

International Pole Sports Federation

Apparatus Norms 2016/17



www.polesports.org

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Introduction

The programme of certification is specifically for pole manufacturers and suppliers of poles for IPSF endorsed competitions. It will be developed over the next three years in order to test and improve the safety of equipment required at all IPSF competitions and events. Competition organisers follow a separate level of criteria for IPSF endorsement of a competition; part of these criteria is to use IPSF certified poles and industry certified truss/staging equipment. Truss/rigging/staging manufacturers and suppliers have industry related certifications for safety of equipment and installation; documentation must be provided to competition organisers for the competition to be endorsed.

The full document should be read in its entirety to give an overview of IPSF expectations of Apparatus Norms for IPSF endorsed competitions. However, please see below for the sections specifically relevant to competition organisers, pole manufacturers/suppliers and truss & rigging suppliers/installers.

Definitions of relevant parties:

- *Competition organisers* refers to a competition organiser who is responsible for an IPSF endorsed competition at any level.
- *Pole manufacturers* refers to manufacturers and suppliers of poles to IPSF endorsed competitions at any level.
- *Truss, rigging and staging suppliers* refers to companies responsible for supplying and installing the necessary equipment to be used at an IPSF endorsed competition at any level.

<i>Sections most relevant to each party</i>		
Competition Organisers	Pole Manufacturers/Suppliers	Truss/Rigging/Staging Manufacturers/Suppliers
1	1	1
2	2	4
4	3	5.1, 5.2
5.1, 5.2	4	6
9, 9.1, 9.2	5.3, 5.4, 5.5	7
	6	
	8, 8.1	
	9, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4	
	10	

1. Improving Apparatus

- The IPSF commitment to improving apparatus Norms within pole sports gives each athlete around the world the opportunity to train on the same safe equivalent apparatus. It also allows the technicians, organisers, and above all the apparatus manufacturers, to be updated immediately on the latest developments in this important area.
- The apparatus Norms is an open working document that will be improved upon each year in a rapidly growing sport to keep up to date of the technological advancements within Pole Sport.
- This document is the result of a team effort led by the members of the IPSF, pole manufacturers and truss manufacturers.
- This document has taken in to consideration the IPSF Rules, Code of Points and that pole sports is a new sport in its formative years, allowing room for development and growth.
- The IPSF would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the publication of this document.

2. The Purpose

- The primary purpose of the IPSF apparatus Norms is to have equivalent apparatus at all competitions. It is essential for the competitors to have the same, optimal conditions for the preparations for competitions and at competitions all over the World. This is necessary for practical reasons, for competition fairness and comparison, and for safety.
- All apparatus used at IPSF endorsed events must have a valid IPSF Certificate. This Certificate will be issued by the IPSF, provided the apparatus has been tested successfully.
- The choice of grade of brass material, construction and manufacture has been left to the manufacturers to allow the apparatus specifications to adapt to progress, development and new construction techniques. Therefore, the IPSF only prescribes measurements and functional properties for testing and testing procedures.
- The testing procedures must be constantly developed to ensure they stay relevant. It is important to develop testing procedures which guarantee that the apparatus meet the required standards after intensive use. To enforce the Apparatus Norms and to guarantee the quality of apparatus after intensive use, the IPSF may, before, during or after an event, control the apparatus and request retests.

3. The Certificate

The specifications for this document were adopted by the IPSF Executive Committee in April 2015 and are valid from 1st September 2015. They replace all previous editions as well as all previous decisions and publications regarding apparatus from the Executive Committee and Technical Committees. They are compulsory for all IPSF endorsed events and only apparatus which has a valid IPSF Certificate may be used.

The IPSF strongly recommends that at all other events, organised independently by its member federations and recognised competitions, only apparatus which have a valid IPSF Certificate may be used. At IPSF endorsed events, apparatus without a valid IPSF Certificate may only be used provided all participating member federations have agreed in writing and bear the full responsibility and liability for the use of such uncertified apparatus.

4. Quality and Guarantee

To guarantee equal quality and fairness for the competitors and to guarantee their safety and health, testing procedures for the quality of apparatus are necessary. Those testing procedures follow below.

These apparatus norms and functional properties must not only be fulfilled at the time of the recorded test. The apparatus manufacturers must guarantee to produce their apparatus in such a quality that the apparatus also fulfil the requested Norms, functional properties and safety aspects after intensive use e.g. after a World Championships

5. Apparatus Norms

5.1 The floor of the stage

- The surface must be horizontal, even and without gaps.
- The surface cover of the area must provide a balance between anti-skid and slippage. It must not cause skin burns.

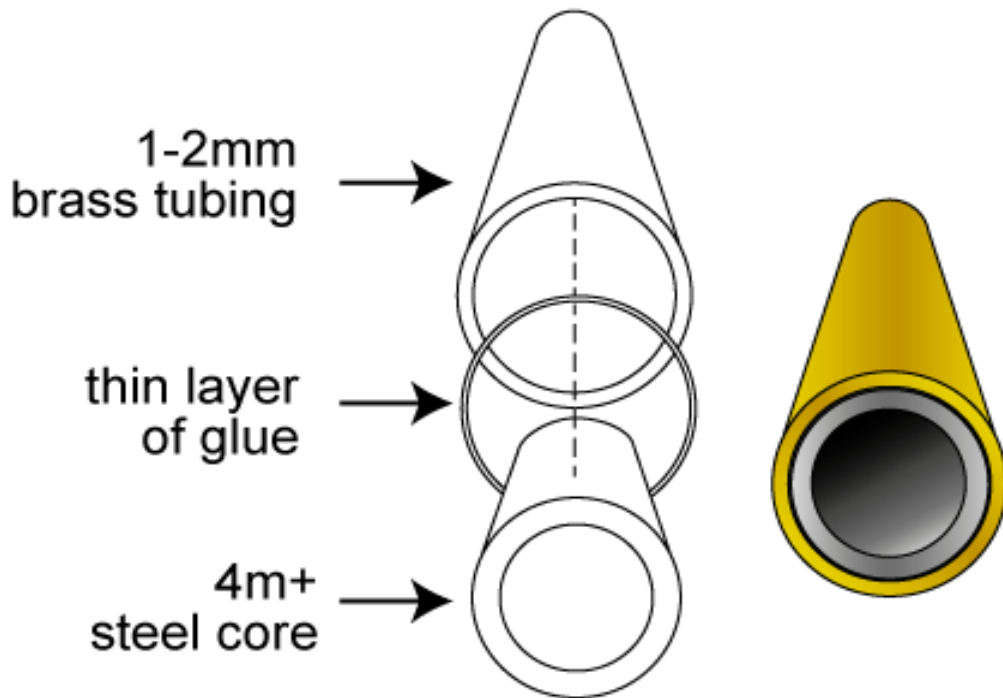
- The floor must not produce disturbing sounds during the execution of an exercise. It must assure a low noise level.
- The floor should be of plain colour which choice is left to the event organiser's discretion. Dark colours should be avoided. For certain events the IPSF may stipulate the colours.

5.2 The Stage

- The Performance Area shall have a rectangle format.
- All elements of the stage must be connected firmly to prevent slipping.
- Distance between poles should be 3m of $\pm 100\text{mm}$.
- The stage should be 10m wide and 6m deep with a tolerance $\pm 1.5\text{m}$
- The elevation of the stage is the choice of the event organiser. However, this should be an acceptable height for judges to view fully.
- The stage should have a flat and even surface. If the stage is made from modular staging parts each seam should be covered in tape. However, it is preferable that the stage is covered in either wood flooring or vinyl flooring.
- The stage may be directly on the floor and without elevation.

5.3 The pole

- The apparatus consists of a one piece (in length) brass tubular body which is placed vertically onto a base.
- The grade of brass tubing is left to the manufacturer's discretion, however the brass should not be electro-plated.
- Body Length 4000mm (excluding the extender) with a tolerance $\pm 50\text{mm}$.
- Body diameter is a constant 45mm.
- The pole must be steel lined for rigidity.
- External brass tubing diameter 2mm with a tolerance $\pm 1\text{mm}$
- Internal steel core diameter 4mm or more.
- The steel core should be firmly fixed to the internal wall of the brass tube. The anchoring to the body must assure immobility



- When the pole is correctly installed in a vertical position, a slight flexibility of the body (the tube), must not affect the support or stability of the pole is accepted, however this should not exceed 20mm lateral deflection of pole when in use; not to be confused with lateral movement of the truss system.
- The pole must have a high level of grip. The grip must be effective in all climates.
- The pole must not deteriorate with the use of grip enhancers.
- The metals used in the fabrication of the pole should not contain products that could cause an allergic reaction.
- The pole, its fixings, and all moving and working parts must be strong enough to withstand the lateral force of 180kg jumping at, and rotating on, the poles at speed.
- The pole should withstand the continued use of 180kg for a period of 48 hours without bowing, slowing or damage to its working parts.
- The pole should function without noise from the moving parts.

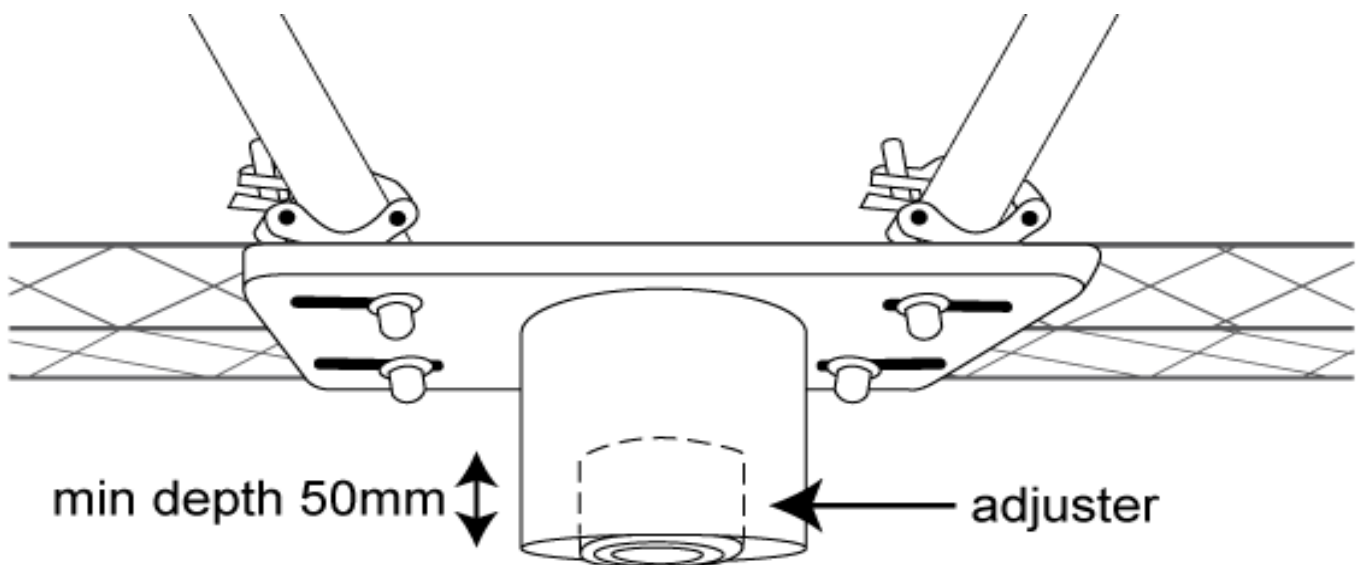
5.4 The Base

- The base must serve as a support for the body of the pole.
- The base should not exceed more than 100mm in diameter unless previously approved by the IPSF.

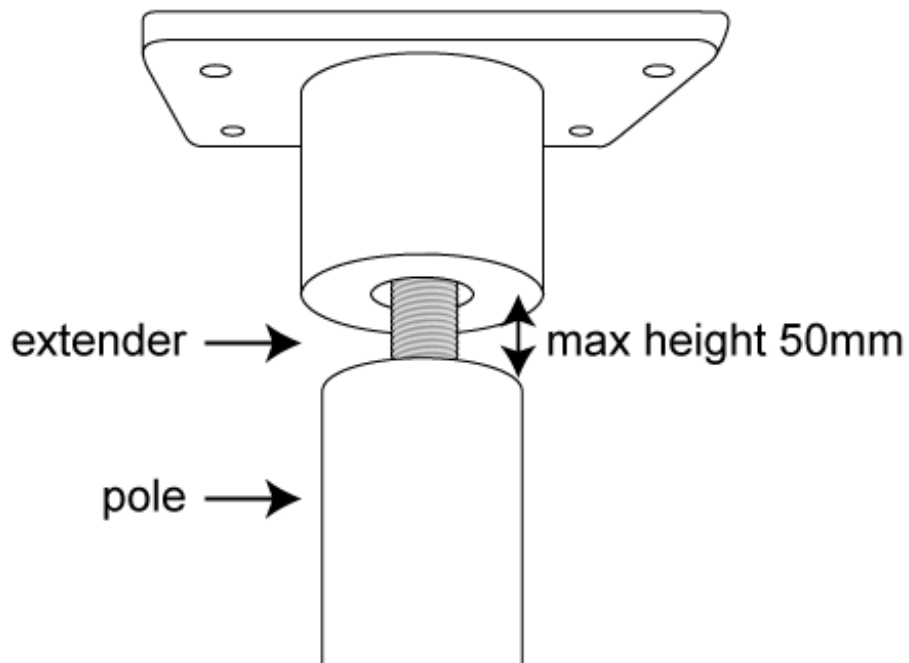
- The base should be low profile.
- No parts of the base may show sharp corners or edges, nor rough surfaces.
- The base should have a minimum of 3 predrilled counter sunk screw holes
- The base should be fixed to flooring with screws. The screws should be 6mm in width and 40mm in length. They should fit flush to the base and covered if they present a hazard.
- The static base should remain static during use.
- The spinning pole should flow freely, smoothly and without noise during use.
- The base must allow exact levelling of the body of the pole, and assure its immobility for the static pole and its free flow for the spinning pole.
- The manufacture must take in to consideration when designing the pole that the staging and rigging cannot be perfectly square. Therefore, the pressure may not be perfectly equal on the spin mechanism.
- The designs of the remaining parts are left to the discretion of the manufacturer.

5.5 The Extender

- The pole or its adjuster must tightly fit into the truss plate with a minimum of 50mm depth. The extender should have no lateral movement in its fixing.
- The extender rod should be securely fixed into the pole so that it can be extended without compromising the stability of the pole. The extender should sit in its screw thread 150mm $\pm$ 50mm.

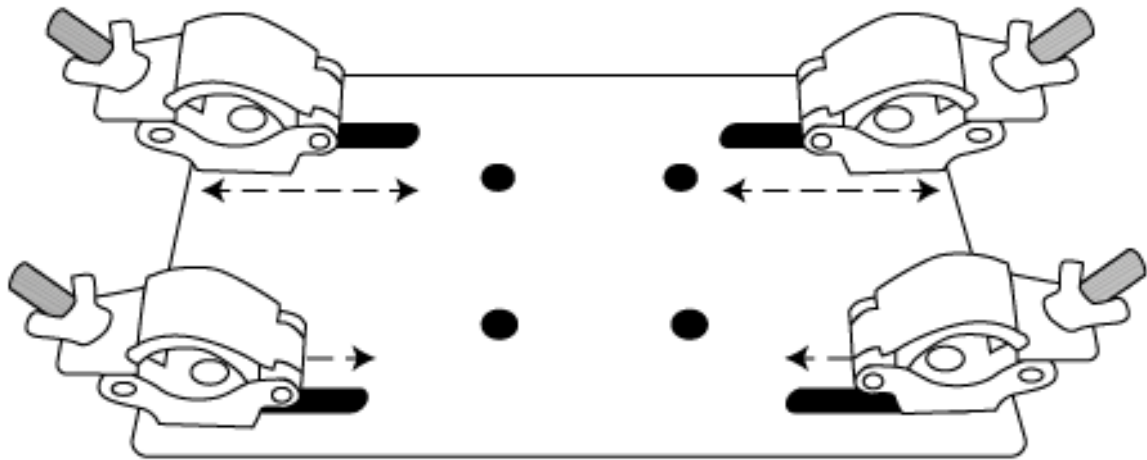


- The extender rod may be either bottom loading or top loading. If the pole is bottom loading, the extender must be covered virtually seamlessly so as to not cause the athlete(s) any injury. The cover must be in metal and withstand the above weights when applied.
- If the pole is top loading, there should be no more than 50mm of extender showing between the pole and the rigging point.



6. Truss Fixings

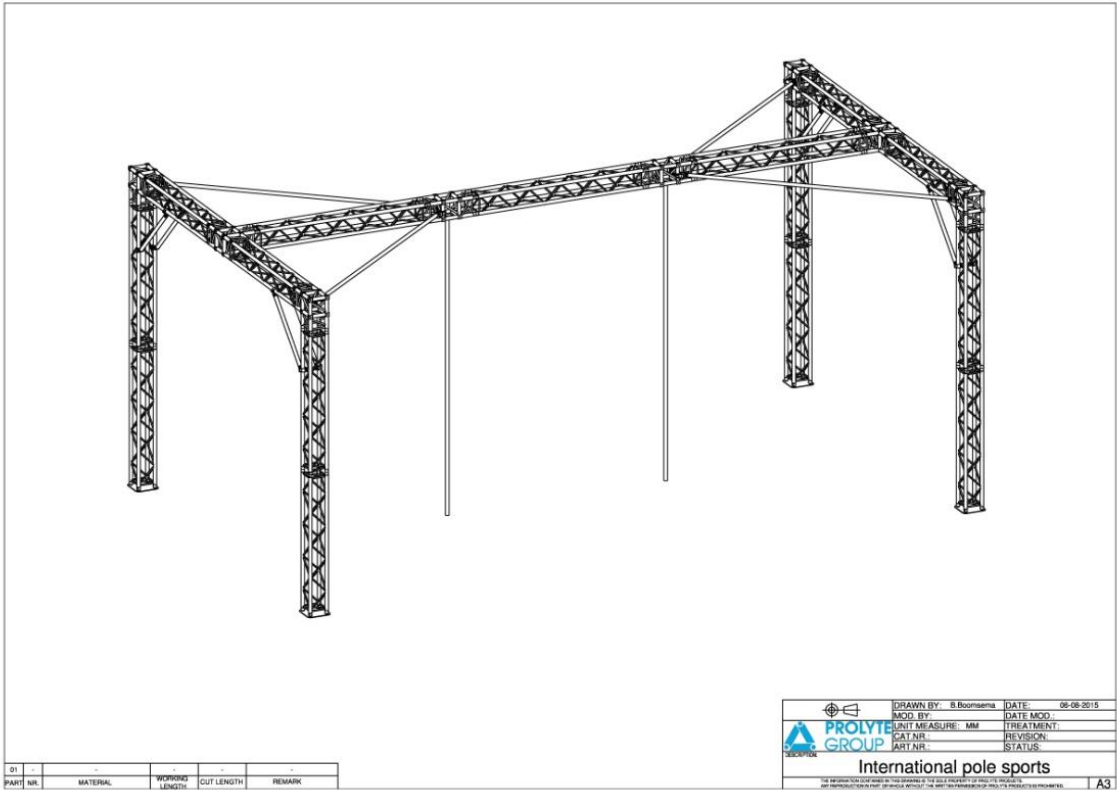
- The plate must fit a truss size from 250mm - 400mm.
- It must fix onto the rigging with a minimum of four fixing points.
- The fixings should be 4 burger clamps.
- All burger clamps must have safety certificates.
- The plate and or its fixings should be adjustable to fit different manufacturers of rigging.
- The rigging points must secure the plate to the truss with no movement
- If the plate is fixed to a separate coupling to insert the pole/extender into it should be fixed with a minimum of 4 bolts.



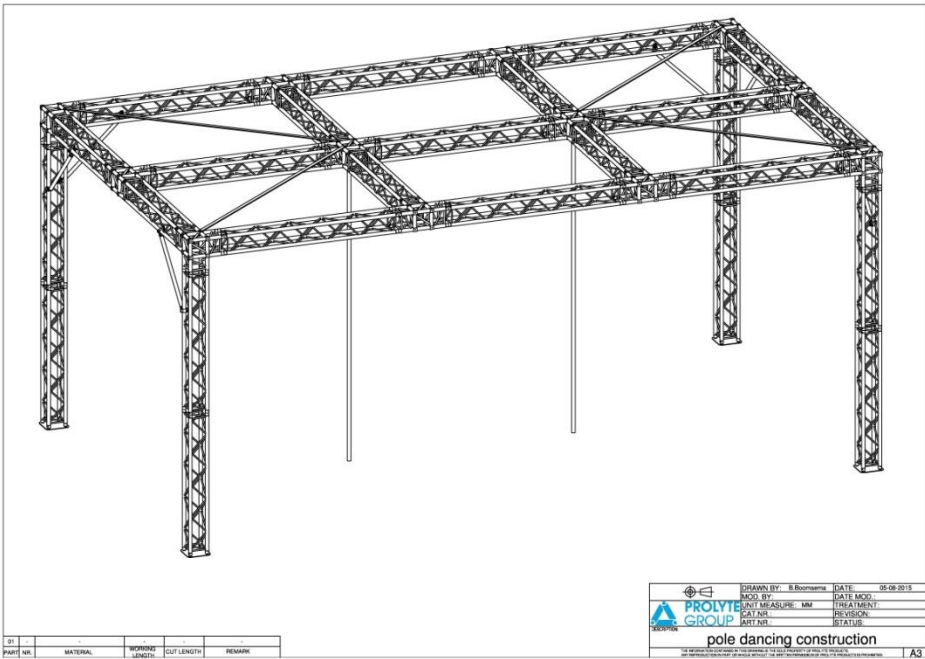
7. Truss and stage Standards

- The truss cross section used must have a width of be between 300mm - 400mm.
- The truss should accommodate the full height of the 4m poles as well as its fixings
- The truss should accommodate the width of the standard size of the stage. This will vary depending on the manufacturer of the truss.
- The truss should be an IPSF standard configuration. Please see diagrams below.
- The truss must include all bracing shown in the diagrams below.
- The truss should have no more than 30mm lateral movement. If movement is in excess of 30mm further bracing/strapping should be applied to the truss to increase the stability. This is the responsibility of the rigging company.
- The truss system must have rubber foot plates on all four corners to prevent slippage.
- The horizontal truss where the rigging plate fixes should not have a joint attaching two pieces of truss together. This will interfere with fixing the truss plate to the horizontal truss.
- All truss pieces must be bolted together in the correct way and not tied together with webbing.
- If using option 3, the system must be strapped down in line with the vertical truss and weighted down with a minimum of 100kg of weight on each side of the truss. This should be increased if the truss has exceeded the maximum lateral movement allowance. Full bracing needs to be used in each corner as indicated in red on the diagram.

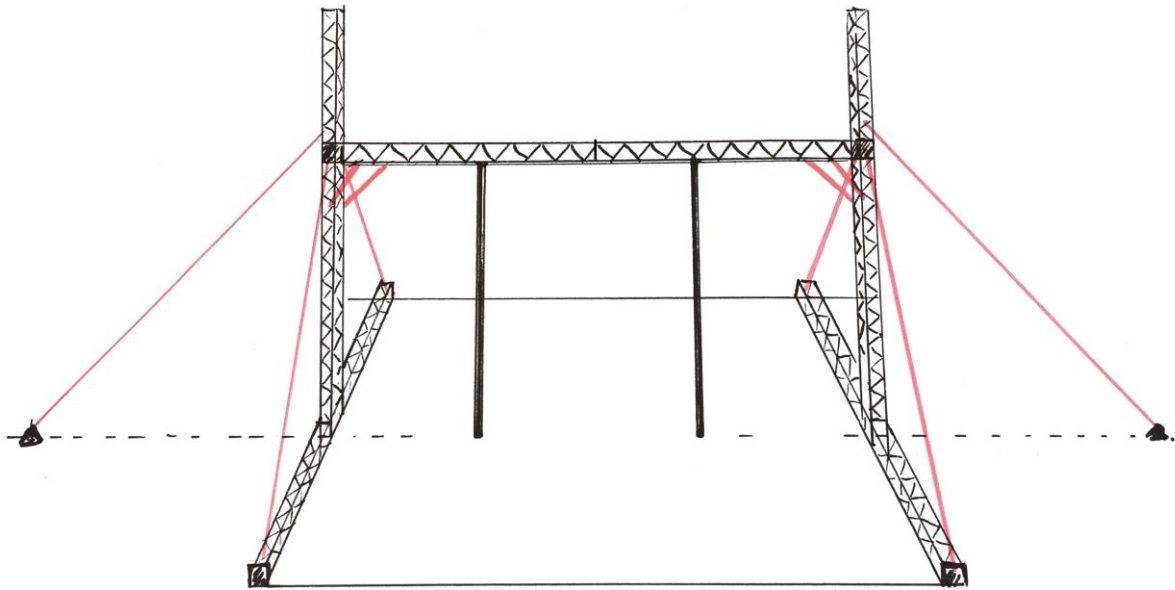
Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



8. Testing

As pole is in its infancy technical knowledge and expertise does not currently extend further than our own industry. There currently is no IPSF approved testing facility to test the safety and security of IPSF certified apparatus or any ISO standards. Therefore, the IPSF have set out the following guidelines for manufactures to test their equipment for certification.

*The manufacture must provide a **video presentation in English** of the following:*

- Clear visible and audible footage of testing in English.
- The test must be completed at full height, however if a truss and stage cannot be erected the pole can be used on two fixed upper and lower points. I.E a ceiling and floor. Please be advised that it is expected that the pole should be tested on a truss prior to competition.
- The test should be conducted with all pole working parts this includes the base of the pole and the truss plate as well as the full body of the pole.
- Show the base of the pole showing the size of the base against a tape measure.
- A cross section of the pole showing the external brass tube and its inner steel tube fixed together.
- Show the cross section of the pole showing the diameter against a tape measure.
- Show the length of the pole against a tape measure. Show the full one-piece pole.
- Show how the locking system from static to spinning and back to static functions.

- Show the full extender against a tape measure and show how the extender fits into the pole.
- Show the truss fitting and how it fits to the pole and the truss.
- A full demonstration on how to install the pole to the truss and the stage, clearly pointing out problems that could occur during installation and how to combat them.
- Show the pole on static and on spinning both with force once the pole has been correctly installed.
- Show the pole under continued force using the weights below for a period of 4 minutes on each pole. We understand that you cannot show the pole for 48 hours however it should be understood that the pole should be privately tested under the weight conditions below.
- The pole should keep its integrity after this test has been completed. Meaning that the pole and its working parts should not have been compromised in any way. The body of the pole must continue to be 100% straight and all working parts moving correctly.
- To show the pole, its fixings and all moving and working parts to be strong enough to withstand the lateral force of 180kg jumping at and rotating on the poles at speed.
- To explain how the pole is proven to withstand the continued use of 180kg for a period of 48 hours without bowing, slowing or damage to its working parts.
- The pole should function without noise from the moving parts.
- A written statement should accompany the test video. This written statement must include the following:

“We confirm that the construction of the apparatus and the functional properties has been tested in accordance to the IPSF Norms.” “We confirm that the apparatus has been tested under competition conditions and that the integrity of the equipment after testing has not been affected.”

- The IPSF may require a retest or refuse the re-certification.
- The cost of the testing will be the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.
- This testing criteria may be changed at any time but the IPSF to improve testing conditions.
- All testing videos will remain confidential.

8.1 Retesting

- If the construction of the apparatus or the functional properties has changed, the apparatus has to undergo a practical retest (see above criteria).
- In case of small modifications which do not affect the functional properties or would not lead to a different test results, the IPSF may dispense the apparatus manufacturer from testing. In

cases of doubt, the IPSF takes a final decision in consultation with the IPSF executive committee

- To renew a certificate, the apparatus manufacturer must send a request to the IPSF. This request must include the following three statements:

“We confirm that the construction of the apparatus and the functional properties have not changed since the last successful test.” “We confirm that the materials used are the same and have the same functional properties as those used for the last successful test.” “We confirm that our apparatus has been adapted to the apparatus Norms valid today.”

- The IPSF may require a retest or refuse the re-certification.

9. Terms of Certification

- The IPSF certification of a product does not include sponsorship of any IPSF competition or event at regional, national, continental or global level. Sponsorship must be negotiated separately with the event organiser.
- The certification is only given by the IPSF and not IPSF national federations or event organisers.
- The certification is for three years from certificate date.
- Payment details will be provided by invoice, and certification will not be approved until the payment has been agreed.
- The IPSF endorsed logo can only be used in relation to the certificated product and cannot be used to endorse the business or any other product not approved by the IPSF.
- Should a manufacturer no longer wish to have IPSF certification for their product or their certificate has been revoked or lapsed, they must cease using the IPSF certification and respective logos with immediate effect. This includes, but is not limited to, destroying any packaging and promotional material as well as removing the IPSF branding and name from their website and social media.
- The poles should arrive at competitions a minimum of a week prior to the competition set up day, unless otherwise agreed with the competition organiser
- The poles must come with clear instruction and a complete list of components needed to set up the pole, unless the manufacture is sending a technician to either install the poles or assist with installing the poles.
- The poles should arrive with any specific tools required for installation unless the manufacture is sending these with a technician to either install the poles or assist with installing the poles.

- All poles must have product liability insurance. This must be of a value acceptable to the countries of installation.
- All pole sponsors must discuss with the event organiser a minimum of 30 days prior to the event set up regarding the stage requirements for both parties. If the staging does not meet IPSF requirements due to logistics, both the event organiser and the pole sponsor must contact the IPSF to discuss requirements.

9.1 Publication of Certificates

The IPSF regularly publishes a list of the valid Certificates including the period of validity.

9.2 Validity of the Certificate

The Certificates have a validity of three years. The expiry date is indicated on the certificate. The IPSF may, at any time, prolong or shorten the validity of issued Certificates or withdraw a Certificate.

9.3 Rights of the Apparatus Manufacturer with a valid IPSF Certificate

When receiving an IPSF Certificate, the apparatus manufacturer obtains the following rights:

- The right that the respective apparatus may be used at IPSF endorsed events.
- The right to use the designation and the logo «IPSF Certificated» together in the catalogue and other publicity material, as prescribed in the respective directives
- The use of the «IPSF Certificated» Logo on the respective apparatus.
- The regular publication in the list of certified apparatus on the IPSF website.
- The right to be a member of the IPSF Apparatus Commission (2 partners at a time)

9.4 Removal of certificate

Waiver of Liability

With these Apparatus Norms, the IPSF, its member federations and recognised competitions, are in no way responsible for the apparatus. The IPSF, its member federations and recognised competitions waive all liability in connection with the use of apparatus described in these Apparatus Norms. Responsibility and liability in relation to the apparatus remains with the manufacturer/supplier.

Please see the table at the end of the document in Appendix I for a full breakdown of penalties and sanctions.

It is the sole responsibility of the manufacturer to:

- a) Have in-depth experience and knowledge of the design, manufacture and installation of poles for competitions.
- b) Provide safe and secure poles designed to IPSF apparatus norms.

The IPSF reserves the right to revoke the certification, ban a manufacturer/supplier and enforce a fine for, but not limited to, the following infringements:

The IPSF has the right to test apparatus before, during and after competition for integrity.

10. FEES

10.1 Definitions:

Band

This refers to the geographical area of certification.

- Band 1/Regional - This refers to IPSF endorsed competitions at a local regional area or as a one-off endorsement for a national competition.
- Band 2/National - This refers to all areas within one specified country.
- Band 3/Global - This refers to world-wide coverage.

Certificated/certification

A company that has IPSF equipment certification has been certified by the IPSF having reached the standards required to supply or sell poles under the IPSF Partner Programme.

- *Advancement of certification* - Companies may advance certification on renewal to include a new geographical area.
- *Period of certification* – length of time IPSF certificate is valid.
- *Renewal of certification* - Certification is initially awarded for a period of three years unless the endorsement is for a one-off competition.
- *Terms of certification* – A, B, C refer to specific terms of certification awarded (See below).

Sponsor/sponsorship/sponsoring

To provide IPSF certificated poles including the means to install them correctly to an IPSF endorsed competition without payment.

Sell

Companies certificated to sell IPSF competition poles within an allocated geographical area.

FEES	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
Area	Regional	National	Global
Benefits of certification	A	B	C
Annual fees	£500	£1000	£3000

10.2 Benefits of certification

- A. **Regional/one-off** - Certified to sponsor regional IPSF endorsed competitions by providing IPSF certified poles.
- B. **National** - Certified to sponsor regional and national IPSF endorsed competitions within the specified country of certification by providing IPSF certified poles. Certified to sell IPSF certified competition poles within the specified country.
- C. **Global** - Certified to sponsor IPSF endorsed competitions world-wide including the WPSC by providing IPSF certified poles. Certified to sell IPSF certified competition poles world-wide.

In order to apply for your apparatus to be certified by the IPSF please contact info@polesports.org

APPENDIX I

Offence	Penalties	Removal of Certification	Immediate removal of IPSF logo	Re testing	Ban	Fine
A product deemed unsafe		✓	✓	✓	1 year	£2000

Misuse of the IPSF certification and the IPSF logos	Publication of the sanction. Manufacturer informs clients of infringement.	✓	✓		1 year	£2000
Selling and/or offering certified apparatus without a valid certificate (certificate expired)	Publication of the sanction. Manufacturer informs clients of infringement.	✓	✓		1 year	£2000
Selling and/or offering certified apparatus without a valid certificate (certificate expired)	Publication of the sanction. Manufacturer informs clients of infringement.	✓	✓		1 year	£2000
Testing an apparatus and selling and/or deliberately offering a different apparatus or construction or modified apparatus than the tested equipment.	Publication of the sanction. Manufacturer informs clients of infringement.	✓	✓		1 year	£2000
Selling, renting, sponsoring, offering, delivering, installing etc, non-certified apparatus (not certified at all, expired certificate or different apparatus from the tested one) for use at an IPSF event and events where IPSF Certified equipment is required.	Publication of the sanction. Manufacturer informs clients of infringement. Immediate rectification whenever possible	✓	✓		1 year	£2000
Using the abbreviation IPSF in any way for non IPSF certified apparatus, suggesting or giving the wrong impression of a relationship with IPSF.	Immediate stop of action, rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. IPSF may notify customer(s) Written warning					
Same as above 2nd offence	Publication of the sanction					
Using the IPSF logo without being an IPSF partner	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning.					

Continuation

Offence	Penalties	Removal of Certification	Immediate removal of IPSF logo	Re testing	Ban	Fine
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Same as above 2nd offence	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning. Publication of the sanction.					£5000
Not using the IPSF Approved logo directly attached to the respective product, thus giving the impression that other non-certified products could also be IPSF Approved.	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning.					
Same as above 2nd offence	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning. Publication of the sanction.					£5000
Giving the impression of IPSF approval or certification by using misleading wording such as e.g. "meets IPSF specs", or "following IPSF rules" or similar.	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning.					
Same as above 2nd offence	Immediate stop of action. Rectification and notification of the customers with copy to the IPSF. Written warning.					£1000
Bringing the name of the IPSF or pole sports into disrepute	Written Warning	✓			2 years	
NOT FOLLOWING OR RESPECTING SANCTIONS.	Action and further sanctions to be taken at the discretion of the IPSF					