

AGENDA ITEM 18.2

CONTEST SCORING SYSTEM REPORT

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Synopsis

During the 2011 season there were as usual four CIVA sanctioned international championships:

Event:

Scorer:

The European Glider Aerobatic Championship
Torun, Poland

Pawel Szczepanowski

The World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships
Torun, Poland

Pawel Szczepanowski

The European Advanced Aerobatic Championship
Dubnica, Slovakia

Jürgen Leukefeld

The World Aerobatic Championship
Foligno, Italy

Jürgen Leukefeld

At each event the ACRO scoring system was used to manage the contest data and provide the results.

Technical issues

Overall the software operated well and without the need for any significant mid-season attention. At the glider championships where the scorer was using it for the first time some questions about the FPS setup and the judging analysis were quickly resolved by email contact.

ACRO has again been used at a growing number of other national aerobatic events around the world during the year. Despite many years of operational use a few curious anomalies still occasionally emerge. An interesting example occurred at the Nordic Championships, where naturally the scorers' laptop was operating with the Norwegian Bokmal language invoked. An unexpected marks handling problem arose leading to 'Void' marks appearing; it eventually transpired that, when Bokmal is invoked, the Windows keyboard handler automatically replaces all instances of the letters AA with Å (this is the 29th character in the Bokmal alphabet) ... fortunately these oddities are now rare and need be resolved only once.

Use of FPS vs. Raw Averaged results

At the majority of non-CIVA contests it is pleasing to report that ACRO has been operated with the FairPlay system invoked, and hence Ranking Index data has been available to the judges. Some event organisers however still choose to use the software in simple averaged raw marks mode, and in these cases judges are unable either to review their performance or receive any RI data to support requests for addition to the CIVA database of selectable judges for class-1 championships. Surprisingly at the US Nationals in Texas ACRO was operated like this, despite some promising correspondence earlier in the year to help IAC adopt FPS for that event– and possibly others.

To grow and improve the CIVA judging pool we need judges to be able to submit personal RI data in support of their NAC nominations, and thus it is strongly in the interest of all representatives of CIVA to champion the benefits of operating the FairPlay system – not only for judges but of course also for pilots to receive the fairest possible treatment of their marks.

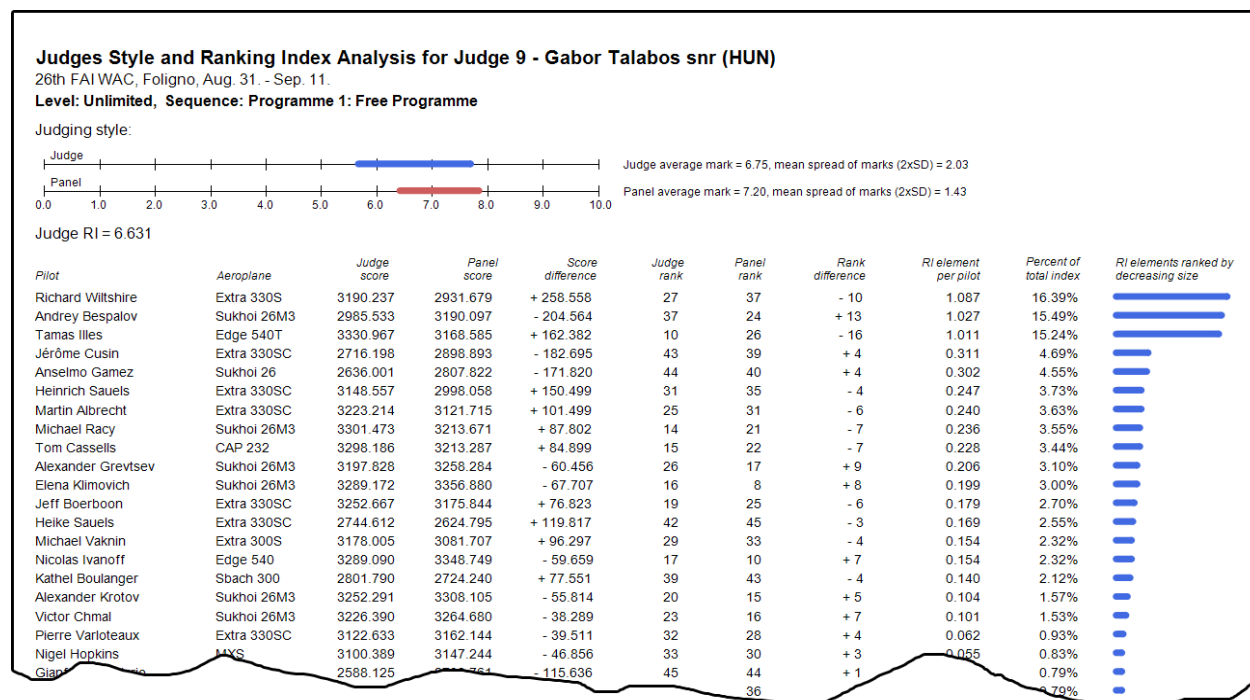
The use of Perception Zeroes

The option for judges now to award a PZ to identify poorly flown snaps, spins and slides (and some other glider moments) without fear of any impact to their Ranking Index if the mark is rejected has been well adopted this year, and I am confident this has enabled judges to express their opinions more succinctly in these matters. Reviewing ACRO files that I have received this year shows that in many cases PZ's are indeed 'outlier' marks and consequently FPS often rejects them, but when this occurs the automatic substitution of a normal 'Average' avoids all RI implications while leaving the original decision clear for pilots to see. It is not so easy to tell how the recipients are taking this perceived indication of the quality of their flying; we can only hope that these indications will in due course encourage a review of their causes.

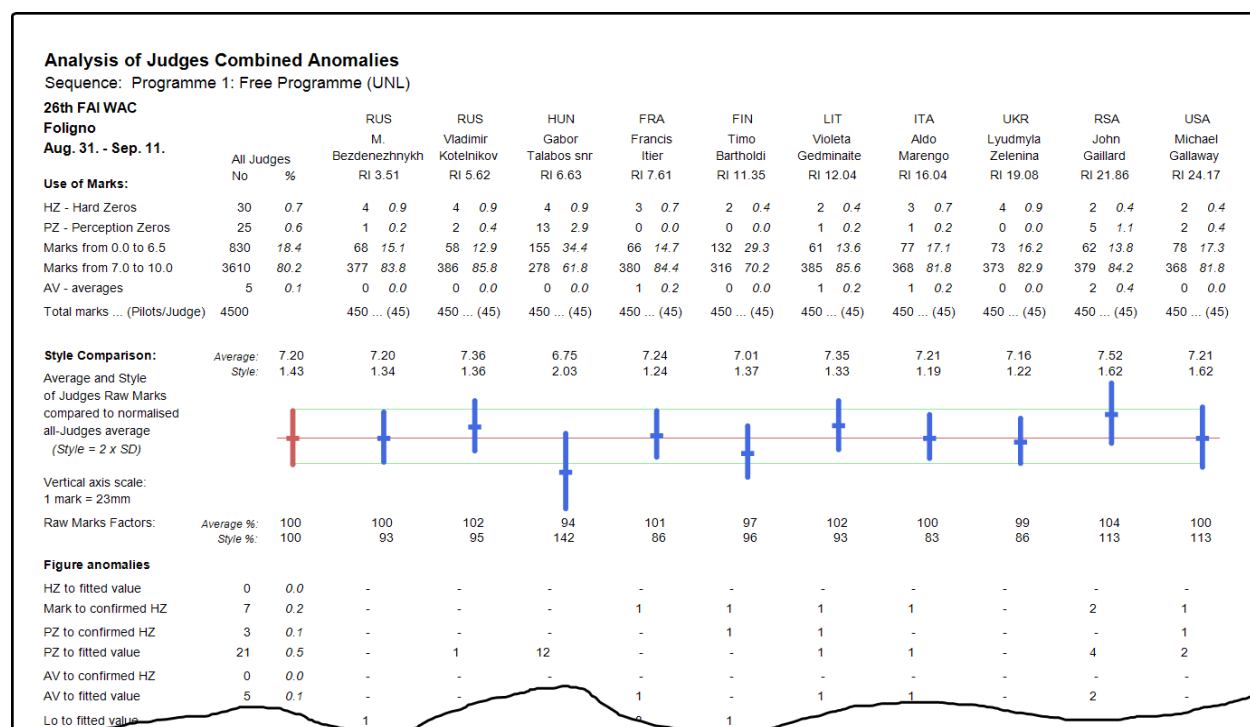
Judging analysis

ACRO's comprehensive individual judge analysis has been extended for 2011 to include a new section that shows how the judges Ranking Index is built up, the judges 'style' being graphically displayed and the incremental effect that each mis-ranked pilot has added to the judges sequence RI is fully detailed.

For example:



The judging style graphic has also been extended into the Chief Judges overall analysis, providing more information on the relative style of each judges' contribution to the overall panel results and pilots scores.



Scoring system developments in 2011

ACRO's code base has been extended during the year to create an interface to the tablet based remote scoring system currently being developed by Vladimir Machula in the Czech



Republic. In that system each judge uses a Samsung tablet in place of the usual Form-A to record figure and penalty marks (and comments, but not yet ...), this data being relayed in real-time via a local Wi-Fi router to a laptop based managing system in front of the Chief Judge and/or perhaps a commentator. When each flight concludes the CJ can review and then sign-off the panel's marks, which are quickly transmitted via an intermediate web based URI back to ACRO for semi-automated handling –



in this way each pilots marks can easily be published and the web results system updated before he or she has even landed.

This linked pair of systems system was used for the first time at the Nordic Championships in July this year, but while in broad terms the trial was pretty successful a number of minor handling difficulties in both the ACRO interface code and the tablet system made it clear that further development is necessary to reach an overall standard of reliability that would be acceptable for a major world or European championship. The practical advantages that this collaboration might offer to real-time scoring at non-FPS or Special Events however is very promising and mutual development will continue into 2012.



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