

Pursuant to the Sporting Code Section 5 (Skydiving), chapter 1, Moldavian Parachuting Team is filing a complaint against competitor from France - Max Diebold and competitor from Italy - Luca Sala.

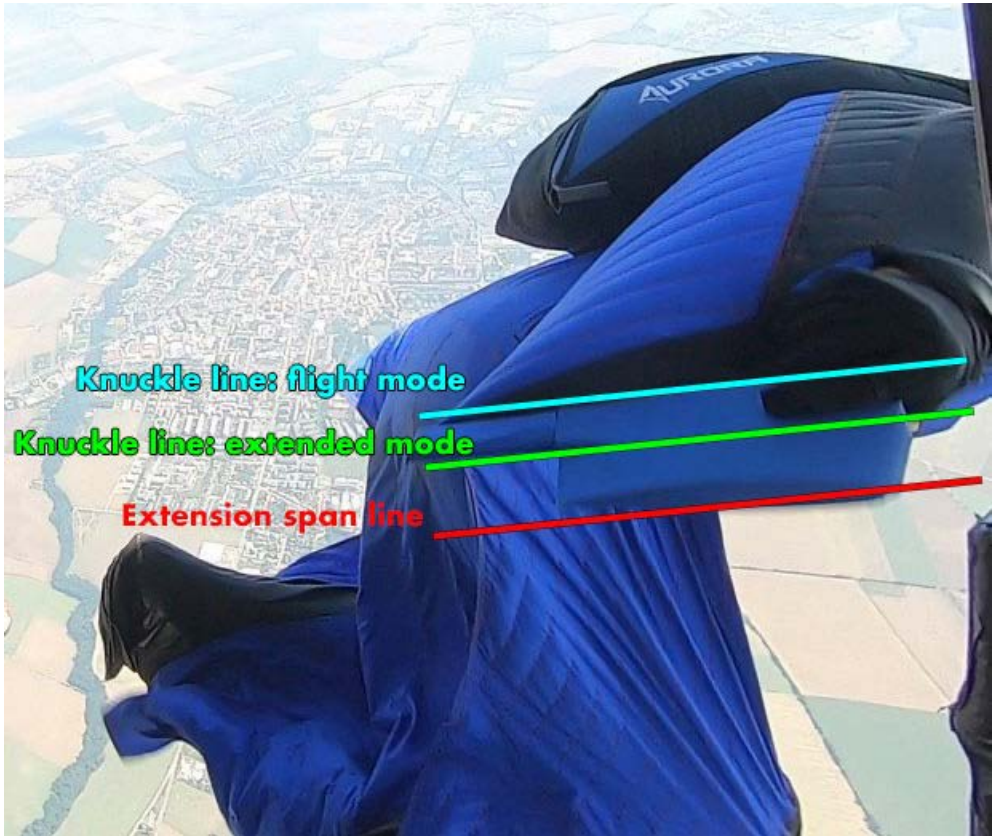
According to the definition 15 of section 1.1.2:

*(15) WINGSUIT: A garment of flexible material forming wings between a parachutist's arms, legs and torso, creating an aerodynamic planform designed to generate forward movement through the air using only the force of gravity. The parachutist's limbs and extremities must serve as the primary frame for the wings. The parachutist's limbs and extremities must serve as the primary frame for the wings. Secondary structural/aerodynamic components (e.g. non-flexible grippers, fins for directional stabilization) may be used. The **span of any structural/aerodynamic components must not extend past the knuckle at the base of the index finger.***

Competitors from France (Max Diebold) and Italy (Luca Sala) are using custom gripper extensions that apparently violate the definition from above, because for both of them gripper extensions/fins extend past the knuckle at the base of the index finger right before and during the flight. Please see attached photographs.

Max Diebold:





Luca Sala:

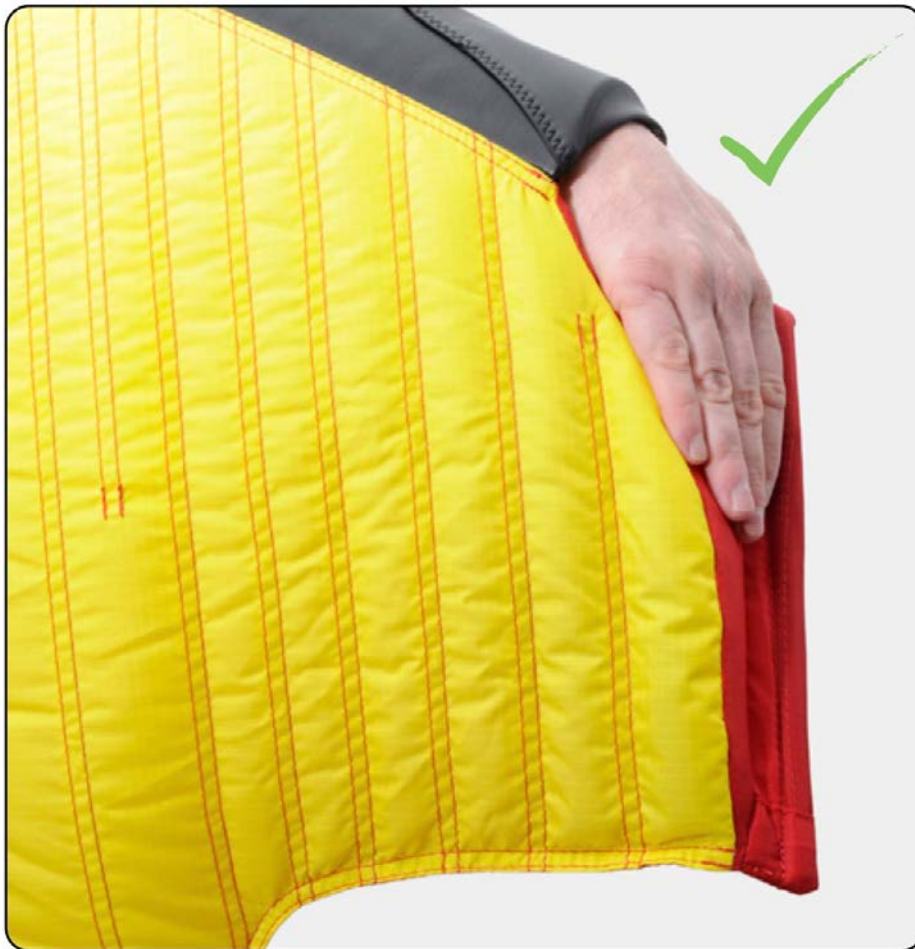


Competitors use grippers to give tension to the suit as recommended by the manufacturers. Grippers are used for this purpose when in flight mode (approximately shown by the blue lines above). Although, when grippers are released and hands extended, knuckle naturally goes back outside of the gripper if suit has no violation. Therefore, the intention of the definition 15 of section 1.1.2 was to prevent any extensions going past the knuckle in the extended hand mode (approximately shown by the green lines above).

The definition 15 of section 1.1.2 quoted above does not specify 2 things:

1. In what plane/axis the span of any structural/aerodynamic components must be measured against the knuckle at the base of the index finger – be it forward, backwards, sideways, etc., as well as hand position during measurement (bent back/forward or extended to the side).
2. At which moment the measurements of the secondary structural/aerodynamic components should be made - be it on the ground, in the plane or in the air.

Therefore, it's logical to assume, that if a span of a secondary structural/aerodynamic element extends past the knuckle at the base of the index finger at any moment/place and in any direction (back/forward/sideways), it goes against the rules and can be used for gaining an unfair advantage. The fact that the hand is bent in flight mode versus extended mode should be taken into consideration because it is the way the suits are flown, recommended by the manufacturers:



**Position for flight.
Palm rests against arm wing end cell.**

Considering experience of the last year's Wingsuit Performance Championship in Arizona, it's clear that gripper extensions give huge advantage to those using them. And this is already visible in the current results: after first round Luca holds first place having flown the best distance and time rounds of all, while Max holds 5th place.

Moldavian Parachuting Team fully supports event organizers, the Jury and Judges efforts to keep Wingsuit Performance Competition fair. Best athletes from the whole world spend their time and money every year to train hard to represent their countries in the best way possible. When someone gains what seems to be an unfair advantage, it's very frustrating and raises a question regarding the feasibility of participating in such events in the future.

For the benefit of our sport, we kindly suggest a closer inspection of gripper extensions of the named individuals to confirm that it complies with the definition 15 of section 1.1.2.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Iurii Cartev



Head of Delegation from Republic of Moldova

Additionally, this complaint is supported by the heads of delegations of following countries:

- Finland
- Denmark
- Kuwait
- Norway
- Poland
- Sweden