

WHO IS ASAC

Air Sport Australia Confederation (ASAC) was formed in 1989 when the Royal Federation of Aero Clubs of Australia was no longer able to represent air sport bodies in Australia and abroad. A service that it had previously provided for more than 50 years.

ASAC is not a parent body, but an umbrella body, which covers the consolidated needs of various air sport bodies and air sport participants. The current member organisations are; Australian Ballooning Federation, Australian Gliding Federation, Hang Gliding Federation of Australia, Australian Parachute Federation, Model Aeronautical Association of Australia and the Australian Aerobatic Club.

In total, ASAC represents some 20,000 active air sport members, and over 150,000 participants. ASAC is run by a board on which each of the six air sport organisations nominates a delegate. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Technical Chairman are the executive, responsible for day-to-day operations. They are supported by a part time Executive Officer who manages the ASAC office.

ASAC has two main roles; it represents Australia at the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), and lobbies on behalf of air sport organisations to government.

The FAI is the world body which governs air sports and which regulates aviation records and competitions, including space and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The FAI membership is some 130 nations and has over 42 million participants in Air Sports. The FAI Gold Air Medal, and its companion the FAI Gold Space Medal, are universally recognised as the world's absolute top awards and is held by several Australians along with such noteworthy individuals as Bert Hinkler and Neil Armstrong. A representational link is maintained between the FAI and Australia via the FAI Vice-President (Australia).

Note: The FAI V-P (Australia) is elected by the ASAC Board, which has representatives from each of the member organisations.

Australia is proud to have the current FAI World Champion in Hot Air Ballooning and the Gold Medal winner in Aeromodelling from the 2015 World Air Games. Many other individuals and teams hold world rankings in the various air sports that Australians compete in.

As the FAI only recognises one organisation (National Airsport Control or NAC) per country, an amalgamated organisation covering all disciplines is required. As such, other air sport groups cannot join the FAI individually. Therefore, if an organisation or individual aviator wants international recognition of a sporting achievement or event, then this will need to be done through the NAC, which in Australia is ASAC. A number of efficiencies with respect to annual subscriptions and administration are achieved through a joint organisation that represents the different air sports.

The FAI regulates air sports through a number of Commissions, of which ASAC member organisations have delegates on each relevant Commission. These range from Astronautics, to General Aviation, to Parachuting. More details of these can be found at: <http://www.fai.org/structure/commissions>

Members can also register for email updates in their particular air sport by entering their contact details into the drop down menu. See link below:

<http://www.fai.org/mailing-lists>

Through ASAC, as the NAC, Australians and international visitors are able to set world and national records in almost every facet of sport and recreational aviation. As well, ASAC provides a record service to the general aviation, commercial and military sectors with fees applicable.

Of note, a number of aviation World Records are held by Australians. Further details can be found at the FAI website (see link below)

<http://www.fai.org/records>

ASAC supports the combined interests of its members, and where requested, an individual organisation. The combined strength of the ASAC membership is able to impress significant influence on government and other official agencies. ASAC seeks to protect and promote its members' interests at the State and Federal political and governmental levels, especially with regards to air space and regulatory matters. ASAC's representatives have regular and ongoing contact with all responsible authorities and with the relevant Ministers' office. ASAC has direct and regular input into policy and regulatory matters that affect air sports and sport aviation generally. The ASAC membership plays its part in supporting the relevant authorities in setting and monitoring operational and safety standards in their respective air sports.

ASAC is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission as the National Sporting Organisation for Air Sports in Australia and is affiliated with the Australian Olympic Committee.

It is worth reiterating that membership of ASAC not only serves the interests of its members at the political level, it also allows individuals to gain international recognition of aviation sporting records along with the ability to host and compete at the international level. This includes World Championships and the World Air Games.

The ASAC website contains contact details for the ASAC office. www.asac.asn.au. A number of informative papers and topics that ASAC is dealing with may be found on the ASAC website under the "Issues" tab.