to have 2 male pilots. It's easy to understand that teams participating with more pilots than other teams have a clear tactical advantage. We are talking of teams that more than double the size of other teams!
- d) Besides the huge difference in team sizes we use a 3 pilot scoring rule and only allow some teams to have 2 male pilots. This situation looks more than unfair...
- e) Surprisingly the Reallocation Rule currently in use, will start by giving vacant places to teams that already have 4 male pilots and 2 female pilots (6 pilots total) while teams with less than the 3 pilots needed for scoring will be the last teams to receive extra pilots. Only after 17 vacancies have been reallocated will teams placed bellow 20 in the World Nations Ranking start receiving some extra places.
- f) Being a perpetuating system it is bad for the development of our sport. It also violates the fairness and satisfying statements in Section 7 of the FAI Sporting Code.

Excerpt From Section 7B, point 2.2:

*«The purpose of the championships is to provide safe, **fair** and **satisfying** contest flying in order to determine the world or continental champion, and to reinforce friendship among pilots of all nations.»*

h) Conflicting principles:

- For safety reasons the number of participating pilots in Cat. 1 competitions is limited to 150 pilots.
- Championships are for all NACs.
- Fairness.

Something might have to change... Not security nor fairness we hope...

## Proposals

- 1 - Team Size Rule should be changed in order to provide team sizes as even as possible. Team size rule should be set in accordance with Nations Scoring Rule – since the scoring rule uses 3 pilots for scoring and since it is common sense that, in general, female pilots don't perform as well as male pilots, the base size for each team should be at least 3 male pilots.

Options:

- a) All team pilots must comply with qualification criteria.  
Team sizes are set according to a base size of 3 male pilots plus 1 female pilot.  
Vacant places are assigned to other teams according to the reallocation rule below.
- b) All team pilots must comply with qualification criteria.  
Assuming that at this moment of development of the sport teams classified below 30 in the Nations Ranking will not have enough pilots that meet qualification criteria, only the 30 top nations would be allowed to participate in the championships.  
Team sizes are set according to a base size of 4 male pilots plus 1 female pilot.  
Vacant places are assigned to other teams according to the reallocation rule below.
- c) All team pilots must comply with qualification criteria.  
Since a 3 pilot scoring is used, teams not having at least 3 pilots that meet the qualification criteria are not allowed to participate.  
Team sizes are set according to a base size of 3 male pilots plus 1 female pilot.  
Vacant places are assigned to other teams according to the reallocation rule below.
- d) Others to be discussed

- 2 - Since all participating teams should have the same possibilities in every circumstance (fairness), the rule to re-allocate extra places should be based on a random drawing. When a country is assigned one extra pilot it is removed from the list of candidates to extra pilots until all countries (having pilots that meet the qualification criteria) have one extra pilot assigned. The same process is then used for assigning teams with second extra pilots and so on.
- 3 - Qualification criteria should be clearly defined in Section 7B and not left to be set in the local regulations.

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