

PROPOSAL TO 2021 IGC PLENARY

Year 2

from the IGC Sporting Code committee

Eliminate written declarations for Silver & Gold Badges

Discussion:

Since the release of the 2018 Edition of the Sporting Code, written declarations have only been allowed for Silver & Gold badge claims. For Position Recorder (PR) recorded flights a written (or Internet) declaration is mandatory (SC3-2.3a).

Declarations on paper have the inherent weakness that the Data Analyst can never be certain exactly *when* the declaration was made. A FR/PR declaration removes the need to determine or discover, when written declarations are submitted, which was "the last declaration made before take-off". A FR/PR declaration also eases analysis of the flight since all flight data is in one place, the .igc file.

For some PRs (eg. FLARM without IGC-approval) it is possible to store the required declaration for Altitude Gain, Duration and Straight Distance flights prior to take-off. Where this information is incorrect, or for PRs without the possibility of storing the declaration, the "OO Correction Certificate" (SC3-4.4.2b) continues to apply.

The only significant side-effect of this proposal is that it would no longer be possible to use a PR to document a Gold Distance flight with declared Turn Points (except in those countries who permit Internet declarations). Such flights continue to be possible using a FR. This restriction should cause little hardship since an attempt at Gold Distance is usually combined with an attempt at Diamond Goal – and for this a FR declaration is required. Furthermore, only nine NACs currently permit the use of PRs (based on the approval documents published within the FAI/IGC web under "Documents" and "Flight Recorders").

Proposed:

That written declarations be entirely removed from the Code effective 1 October 2021.

The Changes to the Code would be:

References to written declarations will be removed from the Notes under the Table of badge and record requirements at the end of Chapter 1 and in SC3-2.3 and 2.4) and Annex C.