

Sporting Code Section 3 Gliders update

The Sporting Code for Gliders has just had its regular October update and this year there are some changes that all pilots should know about.

BADGES

The new addition includes the note "At the IGC meeting 2004, it was decided that at some future date verification of badge flights will require the use of a flight recorder. Other means of verification will no longer be acceptable". This already applies to records. The exact date isn't stated but if you are starting to think about badge flights it is probably not wise to buy a camera and smoked barograph unless they are very cheap and you intend to complete all your badges promptly. Note that the prohibition will exclude the use of barographs for height claims and so EWs will have to be IGC approved models and connected to a GPS during the flight. This change is unlikely to have much effect of UK pilots, since distance badge flights using cameras have almost stopped completely and there are relatively few height claims using barographs.

BADGES AND RECORDS

It is now acceptable to use a cylinder observation zone of 0.5km radius for all start, finish and turnpoints. There are however two stings in the tail. Firstly, if you use the cylinder then there is a 0.5km distance "correction" every time you cross the circle i.e. 1km "correction when used for a turn point and 0.5km "correction" when used for a start or finish point. You should therefore increase the task size to suit or your 301km task could easily become 299km. You can of course continue to use the "sector" observation zone, start and finish lines and points of release or landing as before. Secondly "a given soaring performance may use only one type of observation zone" so you can't mix sectors and cylinders. There is no requirement to nominate which type you are using before hand. This is different to BGA competition rules which allow either to be used for any turnpoint.

The cylinder observation has the advantage of being easier to use with GPS. Just fly at the turnpoint until the distance is less than 0.5km and off you go to the next turnpoint. However, if you don't also log a point in the sector you need to consider a) that your task distance is enough to allow for the distance "correction" and b) all other turnpoints must log a point in the cylinder, which could be a problem if there is a shower, sink or a large gaggle over the turnpoint.

All flight recorders carried on a flight must be downloaded after the flight. This is presumably to check for dodgy multiple declarations.

RECORDS

"Within any single class only one distance and one speed record may be certificated for a flight." So for example if you do a blisteringly fast 1030km triangle in a standard libelle in the UK you can claim the 1000km triangle speed record but not the 750km triangle speed record and you can claim the triangle distance record or the free distance record but not both. You can however claim them for standard, 15m 20m and open class. Let me know when you do it!

"A new record claim must exceed the current value by 1km for distance, 1km/h for speed and 3% for altitude". The distance and speed are reduced from the previous 10km and 2km/h. The altitude 3% remains the same should you wish to risk brain damage by flying to 11918 metres.

Some new distance records have been added over the last few years which equate to the records listed on the BGA web site as follows.

IGC**BGA**

Free Distance From a start to an undeclared finish with no turnpoints	Straight distance
Free out and return distance Closed course with one turnpoint. Start/finish and the turnpoint can be declared post flight.	Free out and return distance
Free three-turnpoint distance Up to 3 turnpoints declared post flight	Not in BGA list
Free triangle distance	Not currently in BGA records
Straight distance Pre-declared goal with no turnpoints	Goal distance
Three turnpoint distance Up to 3 pre-declared turnpoints.	Free distance
Out and return distance Closed course with pre-declared start/finish and one pre-declared turnpoint	Out and return distance
Triangle distance 2 or 3 pre-declared turnpoints.	Triangle distance

The BGA National and UK records will be brought into line with the IGC record.