

CIAM Report WAG Selection Working Group

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The WAG Selection Working Group was established at the March, 2007 CIAM Plenary meeting. Its purpose is to define selection methods and contests to produce the best possible CIAM competitors that will be invited to compete in Turin in June, 2009.

The Working Group is made of 7 members representing every Continental Region and equally sharing experience with the 3 classes that will be flown during WAG 2009.

The Working Group members are :

- Tomas Bartovsky (Czech Republic)
- Marcelo Colombo (Argentina)
- Terry Edmonds (USA)
- Ken Hirose (Japan)
- Mike O'Reilly (Australia)
- Bob Skinner (South Africa)
- Guy Revel (chairman)

In addition to the selection method, it was found necessary to revise the present F6 class competition rules to make them more suitable both to normal, « everyday » competitions and to the new WAG format including :

- a lower number of competitors than planned for the previous WAG editions
- a more attractive competition for spectators and competitors as well.

FAI WAG regulations require that competition rules shall be frozen a minimum of 8 months before the event. In practice this means that, for CIAM, any amendment to the rules shall be decided no later than the March, 2008 Plenary. Suggested amendments were widely circulated since last June so as to be used at Selection contests even before the CIAM Plenary, under the « local rules » provision. This ensures that the selection contests will be run in the same way as the actual World Air Games and under the same requirements. It is the only way to produce a fair selection of competitors taking part in contests in various parts of the World. These amendments should be voted upon at the next CIAM Plenary, only then will they be included in the official WAG regulations.

Selection method

Basically the selection method takes into account results obtained at Selection contests, namely ranking and number of competitors. The two or three (according to the class) best results by any competitor out of an undefined number of competitions will be considered. These results will lead to a World ranking, also divided into Continental Regions rankings. At the end of the Selection period (November, 2008) the top ranking competitors from every Continental Region will be selected. The remaining competitors (according to the numbers that will ultimately be decided by the WAG Organisers in July, 2008) will be selected according to their World ranking. This method ensures that every Continental Region will be represented, provided Selection contest are held. At the same time it

provides the opportunity to invite, in principle, more competitors from Regions where any particular class is more active.

Support

It is unfortunate that very little support has been provided by NACs. As a result, many Aeromodelling governing bodies around the World and would-be competitors still ignore practically everything about WAG. Among the alleged reasons is the fact that WAG events are competitions restricted to individual classification, even if every competitor will actually represent his Nation. Every effort should be made to make those Nations represented at CIAM more aware of what is going on and how WAG can benefit to the whole Aeromodelling community and to every Nation represented at the Turin Games as well or, generally speaking, to every Nation in which high level Selection contests will take place. We strongly encourage every NAC and every Delegate to contribute setting up Selection contests.

Further developments

With WAG taking place now every other year, we feel the need to refine the selection method, possibly establishing a continuous World and Continental ranking extending over two or several years. This work will begin as soon as the present selection process will produce initial results.

The World Air Games system is such that any Organiser is requested to select a number of events among those offered by the various FAI Commissions. In other words, there is no guarantee that any particular CIAM competition class will be run at another WAG occurrence. Other FAI Commissions such as IPC (Parachuting) or CIMA (Microlight) already have a number of events specifically designed to attract spectators and WAG organisers. We feel the need to develop other CIAM competition classes suitable for WAG-style events and able to successfully display other facets of Aeromodelling activities and competitions. While the existing three F6 classes will again be submitted to the WAG 2011 Organiser, it is already time to work on possible further classes with a focus on WAG 2013.

The Turin World Air Games, the first that will be organised under the new format, will also be an opportunity to review the present F6 events rules under the very strict time and space WAG requirements. This is, strictly speaking, outside the scope of a Selection Working Group and this is why we recommend establishing a formal F6 sub-committee that would be constituted with members having the proper expertise as regards media-friendly events, both from a competitor's and an organiser's perspective.

Guy Revel

Working Group Chairman