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# Report of the CIVA Safety Working Group

## CIVA Plenary meeting 2025

Paris Le Bourget, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

### **A. Introduction**

The CIVA Safety Working Group has now been active for the third year after its creation in 2023.

#### **Safety Working Group (SWG) consists now of following Members:**

Hanspeter Rohner, SUI, Chairman

Tamas Abranyi, HUN

Pekka Havbrandt, SWE

Pierre Varloteaux, FRA

Keith Doyne, USA

Victor Lalloué, FRA

Maurizio Costa, ITA

Poul Nielsen, DEN

Patrick Paris, FRA, Advisor

### **B. SWG activity plans for 2025**

After a very busy year in 2024 the Safety Working Group's plans for 2025 were focusing more on the review of incidents and observations during championships in 2023 and 2024, and with only one CIVA championship planned in 2025, the potential work load for the group was expected to be less than the 2 previous seasons.

Activity plans for 2025 were as follows:

1. Safe use of seat harness
2. Canopy safety
3. Towing safety at glider aerobatic championships

## C. Progress report

### 1. Safe use of seat harness:

At EAC 2023 there was an incident where a seat harness became partially undone during a competition flight. One of the harness latches got caught and released by the pilot's sleeve during a snap roll.

Recommendations are to wear clothing with tight sleeves at the wrist, so it cannot accidentally latch on an item in the plane during flight.

Further thoughts have been given to the correct fastening of the seat harness.

Hooker Harness has published a YouTube video, which explains very well the correct fastening procedure. This video is now in the Safety tab of CIVA News.

The screenshot shows the CIVA News website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: About CIVA, Events, Documents, Judging, Safety (which is underlined and has a red arrow pointing to it), News, Systems, and Useful Links. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "General Safety Information and Guidance". This section includes a "Safety Recommendations and Campaigns" heading and links to "Safety in Aerobatics: G-Loc Tips v2", "Safety around your aircraft", and "The Hooker harness - Correct operation". A red arrow points from the "Safety" link in the navigation bar down to the "Safety in Aerobatics" link. To the right of this section is a yellow triangular graphic with "CIVA SAFETY" at the top and "SWG" at the bottom, with a small airplane icon in the center. Below the graphic is a "Submit a Safety Report/Observation" button. The bottom of the page contains a summary of the SWG's role in fostering safety in CIVA activities.

The CIVA Safety Working Group (SWG) acts as the focal point to foster the highest levels of safety in all CIVA activities. Its primary aim is to provide recommendations, guidance and proposals on any matter associated with safety. This is done through its own work and findings, or on request by any stakeholder in CIVA (e.g. CIVA Bureau, Committees, other Working Groups, NACs, competitors, championship officials and organisers) which may then make appropriate decisions or prepare formal proposals in the light of the SWG advice.

The current members of the CIVA SWG are listed on the Working Groups page [here](#).

### 2. Canopy safety:

We have heard of several incidents of canopies accidentally opening during flight. I did a quick search in various country databases and have found 10 incidents stretching back to 2005, 2 of those were fatal. An Excel summary is on the Safety tab of CIVA News.

We have asked EXTRA if they had a system which could reduce the risk of such canopy incidents.

EXTRA has made their own investigation into the history of canopy incidents.

During the German Open Aerobatic Championships in Dinslaken, Walter Extra showed me their project for canopy safety. Their device will warn the pilot visually if the canopy is not properly locked. According to Walter Extra this will become a Service Bulletin to retrofit existing EXTRA aircraft.

### **3. Safety in towing at glider aerobatic championships:**

There were several towing incidents during recent glider aerobatic championships. The SWG has not further investigated but it recommends that the CIVA Glider Aerobatic Committee (GAC) addresses this topic in view of future CIVA glider aerobatic championships.

The SWG is of course ready to assist the GAC in this matter.

## **D. Operational Involvement of the SWG**

The SWG did not have any operational involvement in 2025.

No incidents have been reported to the SWG and the CD of the only CIVA championship this year, the WAAC/WIAC, Tamas Abranyi, has confirmed that there were no safety incidents during the event.

## **E. The aerobatic community and the CIVA SWG**

The CIVA SWG has a separate tab “Safety” on the CIVA News website :  
<https://www.civanews.com/civa-safety-working-group/>

Any member of our community can submit a safety report or observation via the SWG link.

The SWG also has quick response capabilities and to alert the SWG it is best to send an email to [civa-safety@fai.org](mailto:civa-safety@fai.org) or call/message/email any member of the SWG directly.

- End of report -

Hanspeter Rohner  
SWG chairman