

PROPOSAL TO IGC PLENARY 2020

Proposed by the French Gliding Federation (FFVP)

Officialization of altitude & speed limits on start

It is proposed **for safety reasons** :

To set a maximum start altitude limit and a maximum ground speed limit for all competition days.

The maximum start altitude will be announced over the radio with the opening time of the start gate.

Penalties :

- if altitude exceeded while crossing the start gate :
 - ≤ 100 m : 0.5 point per meter
 - > 100 m : no start
- if ground speed exceeded while crossing the start gate :
 - ≤ 30 km/h : 0.5 point per km/h
 - > 30 km/h : no start

This proposal affects:

- Annex A - Rules for World and Continental Gliding Championships

Discussion:

During the EGC 2019 in Poland, a miracle happened. There has been no mid-air collision despite a group of gliders were flying very fast and *almost in* the cloudbase while a gaggle was circling close to the start line. We guess this event will be explained in the jury report. There was no limitation on start, so all pilots wanted to be as high and as fast as physically possible.

During the EGC 2019 in Slovakia, the contest director understood this very high risk and decided to change the local procedure : he set a maximum start altitude and a ground speed limit to avoid a glider to dive to the maximum altitude.

Many other competitions such as the Hahnweide contest use successfully and for years altitude and speed limit on start **for safety reasons**.

Nobody likes limitation in gliding. But this is the only way to prevent the competitor to be in a very dangerous situation (cloudbase or top of any thermals before or while crossing the start line). The dangerous situation at the cloudbase can last very long from the opening of the

starting gate until the effective start. With this proposal, there is no need to climb at the cloudbase - or above !

The penalties must be smart : a small gap should give a small penalty, so that pilots won't be focused only on their instruments while crossing the start line.

As it is always difficult to forecast the right altitude limit, we suggest that the contest director set this value while watching the tracking or by calling a sniffer glider. Then he could set the altitude 100m below the reached altitude. The maximum start altitude will be broadcasted on the radio during the call for the opening of the start gate.

This proposal intends to allow in the IGC rules altitude & speed limits and to promote their uses.