

Technical Secretary Report to Bureau Meeting – December 2015 at Dubai

The work of the Technical Secretary has proceeded normally following the Plenary Meeting in April.

Minutes: On the 1st May, Technical Notices were issued for the early implementation of rules contained in the Sporting Code Volumes: F2 Control Line, F3 Aerobatic, F3 Soaring and F3 Helicopter. The Minutes of the Sporting Code section were produced efficiently with few issues impacting this process. It is worth noting the need for Subcommittee Chairmen to be very careful in their analysis of changes that are agreed at Plenary, probing their Volume for any unintended effects or conflicts that may result from an amendment. The Volumes have all grown over the years; they are complicated, and unintended changes or conflicts are difficult to correct. The other issue we need to be mindful of at Plenary 2016 is amendments to proposals that are suggested during the Plenary meeting itself. Amendments made during Technical Meetings are typed up by the Subcommittee Chairmen and can be verified by that meeting as correct but this year an amendment made verbally was not recorded as intended by the proposer, with the result that a revised issue of the Minutes with the corrected proposal had to be distributed. I suggest that in future, all amendments proposed by delegates during the meeting, if approved, are handed to the Chairman in writing.

2016 Editions of Sporting Code Volumes: The process of producing the 2016 Volumes has gone smoothly. The Vice President assisted in the production of the 2016 ABR after which he embarked on the restructure of that Volume. All Subcommittee Chairmen were asked whether they wanted to make their own Volume amendments or the Technical Secretary was happy to do this work. Several opted to take the Tech Sec up on his offer. In November, following much discussion between the President and the appropriate people in the USA, agreement was reached for the publication and use of the IMAC rules for F3M and that large section of rules, manoeuvre descriptions, diagrams and judging guide was added to the F3 – Aerobatic Volume, together with an acknowledgement. The F3N – Helicopter manoeuvres that change every year were received in good time prior to the Bureau meeting and this was appreciated. All Volumes were amended and ready for upload to the website at the beginning of December. Unfortunately, the Technical Secretary had to then wait until right at the end of December, when the FAI office staff who assist with this process returned from working at the WAG in Dubai.

Records: Seven records have been homologated in 2015 and there are currently eight in the transit to Australia for processing when I return home. Record dossiers have all been prepared according to the procedure set out in the Sporting Code. One issue was revealed during the analysis of a helicopter speed record; that there are two different maximum weights for helis in different places in the ABR and a third maximum weight in the Helicopter Volume. The Subcommittee Chairman has been consulted and a proposal for Plenary will be written to remedy this conflict.

Proposals for Plenary 2016: Subcommittee and country proposals were received by the Technical Secretary throughout November leading up to the 15th November deadline. This fell on a Sunday and so the date was extended by a day or two to allow for the weekend. Some proposals were later accepted via email from Poland who had experienced technical issues with the automatic submission system. Altogether there were 144 proposals received; of these 10 F1 proposals had to be disallowed because they were clearly proposals for rule changes out of the two year cycle, and 1 proposal was withdrawn. The Technical Secretary will now proceed to prepare the Proposals Section of the Plenary Agenda.

General Work: On several occasions I have been pleased to be able to offer editorial advice regarding correct English translation for documents that have been written or amended this year.