Event Development Service (EDS) minutes

India, 13/03/2025

# 2025 EDS Subcommittee:

Chair: Lindsay Muir (UK) Members Present: Benoit Pelard (FRA), David Strassman (SUI), Andrew Baird (USA), Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL)

# Review of 2024 Sanction Events

* 67th Gordon Bennett Race. The event ran with budget. The organisation of the event was difficult, but it went very well, and it was an outstanding event in the closing stages.
  + 26th World Hot Air Balloon Championship. This was a well-run event, but the weather proved a bit challenging. Task setting – not the most creative.
  + Coupe du Europe – Cat 2. This small event has been running for many years and once again it went well. The weather conditions were not as good as hoped for, but flights went ahead. Very popular event despite being set in a very small village. It was a very social event with everyone eating, drinking and refuelling together. It finished with a very good airshow.
  + Open Slovenian Hot Air Balloon Championship Murska Sobota – Cat 2. This was a small event but there were16 pilots representing 4 countries. Slovenia will now be working with Hungary to run a joint National championship annually where each country alternates hosting the event.
  + Open Austrian Dopgas Nationals and Lower Austrian Hot Air Balloon Championship – Cat 2. This was being run as a Pre-Europeans. Despite a few issues with refuelling, it was a good event with 35 pilot. The facilities were very good.

# Review of events sanctioned for 2025 and 2026

* 68th Gordon Bennett Race - 2025. Metz, France. France has organised several GB events. This year there are 25 teams entered from 10 countries entered but there may only 20 be teams in the end. It has taken a lot of hard work to educate locals on gas balloons however the is very good support from the local hot air balloon club. Gordon Bennett TV has been very good for the event. Activities (including Special shapes, airship, night glow and drone show) are are being planned for the public to attract them to the site during the lead up to the launch.

The was a comment that registration for 2024 Gordon Bennett was a nightmare as not all the documents for available until very late on. Many of these documents are required to obtain permission to fly into certain countries, therefore they should probably be submitted to the organiser up to 3 months in advance.

* 23rd FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship – Austria 16th – 23rd August 2025. No update from organiser. A comment from the Spain delegate that there is a lack of available accommodation, and that the entry fee does not include much.
* Pre-Worlds 2025 – Krosno, Poland. Over 50 pilots from all over the world have already registered for the event.

# Events to be sanctioned

## 24th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship

* + Poland

22/08/2027 - 28/08/2027

Event Director - Claude Weber

Location – Torun, Poland

Entry fee - 650 euro which includes propane.

The organiser has previously run several events over several years. Torun is a tourist centres so the is lots of accommodation is available. Media concept is to have a website designed for event, video summary daily, live transmissions, interviews, an event studio, and promotion of airsports (working in conjunction with PMR). The organiser plans to hold events during the week where all the competitors and crew can get together to socialise. There will be a party on Friday night with prize giving during the following lunchtime. Several partners have already signed up and there are some are some more potential partners. It is hope that there will be green propane during the event.

* Spain

11/10/2027- 17/10/2027

Event Director – David Bareford

Location – Mallorca

Entry fee

650€+VAT. Propane included during the event (10 flights). Opening and closing ceremony for 4 people. For additional crew members to the fee is 120€ + VAT per person.  
The organiser we will make other packages available with hotel & ferry or only hotel shortly. Unspecified presents & gifts for competitors. The price of the Gas is calculated at the price at the time of the event.

The organiser has previously run a European championship in Mallorca.

* Slovakia

27/08/2027 - 04/09/2027

Event Director - Christoph Fraisl

Location - Velka Lomnica, Slovakia

Entry fee - 350 euros including opening and closing ceremony with dinner, electronical map, light breakfast before the morning flights. Propane not included in the entry fee.

Slovakia is a new organiser for a category 1 event, but the event director is well known to many competitors.

Slovak delegate Juraj Brezan is going to India for CIA Conference, and he will bring our presentation.

## Category 2 Events

Slovenia / Hungary event is listed on Watchmefly to saying that it is a Cat 2 event. However, no sanction application has been submitted yet. At the moment, there is no monitoring of what an organiser writes on Watchmefly, and they should not state that it is a Cat 2 event until the sanction has been granted.

**Junior and Women’s World Championship** – At the moment there have been no bids submitted to host either event. See motion 1

# Intentions to Bid 2028

## 2027 Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship

Should the EDS motion pass, Poland intend to make a bid to host the 2027 Junior World Championship

## 2027 Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship

Should the EDS motion pass, both the USA and Saudi Arabia intend to make a bid to host the 2027 Womens World Championship

## 27th World Hot Air Balloon Championship (2028)

France, Saudi Arabia, India

# FAILED BIDS

* The was some general discussion about the loser of a bid being offered the opportunity to bid / offered the next available event. This suggestion was made as some organisers put in a lot of work to put together a very good bid and sponsor and this should not all go to waste. No suggestion was made as to how to handle this.

# Documents

* + Sanction application form on Watchmefly. It would be nice to have the key facts required for the bid for presentation in a summary on the online form.
  + Separate sanction application form for Gordon Bennett form.
  + Gordon Bennett on Watchmefly.
  + EDS would like to be able to edit the sanction application form.
  + Documents associated with applying for a sanction need to be reviewed on a regular basis. Particularly “FAI First Category Event Sanction Procedures”.
  + Documents referenced on Watchmefly should be checked as being the current versions.
  + Sanction application form – Invitation and acceptance dates seem to be set far too far in advance of the event.
  + There may be a requirement for a standardised entry form for all events.

# Category 2 Event Structure

The was a discussion about Category 2 events including the purpose, benefits, standard of event etc. EDS will work with the Chairs WG on redefining Category 2 events.

# Motions to the Plenary Meeting

Extend the deadline for the deadline for applications for the 2027 Junior and 2027 Women’s World Championship until 30th September 2025.

# Committee members 2025

Co-Chairman

Lindsay Muir (GBR)

Cedric Gauch (SUI)

Members

Maury Sullivan (USA)

Eric Decellieres (FRA)

Clément Seigeot (FRA)

Ricardo Aracil (ESP)

Andrew Baird (USA) – Chair, CSC

Debbie Spaeth (USA) – Chair, PMR

Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL)

Zoltan Palhegyi (HUN)

JC Weber (LUX, Supporting member)

# MOTION 1

Section 1.8 of ANNEX 7 of Section 1 of the Sporting code states:

*“If no bids have been received at the two year point the plenary may vote to extend the bidding period for a further 6 months, until the end of September”*

If no bids have been received at the two year point the plenary may vote to extend the bidding period for a further 6 months, until the end of September.

EDS would like to propose a motion to the Plenary that we extend the time limits for the Junior and Womens World Championship to 30th September 2025. By this date, potential organiser must submit a completed sanction application to EDS.