

CIVA Plenary 2025 – Powered Aerobatics Rule Decisions

Summary for British Aerobatics Members

Meeting held: Paris, France – November 2025

Document reference: Agenda 8.1 – Proposals for Section 6 Part 1 (2025 for 2026)

Overview

At the CIVA Annual Meeting in Paris, delegates from National Aero Clubs reviewed and voted on proposed amendments to **Section 6 Part 1** of the Sporting Code (Powered Aerobatics).

This summary outlines the outcome of each proposal and key points from the plenary discussion.



NP2026-9 – Cloud Base Minimum for Unlimited

Proposer: France

Summary:

Raise the minimum cloud base for Unlimited flights from **800 m to 850 m AGL** to increase safety margins and prevent pilots from entering cloud or flying too low.

Decision: Accepted

Impact: Improves safety consistency between categories.



NP2026-10 – Cloud Base Minimum for Advanced

Proposer: France

Summary:

Raise the minimum cloud base for Advanced flights from **800 m to 850 m AGL**, aligning the rule with Unlimited and standardising vertical safety margins.

Decision: Accepted



NP2026-11 – Gender Ranking

Proposer: France

Summary:

Reintroduce gender-specific rankings (with a minimum of five competitors of each gender) alongside overall results.

Decision: Rejected

Comments:

The majority view was that female competitors wish to be judged and ranked equally to men. It was also noted that the proposal would **not likely increase participation**.



NP2026-12 – Rookie Ranking

Proposer: France

Summary:

Introduce a **Rookie ranking** for first-time competitors at CIVA Category 1 events.

Decision: Accepted

Amendments agreed:

- Definition clarified as “*first participation in that category and not previously competed at a higher level.*”
- No Rookie ranking for Intermediate, as that category primarily comprises newcomers.

Impact: Recognises and encourages new competitors at Advanced and Unlimited levels.



NP2026-13 – Reduction of Figures in Free Unknowns

Proposer: France

Summary:

Reduce Free Unknown sequences from *10 + 1–4 figures* to *7 + 1–3 figures* to shorten programmes.

Decision: Rejected

Comments:

Delegates opposed simplifying the Unlimited category. The argument to shorten contests conflicted with NP2026-14 (mandatory training flights), which would lengthen events.



NP2026-14 – Mandatory Training for Final Freestyle

Proposer: France

Summary:

Make Final Freestyle training mandatory (either a separate flight or practice within the judged flight).

Decision: Rejected

Comments:

Option 2, allowing pre-show practice in the box with smoke and music, was considered detrimental to spectators. Making this compulsory also increases organiser workload, though voluntary training was generally supported as good practice.



NP2026-15 – Additional Rotations in Advanced Free Unknowns

Proposer: France

Summary:

Permit rolls (9.1.5.1 – 9.1.5.3) on the **downline of tailslides (6.2.1.1 / 6.2.2.1)** in Advanced.

Decision: Accepted

Impact: Expands design flexibility for Advanced Free Unknown sequences without safety concerns.



NP2026-17 – Entry to Unlimited Freestyle Only

Proposer: South Africa

Summary:

Allow pilots to compete in Unlimited Freestyle without entering the Aresti programmes.

Decision: Rejected

Comments:

Delegates noted this could attract more display-focused pilots, but CIVA's priority is to **encourage Aresti pilots to progress upward**. The rule might otherwise disincentivise advancement into Unlimited Freestyle.



NP2026-18 – Half-Loops with Rolls (Figure Timing Clarification)

Proposer: Spain

Summary:

Clarify judging criteria when a pilot omits the roll after a half-loop.

Decision: Accepted

Comments:

Although it is difficult to measure “2 seconds or 2 radii,” delegates agreed clarity was needed.

Amended text:

“Finally, a **Hard Zero (HZ)** when the line length exceeds twice the radius of the looping element. If an HZ is given and the roll is subsequently flown, it must be penalised as an **insertion**.”

Impact: Ensures consistency and fairness in judging.



BACK

NP2026-19 – Related Proposal (Italy)

Status: Withdrawn

Reason: Superseded by amendment to NP2026-18.



NP2026-20 – Additional Flick Roll Figures for Unlimited

Proposer: Spain

Summary:

Add several **three-quarter negative flick roll** variations (Family 9.10) for Unlimited Programmes 2–4.

Decision: Accepted

Impact: Increases diversity and design potential for Free Unknowns.


BACK

NP2026-21 – Intermediate as Category II Event

Proposer: Spain

Status: Withdrawn

Reason: Proposal not sufficiently developed for voting.

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NP2026-22 – Team Size Limit (Max Six Competitors)

Proposer: Spain

Summary:

Reduce maximum team size from 12 to 6 competitors per NAC.

Decision: Rejected / Withdrawn after discussion

Comments:

Significant debate highlighted both sides:

- Supporters said it would create fairer team results.
- Opponents (including the UK) noted it would **reduce participation**, particularly for host nations.

A compromise was explored allowing **two formal teams (A and B)** per country, but the proposal was ultimately withdrawn for further review in 2026.

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NP2026-24 – Common Sequences for Free Unknowns (Programmes 3 & 4)

Proposer: Spain

Summary:

All pilots would fly the same sequence in Programmes 3 & 4, selected by drawing lots.

Decision: Withdrawn

Comments:

Seen as unnecessarily complex and inflexible. While the intent to simplify judging was noted, the rule risked unsuitable sequences for differing aircraft or conditions.

ESP will submit a revised version in 2026.

Summary Table

No.	Subject	Outcome	Notes
NP2026-9	Cloud base minimum – Unlimited	✓ Accepted	Raised to 850 m AGL
NP2026-10	Cloud base minimum – Advanced	✓ Accepted	Raised to 850 m AGL
NP2026-11	Gender ranking	✗ Rejected	Equality preferred; no participation benefit
NP2026-12	Rookie ranking	✓ Accepted	Clarified “in that category”; no Intermediate award
NP2026-13	Reduce figures in Free Unknowns	✗ Rejected	Maintain current complexity
NP2026-14	Mandatory Freestyle training	✗ Rejected	Adds complexity; spoils display impact
NP2026-15	Rolls in Advanced tailslides	✓ Accepted	Expands design flexibility
NP2026-17	Freestyle-only entry	✗ Rejected	Risks discouraging Aresti progression
NP2026-18	Half-loops with rolls	✓ Accepted	Clarified HZ / insertion rule
NP2026-19	Related proposal	 Withdrawn	Covered by NP2026-18
NP2026-20	Extra flick roll figures	✓ Accepted	Adds figure diversity

No.	Subject	Outcome	Notes
NP2026-21	Intermediate as Cat II	 BACK Withdrawn	Further study required
NP2026-22	Limit team size to six	 Withdrawn	To be redrafted for 2026
NP2026-24	Common sequences 3 & 4	 Withdrawn	To be re-evaluated in 2026

Next Steps

- All **accepted proposals** will be incorporated into the **2026 edition of the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 Part 1 (Powered Aerobatics)**.
 - The **Rookie ranking** and **roll-clarification rule** represent notable practical changes for organisers and judges.
 - Withdrawn or paused proposals (notably on team composition and sequence structure) are expected to return for further review at the **2026 Plenary**.
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