



RED BULL AIR RACE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - PROPOSAL TO FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE

Background

The creation of the Red Bull Air Race (RBAR) World Series has brought welcome investment and public visibility to a branch of air sports – air racing – and the FAI has already benefited greatly (in terms of visibility and income) from its agreement with RBAR for safety supervision of these races.

RBAR now wishes the FAI to sanction its series with the title *“Red Bull Air Race World Championship”*. In return for additional rights, RBAR is prepared to pay a significantly increased fee to FAI.

RBAR and the FAI have agreed in principle to find a way in which RBAR may use this title, without adversely affecting FAI’s exclusive right to sanction traditional world championships in air sports.

FAI Normal Sanctioning Process

The rights to organise FAI World Championships are awarded by FAI’s Air Sport Commissions to FAI member countries that have submitted bids to host the events.

World Championship organisers are committed to observing and enforcing all provisions contained in the FAI Statutes, By-Laws, and Sporting Code.

Possible Solution for FAI Sanctioning of Red Bull Championship

It is quite clear that the RBAR events cannot be sanctioned as a FAI World Championship, because the FAI Sporting Code does not apply. RBAR retains control over rule-making, selection of pilots and judges, and selection of sites for races. Furthermore, RBAR has no intention of granting FAI the intellectual property rights to the event.

On the other hand, it is obviously in the interests of RBAR to ensure that the validity and credibility of its *“Red Bull Air Race World Championship”* title cannot be challenged, for example by FAI Member organisations in countries where RBAR races are held.

It would be in the interests of the FAI and its members to reach some form of sanctioning agreement with the RBAR outside the scope of normal FAI sporting rules, provided that:

1. *The prestige and reputation of the FAI as a sanctioning organisation is not adversely affected.*
2. *Some tangible and lasting benefit accrues to FAI and its Members from this arrangement.*
3. *The words “World Champion” and “World Championship” are not used by Red Bull except when preceded by “Red Bull Air Race”*

The FAI Executive Board therefore invites General Conference:

A: to approve signature of an agreement between RBAR and FAI containing the following features:

- The FAI gives official recognition to the RBAR World Championship as a special competitive international event, conducted under the RBAR's own rules.
- The use by RBAR of the title *Red Bull Air Race World Championship* is authorised by the FAI in return for an annual sanction fee that would permit a significant discount to be given on FAI subscriptions.
- This sanction would entitle RBAR to the following benefits:
 - Inclusion of RBAR races on the FAI Sporting Calendar (but differentiating clearly between FAI Championships and the RBAR Championship).
 - Archiving by FAI of RBAR results.
 - Use of the FAI logo and flag in connection with RBAR events, subject to FAI Executive Board approval.
 - Special FAI medals to be awarded to the overall winners of each annual series, in addition to the medals given by RBAR.
- RBAR and FAI form a Joint Review Committee, which would meet at intervals as required, to take stock of cooperation between the two entities and make joint decisions on matters of mutual interest, subject always to FAI General Conference approval on matters of policy.

B. to instruct:

- CASI to amend Sporting Code, General Section Article 3.3.1. to read: *Unless otherwise decided by the FAI General Conference, the FAI and NACs shall only recognise sporting events that are held in accordance with FAI rules.*
- GAC to amend Sporting Code, Section 2 Article 7.1. to read: *"The regulations summarize the general contents of the rules for competitions under G.A.C. responsibility. The detailed Competition Rules for these competitions shall be approved by G.A.C. and will be issued as an Annex. Rules for Red Bull Air Races are under the responsibility of the FAI General Conference."*