
9. Parachuting & Skydiving

Discipline 9.3: Canopy Formation

Event Description

Parachuting (or Skydiving, to use its increasingly popular name) provides a wide variety of breath-taking, dynamic and very attractive competitive events focusing on athletes rather than aircraft. The events selected for the World Air Games 2009 will depend very much on the venues made available by the future organiser, as well as the airspace structure above the venues.

These events will comprise both Freefall and Canopy disciplines. All Parachuting & Skydiving events are very attractive for spectators, since modern technologies may be used to follow and display the athletes' performance on large screens in front of the public.

In Canopy Formation events, teams of four members compete under open parachutes (canopies). Once out of the aircraft, they deploy their parachutes immediately and compete to score as many different stack formations as possible.

Judges use video images of Canopy formation performances produced by the performers' own camera-flyers.

Venue

- *Location:* Main venue. If required, aircraft may take-off from an auxiliary airfield located nearby.
- *Air Space Requirements:* Airspace available within a radius of max. 5 NM. Exit altitude for Canopy Formation events is 7,000 ft AGL.
- Professional ATC coordination may be required, depending on the surrounding airspace configuration.
- *Event Site:* A runway (concrete or grass) long enough for safe operation of heavily-loaded aircraft, or helipad. Flat, grass landing zone of some 100 x 150 meters for parachutists, clear of obstacles and spectators.
- *Timing:* All day, but preferably early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

Competitors

- *Competitor type:* Teams
- *Team Composition:* 5 athletes (4 performers + 1 camera-flyer)

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- *Number of entrants:* 20 athletes (4 teams)
 - *Support personnel:* Up to 25 local staff for all Parachuting events (depending on schedule and venues, staff may be partly shared between Parachuting events).
 - *FAI – IPC Referees:* 7 to 12 for all Parachuting events (depending on events and schedule)

Duration

- *Practice Days:* 1
- *Competition days:* 2 to 8 competition rounds per event + 1 final round. Several rounds per day are possible.
- *Reserve Days:* 1 to 2
- *Time per round:* 1 to 2 hours.

Technical Equipment specifically required for Parachuting events

(See note 3)

- Aircraft (helicopter or fixed-wing) with a seating capacity of 5 to 20 fully equipped parachutists.
- Air-to-ground video system for Canopy Formation events
- TV monitors for judging/scoring
- Electronic scoring system(s)
- Lightweight windsocks
- Scoring software
- Cabins for judges, video crews, dubbing.
- VHF transceivers (radios)

Estimated Operational Budget

- Approx. USD 40'000.- (to be checked) for airlift and technical equipment for all Parachuting Events (Assuming fixed-wing airplanes at market prices/see note 2).

Notes:

1. *This budget does not include the costs for venue, infrastructure, logistics, accommodation, volunteers and technical equipment required for conducting/presenting the events, or for interacting with the public (see section 'Technical Equipment').*
2. *Civil or military helicopters may be an alternative to aeroplanes, but costs for airlift could be significantly higher, depending on negotiated prices.*
3. *A more detailed list of the equipment and aircraft required will be drawn up as soon as the events and schedule have been determined.*