



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

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# Competition Rules

For  
**Canopy Formation**

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2018 Edition  
Effective 01 March 2018

## **FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE**

**MSI - Avenue de Rhodanie 54 – CH-1007 Lausanne – Switzerland**

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- 1 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 1, ..... para 1.6
  - 2 FAI Sporting Code, Gen. Section, ..... Chapter 4, ..... para 4.1.2
  - 3 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 1, ..... para 1.8.1
  - 4 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 2, ..... para 2.1.1; 2.4.2; 2.5.2 and 2.7.2
  - 5 FAI By-Laws, ..... Chapter 1, ..... para 1.2.1
  - 6 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 2, ..... para 2.4.2.2.5
  - 7 FAI By-Laws, ..... Chapter 1, ..... paras 1.2.2 to 1.2.5
  - 8 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 5, ..... paras 5.1.1, 5.2, 5.2.3 and 5.2.3.3
  - 9 FAI Sporting Code, Gen. Section, ..... Chapter 4, ..... para 4.1.5
  - 10 FAI Sporting Code, Gen. Section, ..... Chapter 2, ..... para 2.2.
  - 11 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 5, ..... para 5.2.3.3.7
  - 12 FAI Statutes, ..... Chapter 6, ..... para 6.1.2.1.3

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This document, the Competition Rules for Canopy Formation, 2018 Edition, takes effect on the 1st March 2018. The 2018 Edition differs from the 2017 Edition in those paragraphs with a vertical bar in the margin.

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## 1. FAI AUTHORITY

The competition will be conducted under the authority granted by the FAI, according to the regulations of the Sporting Code of the FAI, General Section, and Section 5 as approved by the IPC and validated by the FAI, and these rules. All participants accept these rules and the FAI regulations as binding by registering in the competition.

## 2. DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN THESE RULES

### 2.1 FORMATION

Consists of two (2) or more jumpers and canopies linked by grips, correct or not.

### 2.2 GRIP

Consists of a hand hold or a foot hook on an "A" line or front riser so that a formation is built in accordance with the configurations as depicted in the dive pool.

### 2.3 CONFIGURATIONS

#### 2.3.1 *Stack*

The shoulder of the upper jumper must be above the upper surface of the lower canopy. A grip must be on an "A" line attached to the centre cell.

#### 2.3.2 *Stairstep*

The shoulder of the upper jumper must be above the upper surface of the lower canopy. The grip must only be on the outside "A" line of the end cell. The grip must be taken with the inside foot; this may include an additional handhold, if desired.

#### 2.3.3 *Plane*

The head of the upper jumper must be below the lower surface of the lower canopy. A grip must be on a front riser or an "A" line attached to the centre cell.

#### 2.3.4 *Plane/stack*

Plane, stack or any position on a riser or an "A" line attached to the centre cell between these configurations. A correct grip must be maintained.

The above configurations only apply to complete formations.

### 2.4 INTER

The stage between two formations. An inter must be flown and remain intact with the correct grips.

### 2.5 SEQUENCE

A series of blocks and random formations that are designated by the draw.

### 2.6 NV

Formations, inters, or total separations not visible on screen due to meteorological conditions (such as rain, clouds, sun, etc.) or factors relating to the Videographer's video equipment that cannot be controlled.

### 2.7 OMISSION

is one of the following:

1. A formation or inter missing from the drawn sequence.

2. No clear intent to build the correct formation or inter is seen and another formation or inter is presented and there is an advantage to the team resulting from the substitution.

## 2.8 WORKING TIME

The working time begins at the moment of the first separation of a grip from the first formation whether correct or not, or 30 seconds after exit of the first team member, including the team's Videographer, whichever is first.

# 3 THE EVENTS

## 3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS

The discipline will comprise the following events

- 3.1.1 *2-Way Sequential Event* – 8 rounds
- 3.1.2 *4-Way Sequential Event* – 8 rounds
- 3.1.3 *4-Way Rotation Event* – 8 rounds

## 3.2 MINIMUM ROUNDS

A minimum of one round must be completed to establish winners in any event.

## 3.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENTS

The accumulated total of all completed rounds is used to determine the final rank of the teams and declare the winner.

## 3.4 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

- 3.4.1 *2-way Sequential Event*: Each round consists of a repeatable sequence drawn from the dive pool.
- 3.4.2 *4-way Sequential Event*: Each round consists of a repeatable sequence drawn from the dive pool.
- 3.4.3 *4-way Rotation Event*: Each round consists of successive 4-way plane/stack formations made by rotations. Rotations must be made by the top competitor in the complete formation dropping grips, flying to the bottom of the formation and again completing a 4-way plane/stack formation. The inter is the remaining correctly completed 3-way plane/stack formation.

## 3.5 DETERMINATION OF WINNERS

- 3.5.1 Where only one round is completed, the team that has the best score for that one round shall be the winner. If more than one team has the same score, the team with the fastest time within working time, calculated to the second decimal point, shall be the winner.
- 3.5.2 Where more than one round is completed, the team that has the best score calculated as follows:
  - 3.5.2.1 the highest aggregate number of formations in all the completed rounds.
  - 3.5.2.2 tie break round (if possible) for the first three (3) places only.
  - 3.5.2.3 the highest number of points in any completed round for each team.
  - 3.5.2.4 the fastest time (measured to hundredths of a second) to the last common scoring formation within working time in the last completed round.
- 3.5.3 Tied teams placed lower than third remain tied.

## 4 GENERAL RULES

### 4.1 EQUIPMENT

- 4.1.1 Canopy Formation must not be performed using a reserve parachute.
- 4.1.2 Competitors must carry the following equipment:
  - 4.1.2.1 Each team member must carry a hook-knife for emergency use.
  - 4.1.2.2 Each member of each team must carry a serviceable altimeter.

### 4.2 METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

- 4.2.1 When air turbulence is apparent or clouds at lower altitudes affect visibility, the Meet Director may decide to raise the exit altitude. The Meet Director must inform all jumpers of the decision. This decision is not open to protest.
- 4.2.2 Teams may refuse to jump in rain or turbulent conditions. The Meet Director, FAI Controller and the Chief Judge by unanimous decision may decide to continue the event. If a team aborts a jump a second time for the same reason, that team will not jump that round and must be awarded the maximum or minimum score, whichever is worse.
- 4.2.3 Rain occurring any time after the first team member exits the aircraft is no grounds for protest.

### 4.3 SAFETY

All forms of Canopy Formation jumping must cease by 750 meters (~2500 ft).

### 4.4 END OF WORKING TIME

After working time has elapsed, only the drawn sequence for that round may be performed. If any other canopy formation is performed the team will receive a score of zero for that round. The organiser shall supply a qualified person to monitor teams for this possible occurrence. This decision is no grounds for a protest.

- 4.4.1 The Chief Judge is responsible for appointing a qualified person to monitor that rule 4.4 is followed.
- 4.4.2 In the event that the CJ cannot appoint the person supplied by the Organiser for pertinent reasons (eg person has other responsibilities or is not suitably qualified) the Organiser shall provide an alternative person.
- 4.4.3 If the same team is observed to have broken rule 4.4 a second time, the appointed observer will notify the Chief Judge. The team concerned will be disqualified from the competition. This decision is no grounds for a protest.

### 4.5 THE DRAW

A public draw of the sequences and the jump order will be supervised by the Chief Judge. The teams will be given not less than two hours knowledge of the results before the competition starts.

### 4.6 TRAINING JUMPS

- 4.6.1 Each team in each event will be given the option of one official training Jump before the draw is made.
- 4.6.2 Training jumps may not be made after the draw has been made public. If time allows these jumps may be assessed by the judges and, if assessed, the score shall be published.

- 4.6.3 Two drawn rounds will be made available for teams use. Teams can perform a sequence of their own choice instead and receive an evaluation from the judges. In this case, teams must provide the sequence to the judges with the video.

#### 4.7 JUMP ORDER

The drawn jump order will be used for all rounds. Time permitting, and at the discretion of the Meet Director, reverse order of ranking may be used for the final two rounds.

#### 4.8 EXIT PROCEDURE

- 4.8.1 There is no limitation on the exit other than those imposed by the Chief Pilot for safety reasons. The pilot must maintain the altitude and direction until the aircraft is well clear of the jumpers.
- 4.8.2 Teams will be responsible for their own exits once the aircraft has commenced the jump run and the team has been cleared to exit.
- 4.8.3 The exit of the first team member must be clearly shown on the team's video recording. Failure to clearly show the exit of the first team member will result in a score of zero for that round.
- 4.8.4 The pilot chute must not be withdrawn from the equipment until the team member is clear of the aircraft.

#### 4.9 VIDEO TRANSMISSION AND RECORDING

- 4.9.1 Each team shall provide the video evidence required to judge each round. Each Videographer must use the video transmission system provided by the Organiser.
- 4.9.2 The Organiser must provide the teams with a way of identification of the team showing the date, round, and team number to be recorded by the Videographer just before exit. The recording should continue with the jump without a stop in recording.
- 4.9.3 The video equipment must be able to deliver a High Definition 1080 type digital signal with a minimum frame rate of 25 frames per second, through a memory card (minimum class 10).
- The Videographer is responsible for ensuring the compatibility of their video equipment with the scoring system.
- 4.9.4 As soon as possible after each jump is completed, the Videographer must deliver the video equipment (including the video used to record that jump) for dubbing at the designated dubbing station. The video evidence must remain available for viewing or download until all scores are posted as final.
- 4.9.5 Only one video recording will be dubbed and judged. Secondary video recordings may only be used in NV situations.
- 4.9.6 The dubbing station will be as close to the landing area as possible.
- 4.9.7 A Video Controller will be appointed by the organiser and approved by the Chief Judge prior to the start of the Official Training Jumps. Prior to the competition beginning, the Video Controller may inspect a team's video equipment to verify that it meets the performance requirements, as determined by him/her. Inspections that do not interfere with a team's performance may be made at any time during the competition, as determined by the Chief Judge. If any video equipment does not meet the performance requirements as determined by the Video Controller, this equipment will be

deemed to be unusable for the competition.

4.9.8 A Video Review Panel (VRP) will be established prior to the start of the official training jumps, consisting of the Chief Judge, the President of the Jury and the FAI Controller. Decisions rendered by the Video Review Panel shall be final and shall not be subject to protest or review by the Jury.

4.9.9 If the Video Review Panel determines that the video equipment has been deliberately tampered with, the team will receive no points for all competition rounds involved with this tampering.

#### 4.10 REJUMPS

4.10.1 In the case of an NV, the Video Review Panel will assess the conditions and circumstances surrounding that occurrence and may award a rejump. Should the Video Review Panel determine that there has been an intentional abuse of the rules by the team, or by the Videographer on behalf of the team, no rejump will be granted and they will receive zero points for that jump.

4.10.2 Problems with a team's equipment are not grounds for a rejump, except as determined in an NV situation and in 4.10.3.

4.10.3 In the event of an equipment malfunction, only one rejump may be granted per team, per competition event. This rejump will not be granted if the team builds a complete formation (correct or not) at any time during the jump.

Evidence of the malfunction must be provided by the team. The Meet Director in conjunction with the Chief Judge will assess the conditions and circumstances surrounding the occurrence. A rejump will be granted unless it is determined that there was an intentional abuse of the rules by the team; in which case, no rejump will be granted and the team's score for that jump will be zero.

4.10.4 Contact or other means of interference between a team and its Videographer are not grounds for the team to request a rejump.

#### 4.11 SCORING

4.11.1 All formations and inter requirements must be completed and recorded in such a manner that the judges may determine that the required performance has been achieved. Provision of the video evidence for judging purposes is the responsibility of the team.

4.11.2 If a competitor or team is disqualified for a jump, they will receive zero points for that jump.

## 5 RULES SPECIFIC TO THE EVENTS

### 5.1 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL EVENT

5.1.1 Exit altitude shall be 2150 meters (~7000 ft) AGL with a working time of 60 seconds.

5.1.2 *The draw of the sequences:* Each round consists of five formations that have been drawn from the dive pool of 12 formations (2 of each). After each sequence is drawn, the five formations shall be returned to the dive pool so that they may be drawn again.

5.1.3 *Scoring:* Teams will be awarded one point for the first correct formation and subsequent correct formations that are preceded by total separation within the working time. Teams will not be awarded points for incorrect formations.

There will be no penalty.

- 5.1.4 *Omissions:* For each omission of a formation in a round, the team will not score the point for the omitted formation, and an additional two points per omission will be deducted from that round as a penalty. However, the scoring will not be affected if the team goes back to correctly complete the omitted formation within working time. Formations built correctly after the omitted formation will be scored in the normal manner.
- 5.1.5 Each formation must be performed in accordance with the illustrations in the drawn sequence. Jumper position for each random is set by the draw, i.e. the dark canopy position on the first formation built within a round must remain in the dark canopy position on all subsequent formations of that round. There must be release of all grips between each formation. No mirror formations are allowed. All formations shall be performed as shown in the dive pool, as seen from behind.

## 5.2 4-WAY SEQUENTIAL EVENT

- 5.2.1 Exit altitude shall be 2750 meters (~9000 ft) AGL with a working time of 120 seconds.
- 5.2.2 *The draw of the sequences:* Each block sequence or random from the Dive Pool will be drawn only once for each competition. All rounds shall consist of four or five scoring formations, whichever number is reached first.
- 5.2.3 *Scoring:* Teams will be awarded one point for the first correctly completed formation and each subsequent correct formation or formations preceded by an inter correctly completed within the working time. Teams will not be awarded points for incorrect formations. There will be no penalty.
- 5.2.4 *Omissions:* For each omission of a formation in a round, the team will not score the point for the omitted formation, and an additional one point will be deducted per omission from that round as a penalty. However, the scoring will not be affected if the team goes back to correctly complete the omitted formation within working time. Formations built correctly after the omitted formation will be scored in the normal manner.
  - 5.2.4.1 An attempt to complete a formation, although incorrect or incomplete, demonstrated by at least three canopies connected with grips, OR the two 2-way formations in an inter clearly attempting to build the formation required by the drawn sequence, will be judged as an incorrect formation, not as an omission.
- 5.2.5 Each formation and inter requirement must be performed in accordance with the drawn sequence. Where there is no inter requirement between formations, there must be release of all grips between all canopies at one point in time. Mirror images are acceptable for complete blocks and random formations. Formations need not be symmetrical. At the end of a sequence there must be release of all grips before restarting the sequence as drawn.

## 5.3 4-WAY ROTATION EVENT

- 5.3.1 Exit altitude shall be 2500 meters (~8000 ft) AGL with a working time of 90 seconds.
- 5.3.2 **SCORING:** Teams will be awarded one point for the first correctly completed formation and every correctly completed 4-way plane/stack formation within the working time, according to the performance requirement. Team members rotating from the top of the plane/stack formation before the bottom team member has taken a grip will not receive credit for that formation. The following formation (the rebuild) shall be scored as zero (0) points, except

for the formation following the first formation after the start of working time.

## **6 JUDGING RULES**

### **6.1 SCORING SYSTEM**

The judges may use an electronic scoring system to record their evaluation of the performance.

### **6.2 START OF WORKING TIME**

The judges shall start the timing when the first team member (including the team's Videographer) leaves the aircraft. At the end of working time, freeze frame of the video image shall be applied.

### **6.3 VIEWING**

The judges will watch each performance once at normal speed. At the request of any working judge, a second viewing at normal speed or reduced speed at 70% may be made. A third (3<sup>rd</sup>) view of part(s) of the jump at normal or reduced speed at 70%, may only occur at the discretion of the Event Judge.

- 6.3.1 If, after all viewings are complete, and within 15 seconds of knowledge of the result, the Chief Judge, Event Judge or any Judge on the panel considers that an absolutely incorrect assessment has occurred, the Chief Judge or Event Judge will direct that only that part(s) of the jump in question be reviewed. If the review results in a minimum four to one judge decision by the Judges that an absolutely incorrect assessment has occurred on the part(s) of the jump in question, the score for the jump will be adjusted accordingly. Only one review is permitted for each jump.

### **6.4 SIZE OF PANEL**

Each performance must be evaluated by a panel of five judges.

### **6.5 SCORING**

A majority of Judges must agree in the evaluation in order to;

- credit the scoring formation, or
- assign an omission, or
- determine an NV situation.

### **6.6 POSTING**

All judges scores shall be posted.

## **7 RULES SPECIFIC TO THE COMPETITION**

### **7.6 TITLE OF COMPETITION**

“ \_\_ FAI World/Continental Canopy Formation Championships.”

“ \_\_FAI World Cup in Canopy Formation.”

### **7.2 AIMS**

of the \_\_ FAI World/Continental Canopy Formation Championships,  
and the \_\_FAI World Cup in Canopy Formation

7.2.1 *To determine the World/Continental Champions and World Cup winners, in Canopy Formation in the following events:*

- 2way Sequential
- 4way Sequential
- 4way Rotation

7.2.2 *To determine the world standings of the competing teams.*

7.2.3 *To establish Canopy Formation world records.*

7.2.4 *To promote and develop Canopy Formation competition.*

7.2.5 *To exchange ideas and strengthen friendly relations between the sport parachutists of all nations.*

7.2.6 *To allow participants to share and exchange experience, knowledge and information.*

7.2.7 *To improve judging methods and practices.*

### 7.3 COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

7.3.1 *Each delegation may comprise:*

- One (1) Head of Delegation,
- One (1) Team Manager

7.3.2 *At a World Parachuting Championship or Continental Championship:*

- Two 2-way teams consisting of up to four (4) members, any of who may be the team Videographer.
- One 4-way Sequential team consisting of up to six (6) members, any of who may be the team Videographer.
- One 4-way Rotation team consisting of up to six (6) members, any of who may be the team Videographer.

7.3.3 *At a World Cup:* Any number (to a maximum of 4) teams per event (composed as for a World Championship) to be decided by the Organiser.

7.3.4 Videographers must be entered for each team as part of the delegation. The evaluation process for the video evidence will be the same for any Videographer. Videographers may be one of the following:

- a) one of the members of the team and meet all the requirements necessary to be on the team and is eligible to receive medals and awards or;
- b) any other person. This Videographer is not eligible to receive awards and medals. In this case there may be no more than three (3) competitors in a 2-Way team, and no more than five (5) competitors in a 4-Way team. This Videographer may jump only as a Videographer and is subject to the same regulations as other competitors on the team. A Videographer may be replaced at any time during the competition, (with the agreement of the Meet Director) in which case the replacement Videographer will not be eligible for awards and medals.

7.3.5 Each competitor and Videographer shall only be allowed to compete for one team in each event.

### 7.4 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

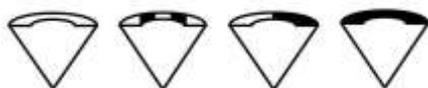
7.4.1 The competition will be organised during a maximum time frame of five (5)

competition days. Exceptions may be made where a bid is received for multiple FCE competitions at one time.

## 8 DIVE POOL

8.1 Definitions used in the formation diagrams are as follows

8.2.1 Canopy identification:

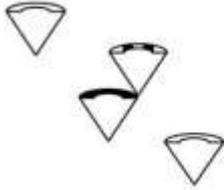
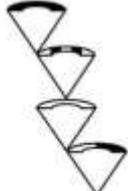


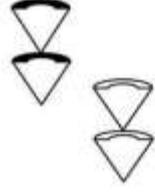
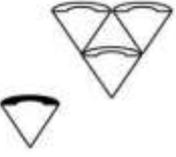
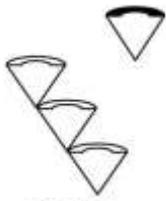
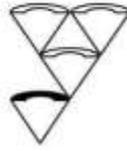
8.2.2 Block sequence numbers: 1 2 3 4

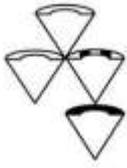
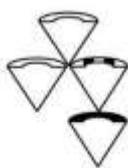
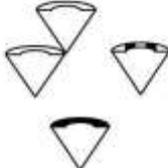
8.2.3 Random formation letters: A B C D

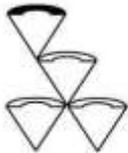
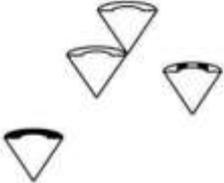
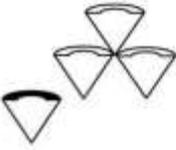
8.2.4 Intermediate requirement: INTER

8.3 4-WAY SEQUENTIAL BLOCK FORMATIONS

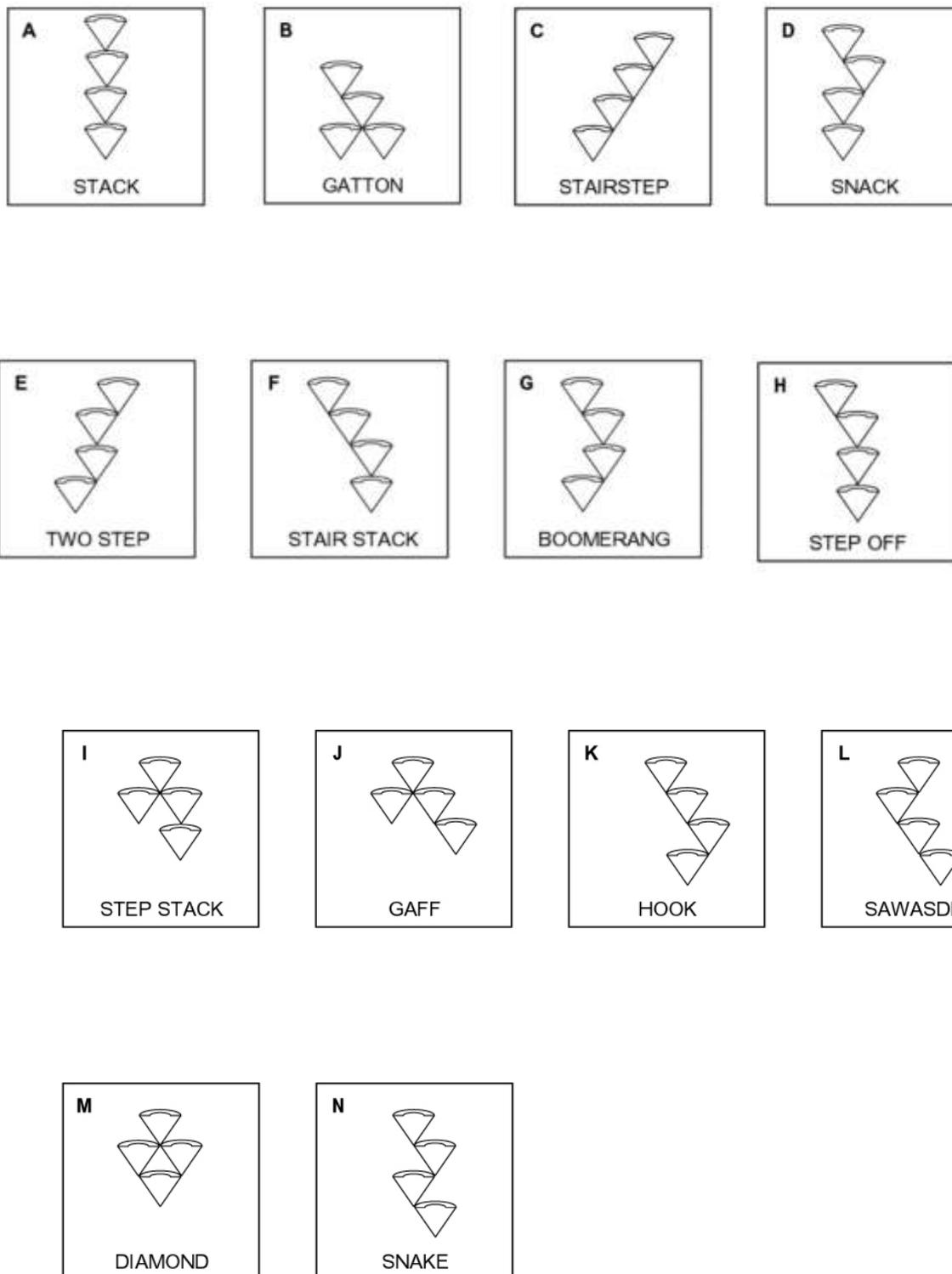
<p><b>1</b></p>  <p>SNAKE</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p>DIAMOND</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>STAIRSTEP</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p>STEP STACK</p>
 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>
 <p>GATTON</p>	 <p>TWO STEP</p>	 <p>SNAKE</p>	 <p>TWO STEP</p>

<p>5</p>  <p>STACK</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>DIAMOND</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>DIAMOND</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>SAWASDEE</p>
 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>
 <p>STACK</p>	 <p>VICHY</p>	 <p>DIAMOND</p>	 <p>HOOK</p>

<p><b>9</b></p>  <p>STEP STACK</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>  <p>STEP STACK</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>SNAKE</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>  <p>STAIRSTEP</p>
 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>
 <p>SNACK</p>	 <p>STAIRSTEP</p>	 <p>STAIR STACK</p>	 <p>DIAMOND</p>

<p><b>13</b></p>  <p>DIAMOND</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>  <p>GATTON</p>
 <p>INTER</p>	 <p>INTER</p>
 <p>GATTON</p>	 <p>DIAMOND</p>

8.4 4-WAY SEQUENTIAL RANDOM FORMATIONS:



8.5 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL RANDOM FORMATIONS:

