



## Report from the joint IGC/OSTIV safety initiative to the IGC Plenary 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

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A joint Safety Seminar with participation of competition pilots, organisers, stewards, and safety expert from IGC, OSTIV and EASA took place in Copenhagen on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

The aim of the workshop was to create an updated picture of risks (frequency and severity) at gliding competitions.

Participants:

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- Frouwke Kuipers, Chief Steward
- Henrik Svensson, OSTIV
- Karol Staryszak, Pilot
- Mandy Temple, Steward
- Peter Eriksen, IGC/facilitator
- Richard Carlson, OSTIV
- Robert Danewid, Chief Steward
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- Russell Cheetham, Pilot
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The full report from the workshop, the Mitigation Plan and status on the actions are annexed to this report.

The outcome was very clear.

The most severe risk is Mid-air collision. Most of our effort shall focus on the mitigation of this risk. A number of ways to mitigate the mid-air collision risk was identified, from the organizational aspects, the way a competition is managed with the right focus on risk, the geometry of task, the pilot workload and head-down time when monitoring instruments etc. OSTIV will try to create a better understanding of the conditions where the collision risk is highest by analysing IGC files from previous competitions.

We shall however not forget the other risks identified, such as e.g. “Controlled Flight into Terrain” and Pilot fitness.

The risk picture created at the Workshop is in line with work conducted by EASA.

This initiative be long term. We have started with the “low hanging fruit”, where we expect safety benefits from changes that are relatively easy and simple to implement. Some actions will take several years to materialize.

The new training of Championship Sporting Directors is one of the spin-offs from the activity. Competition Safety will be part of this training.

Peter Eriksen



## **Joint OSTIV/IGC Safety activities**



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## Background

We currently spend effort on improving safety in gliding competitions, but we do not correctly understand the risks, it is based on an outdated risk picture.

Consequently, our approach to safety seems scattered and un-focused and we are unable to communicate a clear ambition on competition safety.

We wish to:

- Develop good understand on the safety risks that need to addressed;
- spend our effort in a prioritized way;
- mitigated risks by appropriate means with defined goals and ambitions;
- Base our approach to safety a combination of data and perception;
- be in a better position to communicate a safety strategy and objective;

to increase the impact and give us access to more effective risk mitigation.

This document serves as a description of these joint safety activities. The document is living and will be updated at regular intervals to describe current status and future plans.

### Copenhagen Safety Workshop

This joint OSTIV/IGC activity was initiated at a Safety Workshop held in Copenhagen in March 2023 with participants from OSTIV and IGC. All participants have a background in gliding, as pilots, as competition organizer, or as safety expert. This “**Informal Safety Group**” will take part in the further development of the work, all contributing with their skills and background. Size and membership of the Informal Safety Group is dynamic and will change over time.

The objective of the Copenhagen Workshop was to:

- Identify hazards linked to Competition Glider Flying
- Quantify risks in terms of severity and frequency
- Prioritize risks
- Identify possible mitigations for the most significant risks
- Initiate short- and long-term mitigation actions in terms of safety projects, procedural changes, studies, etc.
- Formulate and initiate reporting and regular follow-up activities
- Facilitate Communication

### OSTIV/IGC Risk Management objectives

In aviation, Risk Mitigation have different objectives:

**Reactive Risk Management** – Do something to address the risks identified in an accident or incident after it has occurred. This is how early aviation safety did risk management because they did not have any/enough data to do.....

**Proactive Risk Management** – Do something before an accident happens by utilizing data to identify risks from past accidents or incidents. Aviation safety has a well earned reputation for being a leader in proactive risk management.

**Predictive Risk Management** – Do something based on potential risk as determined from normal operational data (i.e. not accident data) to reduce the risk of an accident that has not happened (yet)

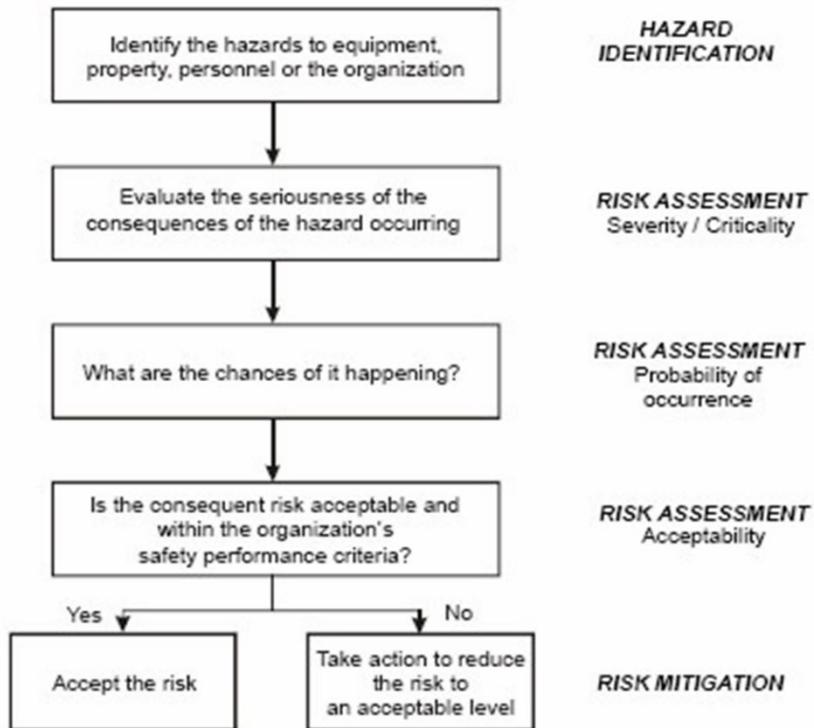
The objective of OSTIV and IGC is to reach the level of Predictive Risk Management, but this is a process that requires time and effort to achieve.

### Establishment og Safety Risks in Competition Gliding

Identified hazards are assessed in terms of criticality of their harmful effect and ranked in order of their risk-bearing potential. Risks are assessed often by experienced personnel, or by utilising more formal techniques and through analytical expertise.

The severity of consequences and the likelihood (frequency) of occurrence of hazards are then determined.

If the risk is considered acceptable, operation continues without any intervention. If it is not acceptable, the risk mitigation process is engaged.



## Safety Hazards

- A hazard is anything with the potential to cause harm.
- A hazard is any condition, event, or circumstance which could induce an accident
- A hazard is any existing or potential condition that can lead to injury, illness, or death to people; damage to or loss of a system, equipment, or property; or damage to the environment.

When identifying hazards, the exposure (frequency of occurrence) and potential consequences of the hazard are not addressed.

### Safety Hazards in competition gliding

The workshop identified the following hazards related to competition gliding:

Group	Hazards
Pilot Workload	Distraction
	Complacency
	Stress
	Head down
	Manipulation of instruments
	Engine test
	Technical problems
	Information overload

Group	Hazards
Pilot fitness	Unfit to fly
	Mental fatigue
	Physical fatigue
	Loss of control
	Lack of situational awareness

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Ground &amp; Launching</b>	Gridding damage
	Crew injury
	Wing collisions
	Rush leading to damage
	Tug failure
	Too low speed
	Congestion of airfield
	High launch pace
	Crew hit by propeller
	Accident with crew car
	Crew situational awareness
	3rd party injury

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Outlanding</b>	CFIT
	Low altitude manouvering
	Loss of control

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Glider/pilot interaction</b>	Unfit
	Mis-assembling
	Mass-balance error
	Loose equipment
	Bad equipment install.
	Cockpit lay-out
	Electric glider/low power

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Mid-air collission</b>	Turn inside in thermal
	Blind-spot flying
	Abrupt manouvres
	Head-down time
	Use of mobile phone
	Cloud flying
	Traffic density
	Head-on trafic
	Bird strike
	Too close to cloudbase

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Landing</b>	Runway incursion
	Runway blocked
	3rd party injury

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Low altitude manouvering</b>	CFIT
	Loss of control

<b>Group</b>	<b>Hazards</b>
<b>Pilot proficiency</b>	Complacency

## Risk Assessment

When quantifying the risk related to a hazard, the severity of consequences and the exposure (frequency) of occurrence of hazards are determined and classified. If the risk is considered acceptable, operation continues without any intervention. If it is not acceptable, the risk mitigation process is engaged. The following quantification of Risk consequences was used at the workshop



### Risk consequences



Consequences	Classification
Severe injuries (hospitalization) or fatalities to pilot, team members, organizers or 3rd party. Write-off of glider or other significant equipment.	Score: 6, 7
Light injuries (no need for hospitalization). Repairable damage to glider or other equipment	Score: 3, 4, 5
No injuries Glider or other significant equipment repairable over-night	Score: 1, 2

The following quantification of Risk exposure was used at the workshop:



### Risk exposure

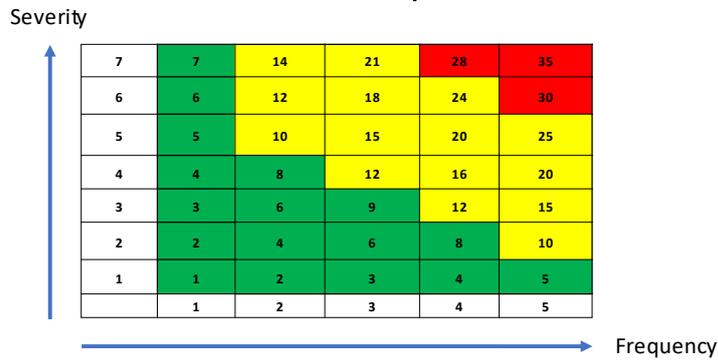


Consequences	Classification
Very often, several times per year at IGC-sanctioned competitions, at most competition	Score: 5
Frequent, in average early during IGC-sanctioned competitions	Score: 4
Not every year during IGC sanctioned competitions	Score: 3
Not frequent, but it will probably happen.	Score: 2
Rare, may never happen, but the risk exists and should not be forgotten	Score: 1

By multiplying the frequency and Severity, the Criticality of a Safety Risk can then be calculated



# Criticality Matrix



Red ≥ 20	High criticality - Mitigation required
11 ≤ Yellow ≤ 19	Medium criticality - Mitigation optional
Green ≤ 10	Low criticality No mitigation required

The result of the Risk assessment gave the following classification of Risks:

7			Low alt. Manouv. Pilot/glider interact. Pilot fitness		Mid-air collision
6					
5		Pilot proficiency Launching			
4		Outlanding			Pilot Workload
3					
2					
1					
	1	2	3	4	5

## Mitigation of risks

Risk Mitigation - steps taken to control or prevent a hazard from causing harm and to reduce risk to tolerable or acceptable level.

When a risk has been found to be unacceptable, control measures need to be introduced.

The level of risk can be lowered by:

- Reducing the severity of potential consequences.
- Reducing the probability of occurrence harmful effects.
- Reducing the exposure to that risk.

Analysis of the risks resulted in the table below, where the risks that needs mitigation have been identified together with the objective to reduce the risk, either the severity or the exposure.

Risk						Objective		
No	Risk	Severity	Exposure	Criticality	Acceptable	Strategy	Short term (2028)	Long term (2033)
1	Mid-Air collision	7	5	35	No	Reduce exposure (frequency)	Reduce to 50% of current	Reduce to 10% of current
2	Low alt. Man.	7	3	21	No	Reduce exposure (frequency)	Reduce to 50% of current	Reduce to 50% of current
3	Pilot fitness	7	3	21	No	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.
4	Glider/pilot interaction	7	3	21	No	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.
5	Pilot workload	5	4	20	No	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.
9	Landing	3	4	12	Y	No mitigation required	No mitigation required	No mitigation required
6	Pilot proficiency	5	2	10	N	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.
7	Ground & launching	5	2	10	Y	No mitigation required	No mitigation required	No mitigation required
8	Outlanding	4	2	8	Y	No mitigation required	No mitigation required	No mitigation required

## Data analysis

Data exist and will continue to be to collected, to analyse the number of collisions.

It is the aim to develop a methodology to analyse the potential collisions, as the number of collision is insufficient to provide reliable data on the trend.

A task will be undertaken to analyse proxies based on FLARM data, this will help detecting changes in proxies on a yearly basis, but will also help identifying where hazard are in terms of phase of flight, condition (e.g. thermaling or straight flight), etc.

Once the analysis task has been defined, it will be described in more detail.

This will help determining if the objectives have been achieved.

## Safety barriers

When determining mitigation actions, it's necessary to go back to the hazards to identify change that can reduce the exposure or severity of the particular hazard, also called **Defenses** or Safety Barriers.

The Defenses within competition gliding can be:

**Physical defences**, including specially designed hardware and software that discourage or prevent inappropriate action, or mitigate the consequences of events (e.g. safety cockpits, parachutes, Strobe lights, FLARM, etc.)

**Administrative defences**, including regulations, procedures and practices that mitigate the probability of occurrence of an accident/incident (e.g., Sporting Code, Local procedures, Task setting, Start- and Finish-procedures, supervision and inspection, training, competency schemes etc.

**Behavioral defenses**, Training and awareness addressing Human Limitations, Risk Readiness etc.

### Mid-air collision risk

The risk for Mid-air collision stands out as the most significant risk at competition gliding, and requires immediate action.

During the last years, a number of mitigation initiatives have been taken, but the speed of development and implementation of these safety barriers should be increased.

See **Annex A** to this document for the Mitigation Plan.

### Other Risks

Looking at the other risks identified, some of these need additional safety barriers, and must be looked at also. The Mitigation Plans for these risks have not yet been completed. An online workshop will be planned during spring 2023.

## Future activities and communication

### Initiation of identified work.

The aim is to complete the Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation Plan during spring 2023.

Following the completion of risk, assign the activities to the relevant groups and bodies within OSTIV and IGC or elsewhere, and establish groups, where no relevant body exists.

The aim is to have all activities assigned and to assure that work has started/is ongoing before ultimo September 2023.

### Communication

Communication is a very important part of the activity, in order to get the message out, but also to assure buy-in from competition organisers and competition pilots.

The following means of communication are considered:

- Moderated forums for pilots to address one or more issue. Members of the group could be moderators for the safety items they wish to prioritise.
- Workshops/webinars online or Face-to-face on dedicated topics
- Workshops/meetings when pilots are gathered, e.g., at competitions at international or national level. All IGC sanctioned competitions should have a workshop/seminar.
- Articles in magazines
- Sessions at IGC Plenary meetings. There will be sessions at all future IGC Plenary meetings, based on the current status, using this document as reference.
- OSTIV.....

**OSTIV/IGC Safety Risk Mitigation Plans  
(updated Q1 2024)**

Mitigation Plan - Mid-air collision

Identified hazards	No	Defense type	Raised recommendation, improvement and/or issue	Reference	Comment	Reference to Evidence	Expected Delivery	Responsible	Satisfied	Status
Cloud flying										
Hazardous behavior										
Pulling-up	1.	Physical	Manadate strobelights on gliders	IGC Bureau	Strobelights helps seeing gliders on opposite or crossing tracks. Strobelights should operate continuously, but frequency may depend on proximity of other aircraft e.g. driven by FLARM	S.C. Annex A	Year-1 proposal agreed on 2022. Should become mandatory from 1 Apr. 2024	IGC Bureau	Yes	Closed
Blind-spot flying										
Turn inside in thermal										
Flying close to cloudbase	2.	Physical	Require FLARM on Tow planes	Workshop March 23	The tow-zones and drop-zones are often very congested. Whereas glides must hav FLARM, some towplanes do not.FLARM in tow planes will improve the ability to spot the tow plane	S.C. Annex A/Bid document	2025 competitions	Championship Management WG (CMWG)	No	Under consideration by CMWG. Positive view to act
Head down (mobile phone, flight computer manipulation)										
Task geometry	3.	Physical	FLARM ranage analysis	Workshop March 23	Good FLARM installation/range increases the posibility to detect a conflicting glider in due time. Obligation to provide FLARM ranage analysis at scrutineering will bring more focus on bad FLARM/antenna installation and prompe the pilot to improve.	S.C Annex A	2024 competitions	CMWG	No	CMWG recomme nd Proposal to IGC Plenary by IGC Bureau
	4.	Administrative/Procedural	Pilot Event Marker	IGC Bureau	The use of PEV can lead to reduced gagging.	S.C. Annex A/Local procedures	Implemented	CMWG	Yes	Closed
	5.	Administrative/Procedural	Number of participants	Workshop March 23	Reduction of no of gliders per class will reduce the collision risk. Reduction to 50% will normally reduce risk to 25%.	S.C Annex A	Decision to implement not taken	IGC Bureau	No	No progress
	6.	Administrative/Procedural	Task setting	Workshop March 23	The geometri of a task can increase/reduce the risk of head-on collision by avoiding turnpoint angles above 45 degrees. Rules/recommendations shall be considered	S.C Annex A	2025 competitions	CMWG	No	To be considere d by CMWG. Possibly Annex A Committe e action
	7.	Administrative/Procedural	Task type	Workshop March 23	The type of task(s) used may in its nature lead to gaggles. New types of tasks may reduce the risk of gaggles and mid-air collisions	S.C. Annex A	2027	Task force (WJ, RD & PE to initiate the task	No	Worksho p to be held in Q1 24
	7.	Administrative/Procedural	Data analysis	Workshop March 23	Collection, storage and analysis of proximity data will help understanding collision risk, can support legislation and recommendation and help identifying additional ways to reduce collisions	Publication of analysisi reports	Continuous, starting ultimo 2023	OSTIV	No	Action started - long term activity
	8.	Administrative/Procedural	Scoring system	Workshop March 23	The scoring system can help preventing large gaggles. One new system already exists in Annex A, but it is not used. Implementation to be discussed and recommended to organisers	Annex A	2024 competitions	CMWG	No	CMWG to pomote. Reluctanc e by organiser s to use the new scoring.
	9.	Administrative/Procedural	Altitude difference at start/finish	Workshop March 23	The use of a start procedure that will allow for altitude difference combined with PEV will reduce gagging and can lead to less flying close to cloudbase before start. A system (the start ring) was adopted at the 2023 Plenary as Year-1	Annex A/Local procedures	2024 competitions	KS, Poland/ Annex A Comm.	No	v2 Proposal from Poland at 2024 Plenary
	10.	Administrative/Procedural	Safety Management System	Workshop March 23	Improvement of the existing Safety Management Systems will improve pilot awareness and help identifying hazards and possible mitigations. The Electronic Safety Box is one example (adopted by Plenary 2023 as Year-1). The "Green/Yello/Red glass system another possibility. Recommendations to be further developed.	Annex A/Local procedures	2023 competitions and onwards	Safety WG	No	No progress
	11.	Administrative/Procedural	Definition of accptable manouvres	Workshop March 23	Definition of acceptable or not-acceptable manouvres with penalties. Decision to implement not taken	Annex A/Local procedures	T.b.d.	IGC Safety Working Group	No	No progress
	12.	Behavioral	Quality of Championship management	Workshop March 23	Mandatory training of Championship Management and Stewards with focus on risks and related mitigation	Bid document	2024 competitions and onwards	CMWG	No	To be included in Steward and CD training.
	13.	Behavioral	Risk Readyness	Workshop March 23	Reduction of Pilot's readiness to take risks by peer-pressure/shaming	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	No	No progress
	14.	Behavioral	Pilot safety index	Workshop March 23	Collected data could be used to create a Pilot Safety Index. Decision not taken	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	No	No progress
	15.	Behavioral	Awareness campaign	Workshop March 23	Awareness campaign will help communication the message and could also be used to explain changes to rules and procedures	Bid document/Local Procedures	2023 competitions and onwards	Safety WG	No	No progress

**Mitigation Plan - Low altitude manoeuvring accidents**

Identified hazards	No	Defense type	Raised recommendation, improvement and/or issue	Reference	Comment	Reference to Evidence	Expected Delivery	Responsible	Satisfied	status
Controlled flight into terrain  Loss of control	1.	Physical	Angle of attack indicator	Workshop March 23	AoA indicator may reduce risk of stall due to high angle of attack/low speed at low altitude. Already recommended in Annex A. Awareness campaign may be needed.	S.C. Annex A	Implemented/to be reinforced	Safety WG	No	No progress
	2.	Physical	Safety cushions	Workshop March 23	Safety cushions can reduce injuries. Already recommended in Annex A. Awareness campaign may be needed.	S.C. Annex A	Implemented/to be reinforced	Safety WG	No	No progress
	3.	Physical	Personal location indicator	Workshop March 23	Already recommended in Annex A. May become mandatory	S.C. Annex A	Implemented possibly to become mandatory	Safety WG	No	No progress
	4.	Physical	Safety items list	Workshop March 23	Review of list, possibly make more proposals mandatory	S.C. Annex A	Implemented possibly to become mandatory	Safety WG	No	No progress
	5.	Administrative/ Procedural	Task setting	Workshop March 23	Task setting to avoid areas where outlandin is difficult. Carefully consider experience of pilots when setting tasks. Training of Competition management.	Bid document	2024 competitions and onwards	CMWG	Yes	To be included in Steward and CD training
	6.	Administrative/ Procedural	Minimum height	Workshop March 23	Investigate if procedures for minimum height can be implemented with support of IGC file analysis	S.C. Annex A/Local procedures	Decision to implement not taken	CMWG	No	No progress
	7.	Administrative/ Procedural	Finish height	Workshop March 23	Finish height sufficiently above ground to allow for landing circuit at reasonable height	S.C Annex A	Implemented	CMWG	Yes	Closed
	8.	Behavioral	Quality of Championship management	Workshop March 23	Mandatory training of Championship Management and Stewards with focus on risks and related mitigation	Bid document	2024 competitions and onwards	CMWG	No	Will start now
	9.	Behavioral	Risk Readyness	Workshop March 23	Reduction of Pilot's readiness to take risks by peer-pressure/shaming	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	No	No progress
	10.	Behavioral	Pilot safety index	Workshop March 23	Collected data could be used to create a Pilot Safety Index. Decision not taken	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	No	No progress
	11.	Behavioral	Awareness campaign	Workshop March 23	Awareness campaign will help communication the message and could also be used to explain changes to rules and procedures	Bid document/Local Procedures	2023 competitions and onwards	Safety WG	No	No progress

Mitigation Plan - Pilot fitness

Identifies hazards	No	Defense type	Raised recommendation, improvement and/or issue	Reference	Comment	Reference to Evidence	Expected Delivery	Responsible	Satisfied	Status
Unfit to fly	3.	Physical	Signs of dehydration	Workshop April 2023	Measure weight before and after. Look at other ways to measure	Change in Local Procedures	T.b.d.	Safety WG		No progress
	4.	Physical	Signs of fatigue	Workshop April 2023	Subject for study.	T.b.d.	T.b.d.	Safety Project		No progress
Mental state	5.	Administrative/Procedural	Use the IMSAFE checklist	Workshop April 2023	Promote the use of the commonly known checklist, e.g. at safety briefings before a competition	Change in Annex A	T.b.d.	Safety WG		No progress
Fatigue	6.	Administrative/Procedural	Rule change/allow for one day off.	Workshop April 2023	Can reduce pressure to fly every day, e.g. if feeling unfit	Change in Annex A	T.b.d.	CMWG		Under consideration by CMWG
Comp. Experience level	7.	Administrative/Procedural	Briefing to pilots - signs of mental and physical fatigue, local conditions	Workshop April 2023	What could be done. Who is responsible. What are the signs. Solution to be looked for.	Briefing material available to Stewards, Safety Officers	Q1 2024	Safety WG		No progress
	8.	Administrative/Procedural	Tug pilots/wx conditions	Workshop April 2023	t.b.d.					No progress
Tug pilot unfit	9.	Administrative/Procedural	Pilot's recent experience	Workshop April 2023	Also experience on the particular glider type. To be reviewed. Annex A possibly to be updated.	Change in Annex A	T.b.d.	CMWG		Under consideration in Annex A Comm.
		Administrative/Procedural	More comprehensive self declaration	Workshop April 2023	To be developed and tested.	Update local procedures				Under consideration by CMWG
		Administrative/Procedural	Check of water supply in the cockpit	Workshop April 2023	Only required at certain venues	Local procedures	Q1 2024	CMWG		To be added to local procedures. Action CMWG
		Administrative/Procedural	CD awareness of signs and effect of pilot fatigue and fatigue in the organisation	Workshop April 2023	Part of Stewards/CD training	Training material available and implemented	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
		Administrative/Procedural	Briefing with IGC items	Workshop April 2023	Part of Stewards/CD training	Training material available and implemented	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
		Administrative/Procedural	Reserve tug pilots	Workshop April 2023	Have reserve pilots available in case of fatigue	Training material available and implemented	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
		Behavioral	Team Captain - briefing about the importance of being fit	Workshop April 2023	Stewards Handbook to be updated	Stewards Handbook updated	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs

Mitigation Plan - Pilot workload/interaction with glider

Hazards identified	No	Defense type	Raised recommendation, improvement and/or issue	Reference	Comment	Reference to Evidence	Expected Delivery	Responsible	Satisfied	Status
Distraction Engine test Comp. Pressure Head down time/ Programming of avionics Technical problem Engine start	1.	Physical	Standardization of avionic functions		Certain functions should be standardized. Manufactores should be invited to work on this.	Meeting with manufactores	T.b.d.	Safety project		No progress
	2.	Physical	Standardization of engine instrumentation		As above...	Meeting with manufactores	T.b.d.	Safety project		No progress
	5.	Administrative/ Procedural	Complexity of task		Complex tasks can lead to high cockpit workload	Training of CD and Stewards	T.b.d.	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
	6.	Administrative/ Procedural	Avoid late changes to task		Late changes can lead to stress before take-off.	Training of CD and Stewards	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Always plan B-task before briefing. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
	7.	Administrative/ Procedural	Allow sufficient time for preparation before flights		As above...	Training of CD and Stewards	Q1 2024	CMWG		Accepted. Will be part of training of Stewards and CDs
		Administrative/ Procedural	Bonus for landing at an airfield or recognised landing area		Rulechange to be considered	Change in Annex A	T.b.d.	CMWG		To be considered
		Administrative/ Procedural	Bonus for starting engine at a safe height		Rulechange to be considered	Change in Annex A	T.b.d.	CMWG		To be considered
	8.	Administrative/ Procedural	Demonstrate ability to manipulate avionics system during technical check		To be included in safety briefing material	Training material available	Q1 2024	CMWG		To be considered