



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Meeting Minutes

of the
Annual Meeting
of the
FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)

Held from
Friday 06 February to Saturday 07 February 2026

Held in
AIUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Version 1 | 22 May 2026

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1 Welcome and Opening

The Plenary meeting was called to order on the 6th of February 2026.

CIA President, Mr. Claude Weber, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates.

Mr. Ziad Alsuhaibani, representing the Royal Commission for AIUla and the Saudi Hot Air Balloon Federation, welcomed the delegates. He expressed his honour in hosting the Plenary, noting its high attendance, and stated the commission's work would shape the future of ballooning. He wished the delegates a successful meeting and invited them to attend the concurrent Endurance Equestrian event.

The FAI Secretary General, Mr. Markus Hagganey, speaking on behalf of FAI President Greg Principato, welcomed the delegates and thanked the Saudi hosts for their hospitality. He expressed pleasure in attending the CIA Plenary and wished the commission a successful meeting.

Following the opening remarks, the FAI Anthem was played.

2 In Memoriam

The President noted the passing of members of the ballooning community during the previous year.

He specifically mentioned Mr. Horst Hassold, who served as CIA President from 1978 to 1982.

Other mentions were: Köbi Zeberli, Anna Nociarova, Miloslav Skorpik, Alain Poulet, Koen Barends, Esa Pakarinen, Kim and Dave Lynch.

The Plenary observed a minute of silence in their memory.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Jean-Claude Weber (Luxembourg)

4 Delegates Roll Call

CIA Officers, Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Subcommittee and Working Group Members and Observers Attendance:

CIA President			Claude Weber
CIA Secretary			Sanne Haarhuis (NED) (Delegate)
FAI Secretary General			Markus Hagganey
President of Honour			Mark Sullivan
COUNTRY	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE	Subcommittee / Working Group members and observers
FAI			Kamila Voukon Hajkova
Armenia (ARM)	Nairi Barseghyan		Ani Gasparian
Australia (AUS)	Ireland, Steve		
Austria (AUT)	Christoph Fraisl	Elisabeth Kindermann	
Belgium (BEL)	Luc van Geyte		
Canada (CAN)	David Gleed		
Czech Rep (CZE)	Jan Suchy		
Finland (FIN)	Markku Sipinen		

France (FRA)	Eric Decelières	Pelard, Benoît	Clement Seigeot
Great Britain (GBR)	Muir, Lindsay	Bareford, David	Les Purfield
Germany (GER)	Schneider, Uwe	Meinl, Silvia	Meinl, Mike Charlotte Engel
Hungary (HUN)	Proxy to Spain		
India (IND)	Immochaoba Singh		
Italy (ITA)	Maria Cremoni		Paolo Oggioni
Japan (JPN)	Soejima, Hiromori	Endo, Katsura	Furukawa, Hiromi
Rep. of Korea (KOR)	Eunyoung Roh		
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)	Hussain Ashri Makkawi		George Blythe Maria Dobrican Afrah Alharbi
Latvia (LAT)	Proxy to Lithuania		
Lithuania (LTU)	Kazlauskas, Zydrunas		
Luxembourg (LUX)	Proxy to Switzerland		
Netherlands (NED)		Erwin Pellegrom	
Poland (POL)		Arkadiusz Iwanski	
Slovak Republic (SVK)	Juraj Brezan		
Slovenia (SLO)	Branko, Ambrozic		
Spain (ESP)	Ricardo Aracil		Anna Lisov Ananko
Sweden (SWE)	Niclas Möre		Jenny Möre
Switzerland (SUI)	André, Marc	Cedric Gauch	Strasmann, David
Ukraine (UKR)	Benjamin Eimers (GER) (representative)		
United States Of America (USA)	Baird, Andy	Sam Parks	Bradley, Troy Tamara Bradley Angela Madden Debbie Spaeth Cheri White
Totals		Day One	Day Two
Total Attendees		55	55
Total CIA Members		43	12

A current list of FAI Members and CIA Delegates can be found on the FAI website:
<https://www.fai.org/page/cia-delegates>

5 Proxies

The following proxies were received:

- *Hungary* Proxy to *Spain*
- *Luxembourg* Proxy to *Switzerland*
- *Latvia* Proxy to *Lithuania*

6 Announcements

6.1 Agenda Order

The Chair stated that the agenda order may be adapted to the needs of the delegates.

Motion 1: To move Agenda Item 31 (Election of Subcommittee Members) to be handled immediately following Agenda Item 22 (Election of Subcommittee Chairs).

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Review of Procedures

The President reviewed meeting procedures as outlined in the Internal Regulations. He stated that all decisions would be by formal motion, submitted in writing, and that motions from subcommittees would be formally supported by the Chair.

6.3 Rules of Debate

The President reviewed the rules of debate, reminding delegates that only the Chair and delegates have the right to speak, and that speakers should address the Chair.

6.4 Counting Committee

The President nominated Ms. Kamila Hajkova and Ms. Cheri White to serve as the Counting Committee.

APPROVED BY THE PLENARY UNANIMOUSLY.

6.5 New Business

The President reminded the Plenary that no final decisions could be made on new items added to the agenda during the current meeting.

6.6 CIA Officers

The President confirmed there would be no elections for CIA Officers, as the current two-year mandate began in the previous year.

6.7 FAI Code of Ethics

Delegates were encouraged to review the FAI Code of Ethics.

6.8 Bids for 2027 Plenary

Nations were invited to submit bids for hosting the 2027 Plenary to the CIA President or Secretary by the morning of the second day.

6.9 Domestic Arrangements

The host representative Mr. Hussain Ashri Makkawi, announced the Gala Dinner would be held at 19:30.

6.10 Absolute Majority

The President confirmed attendance and voting rights as follows:

- Nations present with voting rights: 25
- Proxy votes: 3
- Total voting rights: 28

The majorities required were announced:

- Absolute Majority: 15 votes
- Simple Majority: 13 votes
- Two-Thirds Majority: 19 votes

7 Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 Plenary Meeting

The Secretary reported two corrections to the draft minutes of the 2025 Plenary Meeting: a member was removed from the Safety Subcommittee list, and Ms. Hiromi Furukawa was added to the PMR Subcommittee list. The approved version is uploaded to the documents of the 2025 meeting.

THE CORRECTED MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 Review of Bureau Actions

The record of the CIA Bureau's actions since the 2025 Plenary was presented. The President reported a busy year with monthly meetings and thanked Bureau members for their significant work and collaborative atmosphere.

The Bureau decisions can be found in the documents section of the FAI/CIA website.

THE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 CIA President's Report

Attachment 1

CIA President, Mr. Claude Weber (SUI), presented his report on FAI activities.

Key points included:

- Attendance at the FAI General Conference, with constructive exchanges within the Commission Presidents group and improved cooperation across the FAI.
- Support for FAI modernization efforts, including new projects for electronic records, a new disciplinary code, and standardization of sanctioning fees and bidding processes.
- Discussions on commission reserves have reached a reasonable level.
- The CIA was asked to conduct a holistic safety review; the commission is in a good position to do so.
- Acknowledged excellent media support from the FAI Office and constructive collaboration with the PMR Subcommittee.
- Concluded by thanking the FAI Office for the excellent collaboration, specifically Secretary General Markus Haggenev and Ms. Kamila Hajkova

The President's full report was published with the agenda papers.

10 FAI Secretary General's Report

Attachment 2

FAI Secretary General, Mr. Markus Haggenev, presented his report.

11 Delegates Report

Attachment 3 and 4

Reports were collected via an online questionnaire. The CIA Secretary, Ms. Sanne Haarhuis, presented a summary of the 20 responses received. Verbal contributions were made by Australia and the USA. Reports will be uploaded to the CIA Cloud and form part of the official minutes.

Key findings from the questionnaire:

- Reports received from 20 of approximately 60 CIA member countries.
- A slight overall decline in active pilots, attributed largely to an aging population. Some growth in younger pilots is emerging but does not yet offset this trend.

- Commercial ballooning is growing across most countries; enthusiasm for competition remains strong among those active in the sport.
- 35% of responding countries have no national championship. Women's and junior events exist in only two responding countries.
- High costs and increasing legal and regulatory challenges were cited as limiting factors in multiple countries.
- Opportunities identified: cross-border collaboration on events, expanding training for officials, and supporting smaller countries to develop competition structures.

Australia (Steve Ireland): The situation is stabilising. One organiser has proposed a four-to-five-year plan to host two Category 2 events per year, building towards championships around 2030. A separate organiser is exploring a model hot air balloon competition format.

USA (Andy Baird): A significant regulatory challenge is developing regarding drone airspace access. New proposals would reverse balloons' traditional right-of-way, requiring pilots to carry an electronic conspicuity device or manoeuvre around drones. The issue primarily affects airspace below 400 feet and remains unresolved. Delegates were encouraged to monitor whether similar changes are being introduced in their own countries.

12 Bureau and Subcommittee Chairs' Meeting Report

Attachment 5

The CIA President, Mr. Claude Weber, presented the report from the Chairs' Bureau meetings. An online meeting was held in January 2026, followed by an in-person meeting on 5 February 2026. He noted these meetings were introduced in 2025 to foster collaboration and are open to all delegates.

12.1 World Ranking List (WRL) Reform

Attachment 6

The primary topic was the WRL reform project. The President presented strategic objectives for the reformed WRL, including:

- Increasing the number of sanctioned events.
- Guaranteeing sporting standards across events.
- Ensuring pilot experience for major championships.
- Guiding participation towards sanctioned events.
- Increasing the public visibility of the WRL.

Key principles included calculating the WRL exclusively from Category 1 and 2 events and using it as a qualification criterion, not a selection tool. The President clarified that the proposal sets a direction and the exact calculation method would be developed over the next year, with the aim of presenting it for a vote at the 2027 Plenary. A proposed timeline suggested running a new system in parallel with the existing one, targeting implementation by 2030.

12.2 Discussion

Mr. Steve Ireland (AUS) and Mr. David Gleed (CAN) expressed concern that a system based solely on Category 1 and 2 events could disadvantage pilots from geographically isolated countries. Mr. Andy Baird (USA) responded that the intent was to be more inclusive and noted a CSC recommendation to waive some Category 2 requirements for national championships in such countries. Mr. Hiromori Soejima (JPN) added that Category 2 requirements are a known obstacle and would be part of the ongoing discussion. The President confirmed the process would be gradual to address all issues and clarified that the WRL currently published on WatchMeFly is for informational purposes only.

THE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

Motion 1: To approve the proposal for the reform of the World Ranking List as submitted.

MOTION ADOPTED – IN FAVOUR: 24 | AGAINST: 3 | ABSTENTIONS: 1

Motion 2: To approve a budget of 500 Swiss Francs to operate 25 licences to access the FAI Cloud.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

13 Jury Board Subcommittee Report (Postponed to Day 2)**Attachment 31 and 32**

The report covered Jury appointments for 2026 and 2027 championships (conditional on event sanctioning).

Key updates included:

- A discussion on jury conditions and finance is tabled pending an FAI Executive Board review.
- The board noted the increase in Category 2 events and is considering appropriate rules for them.
- Ms. Debbie Spaeth (USA) reported on a successful joint webinar with the Officials Subcommittee held in November 2025.
- Two new jurors were proposed for approval.
- The FAI Whistleblowing Policy will be referenced in the Jury Handbook.
- A 'CIA Quick Guide for Questions, Complaints and Protests' has been created.
- Mr. Gary Lockyer (CAN) announced his intention to resign; a call was made for a new member.

Note: The formal vote on the report and its motions was postponed to the morning of 07 February 2026 to allow delegates time to review the document, which was not yet available on the FAI Cloud. This was agreed by the Plenary.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: To approve the following CIA Juries:

2026 Events:

- **2026 Gordon Bennett, Filzmoos, Salzburg (Austria), 27/08 – 05/09/26**
- Luc van Geyte, BEL President, on-site
- Zoltan Palhegyi, HUN Member, on-site
- JC Weber, LUX Member off-site

2027 Events:

- **2027 6th Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship- Jackson / Michigan (USA), 11-17/07/27**
- Lindsay Muir UK President
- Mary Anne Stevens CAN Member
- Lynn Sullivan USA Member
- **2027 6th Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship – Al-Ula (Saudi Arabia), 17-24/04/2027**
- Garry Lockyer CAN President
- Patty Cramer USA Member
- Moniek Van de Velde BEL Member
- **2027 7th Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship - Leszno, Poland, 23-28/08/27**
- Mark SULLIVAN USA President
- Tomasz Kuchciński POL Member
- Uwe Schneider GER Member
- **2027 North American Hot Air Balloon Championship, Kalamazoo, Michigan (USA), 17-22/08/27**
- David Glead, CAN President
- Debbie Spaeth, USA Member

- Marc Andre, SUI Member

• **2027 24th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship – Mallorca (Spain), 11/10 – 17/10.27**

- John Grubbström, SWE President

- Paolo Oggioni, ITA Member

- Silvia Meinl, GER Member

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 2: To approve the following new Jurors & upgrading applications.

New Jurors:

The following Jurors have successfully passed the entry level test and are proposed for approval:

- Szeling Tamas	Hungary	Entry level
- Sullivan Lynthia (Lynn)	USA	Entry Level

Upgraded Jurors:

The following Jurors have successfully passed the intermediate level test and are proposed for approval:

- Sylvia Meinl	Germany	Entry level to Intermediate level
- Uwe Schneider	Germany	Entry level to Intermediate level
- Mike Meinl	Germany	Entry level to Intermediate level

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

14 Officials Subcommittee Report

Attachment 7

Mr. Steve Ireland (AUS), Chair of the Officials Subcommittee, presented the report.

Key points included:

- The Event Director's List is current; Mr. Ireland intends to contact those listed to confirm their status. A delegate noted Mr. Tomas Hora was still missing from the list.
- The Chief Officials List has been reviewed and a method for sharing it with organisers has been identified.
- The subcommittee advised an NAC against permitting a Russian national to act as their chief official.
- Discussion on consolidating documents on the CIA website, a shortage of qualified scorers, and ways to encourage new officials.
- A delegate from France suggested an apprentice officials' programme. The President agreed to add this to the next Chairs' meeting agenda.
- The President also suggested adding the Event Directors list to the WatchMeFly website for visibility.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: To recommend that the event sanction application documentation include links to access the Chief Officials list.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

15 Event Development Service (EDS) Subcommittee Report

Attachment 8

Mr. Cédric Gauch, Co-Chair of the EDS, presented the report. Mr. Gauch noted that Ms. Lindsay Muir is resigning as chair and thanks her for her contributions.

Key points included:

- A summary of events held in 2025 and sanctioned for 2026.
- EDS is working to enhance the value of Category 2 events.
- Bids were received for the 2027 Women's World Championship (USA, Saudi Arabia), 2027 Junior World Championship (Poland), 2027 North American Championship (USA), and 2028 World Hot Air Balloon Championship (Saudi Arabia, India). The bid from India was late and incomplete and was not accepted for consideration.
- Future EDS work includes making key official fields mandatory in the WatchMeFly sanction application for Category 2 events, forming a working group on entry fee regulations, and merging the EDS/EOS missions.

Mr. Hiromori Soejima (JPN) raised the issue of high, non-refundable entry fees and asked if EDS could engage with organisers. Mr. Gauch confirmed that EDS reviews entry fees and this is a recurring topic. Mr. Soejima suggested the commission establish a clear policy on what fees should include and on refunds. The President noted the Plenary has the power to refuse any bid.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

16 Records Subcommittee Report

Attachment 9

The Chair, Mr. Troy Bradley (USA), presented the report of the Records Subcommittee.

Key points included:

- Reported on subcommittee composition and a Russian record claim that cannot be ratified due to current restrictions.
- Discussion on introducing Continental Records.
- One Sporting Badge was awarded. The subcommittee is seeking to recreate the physical badges at a lower cost.
- The Register of Notable Flights and Achievements is being migrated to a new system.
- A web-based replacement for the record calculation programme is in final testing.
- Future work includes promoting the Sporting Badge programme and developing a new badge design. A jeweller has been identified to assist.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: To invest up to 1,000 CHF to design and build a prototype for a new CIA Sporting Badge.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

17 Safety and Education Subcommittee Report

Attachment 10 and 11

The Chair, Mr. David Strasmann (SUI), presented the report.

Key points included:

- A workshop was held to identify strengths and gaps in safety practices, with outcomes forming the basis for future work.
- Projects include creating an online incident reporting system.
- The subcommittee will hold quarterly online meetings.
- Sebastian Eimers and Elisabeth Kindermann-Schön have joined the subcommittee.

- Safety Officer nominations were discussed.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

18 Competitors Subcommittee (CSC) Report

Attachment 12 and 13

Mr. Andy Baird (USA), Chair of the CSC, presented the report. A survey of 238 responses covered the following topics:

- Respectful Flying Score (RFS) perceptions.
- Category 2 event definitions and exceptions.
- World Ranking List inclusion and weighting approaches.
- GPS interference preparedness.
- Safety and task concerns.

A recommendation was made to introduce 'flight inquiry' guidance in the COH to formalize post-flight assistance mechanisms. Clarifications on General Section interpretations for Category 2 events were provided by Mr. Markus Haggenev and Mr. Hiromori Soejima. A caution on sensitive information handling was noted by Mr. Marc André.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19 Rules Subcommittee and Working Group Reports

Attachment 14

The Rules Subcommittee report was presented by Mr. Uwe Schneider (GER). The Subcommittee comprises five working groups.

THE RULES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19.1 AA Working Group

Attachment 15

19.1.1 Gordon Bennett Hosting Policy

Attachment 16

Presented by Mr. Marc André (SUI), with co-chair support from Mr. Eric Decellières (FRA).

The 'winner takes it home' hosting rule was proposed to be replaced by an open bidding process. Options for awarding hosting for one, two, or three consecutive editions were presented. Seasonal guidance of 'usually in autumn' was noted with flexibility. A survey of approximately 80 gas balloon stakeholders showed divided opinion on replacing the historical rule, with a preference for multi-year bids if adopted.

Strategic rationale noted: multi-edition awards would improve planning, sponsorships, and delivery. Clarifications noted that there is no obligation for race winners to host and bids are open globally.

Motion 1: To adopt the policy for changing the Gordon Bennett event bidding and sanction procedure with the following key aspects with immediate effect:

- Normal timeline for bidding is 18 months before the event
- Bid can be for 1, 2 or 3 consecutive years
- Add procedural flexibility when bids are absent or decisions are needed earlier.

The S1 WG will update the S1 based on the policy and submit the change for approval by the Rules Sc and CIA Bureau.

The policy will already apply for the winner of the 2026 Gordon Bennett.

MOTION ADOPTED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS.

19.1.2 GBMER and GBOH Changes

Attachment 17

Presented by Mr. Marc André (SUI). Proposed changes included:

- Introducing a Lead ATC Coordinator role.
- Allowing the start to occur on the launch date if later than anticipated.
- Revising the launch sequence draw for fairness.
- Clarifying archival references to historic rules text in the Organiser Handbook.

Motion 2: To adopt the GBMER and GBOH rule changes as presented and to allow the Rules Sc to approve the GB 2026 rules based on the GBMER 2026.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19.1.3 Gordon Bennett Live Tracking Development

Presented by Mr. Marc André (SUI). A proposal was made for a CIA-managed live tracking front end with integration to existing providers, hosted on FAI servers. Estimated development cost CHF/EUR 15,000 and annual operating cost approximately CHF/EUR 500; additional budget requested for social media integration.

Motion 3: To invest up to 20k CHF within the next 2 years to build a Live Tracking platform for Gordon Bennett.

To cover the operation cost of about 500 CHF per year for the platform.

The platform shall be designed to be ready for its first use in the 2026 Gordon Bennett.

MOTION ADOPTED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

19.1.4 Hoses

Presented by Mr. Marc André (SUI), A proposal to add hoses, vests, and two distribution valves was presented.

The proposal is to:

- Acquire 4x40m and 6x20m hoses (CHF 5500)
- Acquire 30x antistatic warning vests with FAI branding (CHF 2250)
- Acquire 2x distribution valves (CHF 500)
- This will be maintained by the Gladbeck club in the same construction as the other hoses.
- Rental fee will be 100 Euro per hose with a minimum of 400 Euro

Motion 4: To invest CHF 8'250 to acquire additional hoses, distribution valves and safety vests to be managed in the pool of hoses for Gordon Bennett and FAI sanctioned gas balloon events. The hoses will be owned by the Gladbeck club and covered with an amendment to the existing agreement and royalty payments.

Rental fee: EUR 100 per hose (min 400 EUR)

MOTION ADOPTED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

19.2 AX Working Group Report

Attachment 18 and 19

Presented by Mr. Uwe Schneider (GER). AX MER changes included:

- Timing clarifications aligned with COH.
- Consolidation of displaced target rules.
- Marker timing updated to 'on ground within scoring period'.
- Typographical corrections and alignment with General Section changes.
- AX World Championship (Poland) rules addressed GPS spoofing interference, with a cancellation threshold if 10% or more of competitors are affected.
- Recommendations to COH/Scoring included RFS aggregation approach, trigger time for absolute speed limits, auto end timing for tasks, and future evaluation of near-miss penalties.
- A rules webinar was envisaged for April/May 2026.
- Clément Seigeot was proposed as new member.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: To approve the changes to the AXMER as presented.

Info: Rules with the adaptations to AXMER2026 will be checked by AX-WG and proposed to RSC for final approval. The Plenary delegates the approval of the rules to RSC.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19.3 Airship (BX) Working Group Report

Attachment 20

No competitions were reported during the period. A German training organization has initiated pilot training. France increased its licensed airship pilots from one to four and established an airship commission.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: In view of the current lack of interest in airship competitions, the BX Working Group proposes to put the work of the Working Group on hold; the Chairman and members will remain available and the Working Group can be reactivated immediately at the request of the bureau or the Plenary.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19.4 Scoring WG

Attachment 21, 22 and 23

The President, Mr. Claude Weber, introduced the report. Mr. David Bareford presented the report on behalf of the working group.

Mr. Bareford reported on the following items:

- Previous Minutes: Remarks were added regarding the availability of markers for pilots and encouraging the use of cameras on balloons.
- Red PZ Calculation: The group is close to achieving a fair penalty application for PZ infringements. The new system will be reviewed and, if successful, implemented the following year. Work continues on calculations for long, narrow PZs.
- Group B Points Distribution: The group will continue to review the current system, which is considered unfair in certain situations, to develop a fairer points distribution.

- Flight Report Form: WatchMeFly will be directed to add specific entry boxes for takeoff time and location to their digital flight report form.
- Altitude Profile Task: This item is now closed, following successful use of a scoring programme at the European Championship.
- COH Updates: The COH was updated to clarify the RF score, time limits for complaints, and task setting guidance for CRAT and Minimum Distance Double Drop. Updates were also made regarding GPS interference, the definition of a 'minor change', and AX MER scoring.
- New Business: The group will review the entire penalty range, the 'near-miss' penalty, and flight inquiries as directed by the CSC.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: To approve the update to the COH and publish it as COH 2026.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

19.5 SC01 / Internal Regulations WG Attachment 24, 25, 26 and 27

Mr. Hiromori Soejima (JPN), Chair of the SC01 Working Group, presented the report.

Mr. Soejima reported on the following items:

- FAI General Section Review: References in Annex 3 (7.8 and 8.10) to complaints made after an event will be deleted to conform with the General Section.
- Terminology Updates: Wording in Section One will be updated to align with the General Section, including replacing 'International Sporting Region' with 'Second Category Sporting Events' and standardising the use of 'entrant'.
- Internal Regulations: Text regarding voting procedures from 2013 will be incorporated into section 3.2. A provision allowing the CIA President to call a meeting of subcommittee chairs will be formalised in section 5.2.
- Annex 7 Update: Following approval of the new Gordon Bennett bidding policy, the working group will update Annex 7 and submit it for Bureau approval with a proposed effective date of 1 July.
- Invitation Procedure for Championships: A proposal was presented by Les Purfield to standardise and simplify the invitation process with a fixed timeline based on 150 days before the General Briefing. If the policy is accepted, the working group will consult with other subcommittees to refine details and update Section One for the following year.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: That the proposed changes for Sporting Code Section 1 are approved as published.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 2: That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations be approved as published.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 3: That the proposed Policy for the Invitation Process be approved as published.

MOTION ADOPTED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

20 New Technology SC (NTSC)

Attachment 28

The President, Mr. Claude Weber, Chair of the NTSC presented the report.

Key highlights from 2025:

- 109 events and 1,138 competing pilots recorded on WatchMeFly.
- 152 certified scorers active on the platform.
- The WatchMeFly project generated a cumulative surplus of nearly 90,000 CHF.
- Development of a new version of the Balloon Live app is ongoing; the budget from 2025 has been carried over.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

21 Public and Media Relations SC

Attachment 29 and 30

Ms. Debbie Spaeth, Chair of the PMR Subcommittee, presented the report.

Key points included:

- Youth Camps: Four CIA-approved camps were held in 2025 in France, Germany, Lithuania, and the United States, reaching 137 participants with an investment of 4,000 CHF. Five countries have applied for funding in the upcoming year.
- 'Champions of the Sky' Media Project: The project was active at the 2025 World and European Championships. The committee requested to retain the 5,000 CHF budget for coverage of the upcoming World Championship.
- 'Legends of Ballooning' Project: The 2,500 CHF budget from the previous year was not spent; the committee intends to proceed with the project.
- Internal Regulations: A proposal was made to amend the committee's internal regulations to increase the number of nominated members and update the list of continents to align with Olympic designations.
- 2026 Communication Plan: Includes increased communication with event organisers, refreshing the CIA website, and a project concerning CIA flags and badges.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 1: For CIA support of 2026 Balloon Youth Camps in amount of CHF1000 each country (Germany, Lithuania, USA, France & Italy.) Total 2026 Budget of CHF5000.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 2 (Tabled to Day 2): The President addressed the motion tabled on 9 February 2026 from the PMR Subcommittee. Ms. Debbie Spaeth, Chair of the PMR Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee wished to withdraw its motion requesting an increase to its budget. The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

Following a point raised by Mr. David Gleed (CAN) regarding the age of participants in youth camps, Ms. Spaeth responded that the definition of 'junior' varies between countries and that the subcommittee currently has no age limit, leaving the definition to individual host countries.

Motion 3: For a PMR 2026 Budget of CHF5000 for use in conjunction with Media coverage projects including the 2026 World HABC Championship. Detailed outline will be provided to the CIA Bureau by end of March 2026.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Day 2 – Attendance and Voting Rights

The Secretary confirmed the updated voting position for the second day:

- Delegates present: 25
- Proxy votes: 3
- Total votes: 28
- Absolute Majority: 15 votes
- Simple Majority: 13 votes
- Two-Thirds Majority: 19 votes

22 Election of Subcommittee Chairpersons

The CIA Secretary, Ms. Sanne Haarhuis, presented the list of proposed Chairs for the CIA Subcommittees. The President clarified that the appointment of co-chairs is a permitted practice.

Subcommittee	Chair / Co-Chair
Officials Subcommittee	Steve Ireland (AUS)
Event Development Services (EDS)	Cedric Gauch (SUI)
Records Subcommittee	Troy Bradley (USA)
Safety & Education Subcommittee	David Strasmann (SUI) & Christoph Fraisl (AUT) – Co-Chairs
Competitors Subcommittee (CSC)	Andy Baird (USA)
Rules Subcommittee	Uwe Schneider (GER)
New Technologies Subcommittee (NTSC)	Claude Weber (LUX)
Public & Media Relations (PMR)	Debbie Spaeth (USA)

Motion: To accept the suggested Chairs of the Subcommittees.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

23 Reports from FAI Technical Commissions

23.1 Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

The CIA President, Mr. Claude Weber, reported as the CIA representative to CASI. Key points noted: the planned introduction of an electronic records application system, modifications to the FAI General Section, and a planned webinar on handling complaints and protests.

23.2 Medical-Physiological Commission (CIMP)

Mr. David Bareford (GBR) presented the report from the CIMP. Activities included: a webinar on anti-doping rules, continued advocacy for lower medical standards for sports aviation, and the development of FAI safeguarding, serious incident response, and heat policies.

23.3 Environmental Commission (ENVC)

Mr. Steve Ireland (AUS), reported.

23.4 FAI Education Commission (EDUC)

Mr. Branko Ambrozic (SLO), reported on the EDUC meeting, observing that the CIA's own educational activities appeared more advanced. He noted the commission's desire for cooperation, affirming his commitment to fostering more concrete results.

23.5 Athletes Working Group (AWG)

Mr. Andy Baird (USA) explained the purpose of the newly created Athletes Unlimited Working Group. It is intended to serve as an advisory body to the General Conference, comprised of athlete representatives from various commissions to provide a unified voice. The CIA will be expected to nominate a representative.

23.6 Nominations for Commission Representatives for 2026

- CASI: Claude Weber (CIA President)
- FAI Medical-Physiological Commission (CIMP): David Bareford (GBR)
- FAI Environmental Commission (ENVC): Steve Ireland (AUS)
- FAI Education Commission (EDUC): Branko Ambrozic (SLO)
- FAI Athletes Working Group (AWG): Andy Baird (USA)

Motion: To accept the nominated representatives to FAI Commissions and WG for the next term.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

24 Sanctioned Events

Attachment 33, 34 and 35

24.1 Reports on Sanctioned Events 2025

68th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (Metz, France)

Mr. Benoît Pelard, the event organiser, reported on the event held in Metz, France. He described difficulties in securing funding but noted the crucial sponsorship from Westfalen and the positive impact of the Gordon Bennett TV team. The event was run successfully with no incidents.

23rd FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship (Wieselburg, Austria)

Mr. Christoph Fraisl, on behalf of the organiser, presented a highlight video of the championship held in Wieselburg, Austria.

Category 2 Events 2025

Mr. Christoph Fraisl summarized three events where he served as Event Director, noting that the number of Category 2 events is growing. Mr. Gauch reported on the Aeronautica Militair Balloon Cup in Piacenza, Italy.

24.2 Status of Events Sanctioned for 2026

26th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship (Krosno, Poland)

Mr. Arkadiusz Iwanski from the organizing committee presented an update on preparations, including a promotional film.

29th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship (Szeged, Hungary)

Mr. Arkadiusz Iwanski, Event Director, presented an update. The official event logo and website have been launched. The organiser will handle competitor registration directly.

69th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (Filzmoos, Austria)

Mr. Christoph Fraisl, on behalf of the organiser, provided an update. A meeting with key officials was held in late November 2025. The launch site and local support have been secured.

24.3 Status of Events Sanctioned for 2027

24th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship (Mallorca, Spain)

24.4 Category 2 Events for 2026

The President noted that two Category 2 events for 2026 had already been sanctioned by the Bureau in late 2025: the Belgium Balloon Trophy 26 and the Swiss Hot Air Balloon Championship. Four additional bids were presented for sanctioning. The EDS confirmed all four bids met the requirements.

Motion 1: To sanction the four Category 2 events for 2026 as presented:

- Open Slovenian and Hungarian Hot Air Balloon Championship
- Coupe d'Europe de Montgolfières & Coupe du Monde des Dames
- Österreichische Staatsmeisterschaft (Austrian Nationals)
- Slovak Balloon Cup

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

25 Championship Calendar and Bids	Attachment 34 and 35
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25.1 7th FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2027 (Leszno, Poland)

Mr. Cédric Gauch introduced the bid; the presentation was made by the Polish organiser. Key details: Event Director Paolo Oggioni; Entry fee EUR 450 (without accommodation) and EUR 1,200 (with accommodation). A limitation on accommodation availability was noted.

Motion 1: To accept the sanction application for the 7th FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2027 in Leszno, Poland.

MOTION ADOPTED WITH ABSTENTIONS.

25.2 6th FAI Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2027 – Bids

Two bids were presented:

United States (Jackson, Michigan) – Presented by Ms. Angela Madden. Focus on competition integrity, execution certainty, and athlete experience. Proposed Event Director: Paul Petrehn. Emphasis on safety, volunteer base, media visibility, and operational reliability.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (AlUla) – Presented by Mr. Hussain Makkawi. Roadmap included initiation in 2025, hosting the CIA Plenary in 2026, and national championships starting in 2027. Logistics to minimise travel time; terrain, organisation structure, and indicative package details presented.

Note: No vote or decision on the Women's World Championship 2027 was recorded at this meeting. The EDS reported discussions with the USA (Jackson, Michigan) regarding potential hosting of Women's World Championships in 2029.

Motion 2 : A vote was put to the meeting between USA and KSA.

SECRET BALLOT: KSA 23 VOTES, USA 5 VOTES.

25.3 8th North American Continental Championship, (Kalamazoo, USA)

Mr. Sam Parks (USA) presented a bid to host the championship in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, from 17–22 August 2027. He noted the extensive experience of the organizing team and efforts to encourage participation from Mexico.

The Plenary considered setting the minimum number of NACs required to validate the 2027 North American Continental Championship. Questions addressed precedent, event-specific applicability, and regional NAC availability.

Motion 3: To set, for the 2027 North American Continental Championship, the minimum number of NACs required to validate the event at two.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 4: To accept the sanction application for the 8th FAI North American Championship 2027, Kalamazoo, USA.

MOTION ADOPTED.

SELECTIVE VOTE IN FAVOUR, CONFIRMED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE PLENARY

25.4 28th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2028 (AIUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

A bid was presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the 2028 World Championship at AIUla.

Motion 5: To vote to approve the sanction application for the 27th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2028 in AIUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

25.5 Intentions to bid for future events

Motion: To extend the sanction application deadline for Continental Championships (Women's, Juniors) and a possible World Gas Balloon Championship until 30 September 2026.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Day 2 – Attendance and Voting Rights (after lunch)

The Secretary confirmed the updated voting position for the second day after lunch:

The Belgium delegate had to leave and the proxy vote was given to NED.

- Delegates present: 24
- Proxy votes: 4
- Total votes: 28
- Absolute Majority: 15 votes
- Simple Majority: 13 votes
- Two-Thirds Majority: 19 votes

26 CIA Financial Reports

Attachment 36

The Secretary, Ms. Sanne Haarhuis, presented the financial report and budget proposals.

Key financial highlights:

- Unfinalized profit of 7,779.80 CHF for the 2025 financial year.
- Special reserves at the start of 2026 standing at 186,335 CHF.
- Adjusted 2026 budget presented, reflecting a phased approach for the live-tracking project: 15,000 CHF in 2026 and 5,000 CHF in 2027.

Motion 1: To approve the adjusted 2026 year-end budget estimate as presented and amended.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion 2: To accept the proposed 2027 budget and to give the Bureau the authority to make changes closer to the submission of the budget for approval by the FAI General Conference.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

26.1 Financial Strategy Framework

Attachment 37

The President, Mr. Claude Weber, presented a document titled 'Financial Strategy Framework' to guide the strategic use of the Commission's funds and reserves. Key principles include sustainable development and strategic use of funds, with 'Return on Investment' defined to include non-financial benefits.

The framework recommends maintaining an operational reserve equivalent to three to five times the annual regular expenses. The final version of the document will be made available to all delegates.

Motion 3: To accept the Financial Strategy Framework document as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY (28 VOTES).

27 Awards

27.1 Montgolfier Diploma

The President introduced the agenda item. No nominations were received for Best Performance in Gas Ballooning (AA) or Hot Air Ballooning (AX). Two nominations were received for outstanding Contribution to the Sport of Ballooning:

- Wilhelm Eimers (GER) – presented by Mr. Sebastian Eimers.
- Giovanni Aimo (ITA) – presented by the Italian delegate.

Motion: To award the Montgolfier Diploma for Contribution to the Sport of Ballooning 2026.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY (24 VOTES).

A secret ballot was conducted for the vote on the 2 nominations for Montgolfier Diploma for Contribution to the Sport of Ballooning 2026. A first-round tie required a second round of voting.

The Montgolfier Ballooning Diploma for Contribution to the Sport 2026 was awarded to:

GIOVANNI AIMO (ITA)

The President noted that Mr. Aimo had also been nominated in the previous year. He encouraged delegates to review the FAI General Awards and submit nominations for deserving individuals through their NAC's.

The President presented the CIA Past President's Pin to Mr. Mark Sullivan, honoring his service as CIA President.

28 Award of Santos Dumont Gold Airshop Medals

No nominations were received.

29 FAI General Awards

CIA Delegates and NAC's were reminded that they can nominate individuals and groups for a number of FAI Awards. Please see the FAI Statutes – Chapter 10 for available awards and conditions.

30 CIA Hall of Fame

Attachment 38

The President, Mr. Claude Weber, presented the report on the CIA Hall of Fame and explained the structure of the Hall of Fame Committee.

It was clarified that delegates may nominate individuals from their own country; the committee can add individuals of any nationality. Mr. Sullivan abstained from the vote on his own nomination and cannot be inducted while a committee member.

2026 Inductees	2026 Additions to the Pool
Saburo 'Sabu' Ichiyoshi (JPN) – Living	Mark Sullivan (USA) – Living
Julian Nott (GBR) – Posthumous	Horst Hassold (GER) – Posthumous

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

including the nominations and inductees.

Motion: To accept the proposed CIA members for the Hall of Fame Committee: Mark Sullivan (USA), Eric Decellières (FRA) Sanne Haarhuis (NED).

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

31 Election of Subcommittee and Working Group Members

The CIA Secretary, Ms. Sanne Haarhuis, presented the proposed lists of members for the Subcommittees and Working Groups.

Subcommittee	Members
Officials Subcommittee	Hiroimi Furukawa (JPN) Debbie Spaeth (USA) Sylvia Meini (GER) Erwin Pellegrom (NED) Branko Ambrozic (SLO) Benoît Pelard (FRA)

Event Development Services (EDS)	Lindsay Muir (GBR) Andrew Baird (USA / CSC) Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL) Debbie Spaeth (USA / PMR) Maury Sullivan (USA) Eric Decellières (FRA) Clément Seigeot (FRA) Ricardo Aracil (ESP)
Records Subcommittee	Lindsay Muir (GBR) David Gleed (CAN) Branko Ambrozic (SLO) Benjamin Eimers (GER) Mike Meinel (GER) Don Cameron (GBR) Sabu Ichiyoshi (JPN)
Safety & Education Subcommittee	Troy Bradley (USA) Nicolas Möre (SWE) Benoit Pelard (FRA) Branko Ambrozic (SLO) Sebastian Eimers (GER) Elisabeth Kindermann-Schön (AUT) Sam Parks (USA)
Competitors Subcommittee (CSC)	Paolo Oggioni (ITA) Uwe Schneider (GER) Hiromori Soejima (JPN) Sam Parks (USA) David Strassman (SUI) Sylvia Meinel (GER) Igor Miklousic (CRO) Dominic Bareford (GBR) Clement Seigeot (FRA)
Rules Subcommittee	Uwe Schneider (GER) (Chair) Marc Andre (SUI) Erwin Pellegrom (NED) David Bareford (GBR) Hiromori Soejima (JPN) Luc van Geyte (BEL) Eric Decellières (FRA)
New Technologies Subcommittee (NTSC)	Steve Ireland (AUS) Erwin Pellegrom, (NED) Marc Andre (SUI) Mike Meinel (GER)
Public & Media Relations (PMR)	Hiromi Furukawa (JPN) Maria Chiara Cremoni (ITA) Jonathan Perron-Clow (CAN) Katsura Endo (JPN) Branko Ambrožič (SLO) Erwin Pellegrom (NED) Jan Suchy (CZE) Benoit Pelard (FRA) Sanne Haarhuis (NED, CIA Secretary) Cedric Gauch (SUI, EDS)
AA	Marc Andre (SUI) Co-Chair Eric Decellières (FRA) Co-Chair Marc Sullivan (USA) Luc van Geyte (BEL) Benoit Pelard (FRA) Troy Bradley (USA) Sebastian Eimers (GER)

	David Strasmann (SUI) Sam Parks (USA/ supporting member)
AX	Uwe Schneider (GER) (Chair) Claude Weber (LUX) Clément Seigeot (FRA) Maury Sullivan (USA) Sanne Haarhuis (NED)
BX	Luc van Geyte (BEL) (Chair) Oscar Lindström Sylvia Meinel (GER)
Scoring	Erwin Pellegrom (NEL) (Co-Chair) David Bareford (GBR) (Co-chair) Steve Ireland (AUS) Mike Meinel (GER) James Smith (USA) Eric Decellières (FRA)
SC01 / IR	Hikomori Soejima (JPN) (Chair) Mark Sullivan (USA) Lindsay Muir (GBR) Paolo Oggioni (ITA) JC Weber (LUX) Les Purfield (UK / Advisor)

Motion: To accept the suggested members of the Subcommittees and Working Groups.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

32 Any Other Business

32.1 2027 Gordon Bennett

A question was raised regarding the status of the 2027 Gordon Bennett race in Switzerland. The Swiss delegate confirmed that two options are currently being worked on.

32.2 Competitor Training

A delegate raised the subject of formal training structures for competition pilots. The President acknowledged it as a good idea for the Competitors and Safety Subcommittee (CSC) to consider.

33 Date and Place of Next Meeting

A bid was presented by Mr. Mark Sullivan to host the 2027 CIA Plenary Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, on 10–13 March 2027.

A secret ballot was conducted on moving the plenary from Lausanne, Switzerland.

Motion 1: To move the 2027 CIA Plenary Meeting from Lausanne

MOTION REJECTED – THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WAS NOT ACHIEVED.

Following the outcome, the Plenary fixed the dates for the 2027 meeting in Lausanne.

Motion 2: To hold the next CIA Plenary Meeting from 10–13 March 2027 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

The delegate from Switzerland extended an invitation for delegates to participate in a small balloon competition in the week prior to the plenary.

There being no further business, the President declared the 2026 CIA Plenary Meeting closed.

34 Attachments

Attachment 1 – CIA President's report on FAI activities

Attachment 2 – 2026 FAI Commission Plenaries Report Secretary General (CIA)

Attachment 3 – CIA Delegates Reports 2026

Attachment 4 – Statistics presentation

Attachment 5 – Chairs Meeting Report 2026

Attachment 6 – Chairs Meeting - WRL Reform - proposal 2026

Attachment 7 – Officials SC Minutes FINAL 2026

Attachment 8 – EDS 2026 EDS Minutes final

Attachment 9 – Records 2026 Minutes Records Subcommittee

Attachment 10 – Safety 2026 WG Safety Minutes

Attachment 11 – Safety WG Meeting AIUIa Guide - Minutes

Attachment 12 – CSC Minutes - AIUIa 2026 v1

Attachment 13 – CSC Survey Results 2026 v1

Attachment 14 – Rules SC-Minutes-2026 V1

Attachment 15 – AAWG - Minutes 2026

Attachment 16 – AAWG - Policy bidding Gordon Bennett

Attachment 17 – GB OH 2026 – final

Attachment 18 – AXWG Minutes 2026 V2

Attachment 19 – AXMER2026

Attachment 20 – BABX Working Group Minutes 2026

Attachment 21 – Scoring WG Minutes 2026

Attachment 22 – Scoring WG Appendix to Minutes - options for new R7-5 red PZ calculation

Attachment 23 – COH 2026 final

Attachment 24 – S1 WG Minutes 2026 v1.3

Attachment 25 – CIA CAT 1 EVENT INVITATION PROCESS v2.2

Attachment 26 – S1 INVITATION TIMING v2

Attachment 27 – CIA Internal Regulations 2026 Version 3.5

Attachment 28 – NTSC Report 2026

Attachment 29 – PMR 2026 Minutes of PMR SC Mtg AIUIa Saudi Arabia Ver FINAL 05 Feb 2026

Attachment 30 – 21st IYC in Lithuania FAI presentation

Attachment 30 – Germany YC 2026 01 25 Präsentation Julia

Attachment 30 – YC - Fragneto M.

Attachment 31 – JB ZOOM meeting report 26/02/04 & 26/01/16

Attachment 32 – Approved Jurors 2026 List Published

Attachment 33 – EDS Review of 2026 Events

Attachment 34 – EDS Events to be Sanctioned 2026

Attachment 35 – 6th FAI Womens World Championship HAJ Presentation

Attachment 35 – 2027 8th FAI NAHABC

Attachment 35 – Filzmoos GB Plenary 2026

Attachment 35 – Saudi Ballooning Federation Bids 2027 & 2028

Attachment 36 – CIA Budget 2026 YEE March

Attachment 37 – 2026 Financial framework proposal

Attachment 38 – Hall of Fame Report 2026

EoD End of Document