



**Members of FPVL**  
**Fédération Aéronautique Internationale**  
**Commission Internationale de Vol Libre - President**  
**Delegates of the Commission Internationale de Vol Libre**  
**Aero club of Portugal**  
**Portuguese Sports Institute**  
**International Olympic Committee**  
**Portuguese Olympic Committee**

<b>V/ ref.</b> <b>Your ref.</b>	<b>V/ data</b> <b>Your date</b>	<b>N/ ref.</b> <b>Our ref.</b>	OF2006556	<b>Data</b> <b>Date</b>	22-11-2006
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**ASSUNTO:** Announcement – Paragliding World Championship 2007  
**SUBJECT**

The directors board of the FPVL (Portuguese Hang Gliding and Paragliding Federation) hereby, informs all members, and presents the reasons beyond the decision of not be present on Paragliding World Championship, that will take place from February 24th to March 9<sup>th</sup> of 2007, at Manilla, Australia.

This decision, thus, taken with great regret, is due to the bellow mentioned issues, and takes the form of a complaint, which will be duly sent to the attention of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), to the Portuguese Sports Institute, Portuguese Olympic Committee, International Olympic Committee, Portuguese Aero Club and Delegates of the *Commission Internationale de Vol Libre – CIVL*.

- 1) The overall national team results in Paragliding World Championships is obtained by the total of the best tree pilot results in each task. But for how amazing it may seam, on the 2003 Paragliding World Championship in Governador Valadares (Brazil), the enrollment was only allowed, to the Portuguese as well as to other teams, to 3 pilots (2 males + 1 female), while several other countries participated with seven pilots (5 males + 2 females).  
In view of this situation, the Portuguese team, present on the that Championship, put in action a request subscribed on site by nine countries, and later by others, in order be removed from the overall Classification by countries. These requests were not accepted
- 2) In February 2006, at the plenary meeting of CIVL, which took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, Portugal presented a proposal aiming the change of the rules for the teams' constitution on the FAI category 1 competitions – Paragliding World and European Championships – attributing identical size to all teams and devolving justice and sportive credibility to these events. Eighteen votes for and nine against approved this proposal.
- 3) The rule for “Team size and scoring” proposed by Portugal was based on very simple principles:
  - Minimum number of participants for all countries is three male pilots + one female (once all accomplish the rules for single qualification).
  - The remaining openings will circularly be granted one per team until all teams have received an extra place, then again one per team until reaching a second place and so forth.

This way, there will be a better distribution of participants among the nations.

- 4) The Paragliding subcommittee reached by unanimous conclusion, during the discussion brought by the analysis of Portuguese proposal, that there was inequity on previous rules. The fact that there were teams with only two pilots, whilst the competition's results is obtained from the three best individual results. The minimum number of participants per country, of 3 + 1, was included on the report of the Paragliding subcommittee, and thereof approved on the plenary.
- 5) Still, and despite being approved in the plenary meeting of CIVL one year before the Manilla championship, and despite being published on Section 7B of the FAI Sports Code, in force since May 1, 2006, this new rule concerning the teams size, will not be used on the next World Championship.
- 6) The only argument presented by the organization body is that the new rule for the team formation was not yet in force when the contract with FAI was signed. The older rule was inherent to the decision, since this was the one in force. They also claim that the use of the new rule might have implications on the number of participants and consequently on the estimated profits. Curiously, on the initial phase the organizer showed agreement with the new rules, deciding, later on, for the previously existing one.

The board of the FPVL considers that the required conditions, to attain the primary goal of FAI, for the holding of such championships – provide a safe, **fair**, and pleasant competition... - are not gathered, nor are the elementary principals of sports spirit in general. Therefore, we find inappropriate cooperating with distortion procedures, profiting only some influent minorities in detriment of the sports truth. Due to the presented motives, the FPVL refuses to sign up Portugal for the next Paragliding World Championship, since, in our opinion; it would support an event where the classification of the countries will be no sportive at start.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of board of directors



(Prof. Paulo Branco)