

PRESS INFORMATION



The World Championships

World championship gliding is contested in a number of classes reflecting the characteristics of the glider. All gliders competing in a particular class will, therefore, have similar performance. This helps ensure that the competition is won by the most skilled pilot rather than the one with the best equipment.

The classes in which competition takes place at world championship level are:

15m Class

The 15 Metre Class, is one of the most competitive class in the championships. Comparatively small (with 15 metre wing span), the gliders are very manoeuvrable, and have the benefit of lift adjusting flaps. This means they remain remarkably efficient, even at high speeds.

Standard Class

Standard Class gliders have the same 15 metre wing span of the flapped, 15m Class, but without the added advantage of the speed adjusting flaps. Traditionally, the Standard Class is entered by the greatest number of nations, making this class most representative of the international, sporting nature of the World Gliding Championships.

18m Class

18m gliders share many characteristics of the 15m class, but with the benefits of larger wings – 18m span instead of 15m. This gives them increased performance and the ability to fly longer and further, especially in marginal conditions, whilst remaining highly maneuverable.

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Open Class

The Open Class gliders have the largest span, the highest performance and cover the largest distances. They represent the pinnacle of gliding performance, with glide ratios of 60:1 – that’s the performance to glide around 10 miles from 1000’ altitude. The Open Class gliders are the most elegant, with their huge wing-spans approaching 28 metres.

Club Class

The Club Class differs in that there are no definitive ‘formula’ rules. Instead, all gliders flown in a club class event must have a performance handicap within a pre-declared range. These handicaps will be used in calculating final positions on each day of competition. The purpose of the club class is to provide inexpensive, but high quality international competition and to enable pilots who do not have access to gliders of the highest performance to compete at the highest levels.

Separate world championships are held for men, women and juniors (up to 25 years old).

The next men’s world championships – the 30th FAI World Gliding Championships - will be held in 2012/13. The event will be split over two venues. The Standard Class and Club Classes will be competed for at Uvalde, Texas from 4-19 August. The 15m, 18m and Open Classes will be held near bahia Blanca, Argentina in early January 2013.

In 2013, the 7th FAI Women’s World Gliding Championships will be held at Issoudun in France and the 8th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships will be held at Leszno in Poland.

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