

PROPOSAL TO IGC PLENARY 2011

Proposed by Germany

It is Proposed:

To calculate the reference mass for Club Class Handicap List based on a standard wing loading of 36 kg/m²

This Proposal affects:

Sporting Code Section – None

Annex A Rule – None

Reasons supporting the Proposal:

The reference mass in Club Class served to prevent exceptionally heavy glider to take advantage of their high wing loading. The actual reference mass is equal or close to the maximum allowable mass without water ballast. For many gliders it is difficult to determine a unique reference mass as different variants have different limits (e.g. Cirrus). Modern gliders have no adequate limit at all or it could relative easily be increased as gliders like LS4, Discus, ASW24 etc. are designed to carry quite big amounts of water. They have structural reserves when operated without water and it should be a simple exercise to increase that value for the type or for an individual glider. The same is valid for the maximum mass of non lifting parts.

It is proposed to delete the mass limits and only list a reference mass [kg] which is based on wing loading of 36kg/m² * wing area [m²].

The figure of wing area should be taken from the TCDS or official manufacturer documents (e.g. flight manual).

As stated in the current handicap list, it is in the responsibility of the pilot to operate the aircraft within the limitations and each pilot should be able to present the limits for his/her individual glider (mass of non lifting parts, MTOM).

A reference mass based on a standard wing loading (36kg/m²) provides a clear and performance related formula. It can easily be calculated and therefore it is no problem to create a complete list. This could also save a lot of discussions for national championships where more glider types appear.

In case a glider is flown with higher wing loading than 36kg/m² a penalty (higher handicap) is applied by 0.005 for each 10 kg or part thereof that the glider exceeds the reference mass.

The new handicap list specifies:

Index / type of glider / wing area / reference mass

Any further details (winglets, retrofitting retractable landing gear) will be taken from handicap list 2010.