



## **CIVL PROPOSAL**

### **COUNTRY: SPAIN**

### **SPANISH PROPOSAL TO JOIN CLASS 1 & CLASS 5 AND MOVE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PILOTS FROM 125 TO 140**

It is well known that unfortunately in our sport the number of active pilots of our sport and therefore pilots attending to HG championships has been drastically reduced.

After the Worlds held in Algodonales in 2001, that I personally organized, CIVL rightly decided that class 1 and by then class 2 competitions should run separately. Later the class 2 definition changed and class 5 definition was created and rigid gliders were divided in class 2 (Swift like rigid gliders) and class 5 (Atos like rigid gliders).

In that competition there were 190 pilots in both classes. I think that we have never been close to that huge number of gliders again.

Algodonales is a small mountain, nothing to compare with the Alps or the Pyrenees, and I agree that it was unsafe to have so many pilots in the air at the same time, specially with stable conditions and with gliders of different flying speeds.

In that competition, the launch window had to be closed many times to be able to run the tasks safely.

Since 2001 the Category 1 hang-gliding competitions have run separately. Class 1 competitions on one side and class 5 gathered with class 1 Women Worlds on another side.

We all know that organizing a World Championship is quite complex and expensive, with the requirements imposed by CIVL, unfortunately it is difficult to get sponsors and financing.

That is the main reason why each year it's more and more difficult to get bids for Worlds and Continental Championships.

So I think that it's time to get back to join both classes in the same competitions.

Actually this is already happening as evidenced by the fact that this year they will be held jointly in Macedonia.

Different countries are demanding that we should do the same for Ager 2025.

Joining both classes in the same competition only has advantages, with practically the same infrastructure, the same staff and the same number of juries and stewards and the same or similar budget can be successfully developed.

That's the reason why we have decided to bid for both classes Class 1, Class 5 and Women Worlds at the same time.

## **Real Federación Aeronáutica Española**

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But now we have a problem, the problem is the limit of pilots imposed by the current rule of maximum 125 pilots per competition.

Complying with this rule, if we reserve 25 places for class 5, for example, we are left with only 100 for class 1, which is a bit short. Let's note that in the last European championship there were 123 pilots in class 1.

I'm not asking to get to the numbers mentioned above. I understand that with a high number of gliders in the air, the risk of mid-air collisions is high.

My proposal is to move the 125 rule to 140 pilots per competition, only when the launch and mountain ridge allows it and if in the task setting both classes are separated in the time schedules and in the task route to avoid gaggles in certain places, like different start gates in timing and at different waypoints.

I would like to ask the members of the Hang Gliding and Scoring workgroups to discuss about this proposal and share any concerns with this rule to the next plenary meeting at Portugal.

In another order of affairs, in our country in Spain, we also have the problem that class 5 is excluded from the catalogue of the Ministry of Sports in terms of specialties entitled to subsidies.

An essential requirement to be able to have access to subsidies is that in the sports specialty in the World championships the sports representation must have at least 10 participating countries from 3 different continents. This requirement has never been reached in none of the class 5 World championships which have been held separately to class 1.

I don't know if this happens in any other country, but it is something that we would gain if we celebrated the class 1 and class 5 championships together again. With the 2 classes together, sure that we reach the 10 countries and 3 continents requirement.

We have to find formulas to save this wonderful sport.

Sincerely,

José Manuel (Juaki) Sánchez García  
Spanish CIVL alternate delegate  
Meet director 24<sup>th</sup> FAI World Hang Gliding Class 1 Championship Ager 2025

***Proposal made by José Manuel Sánchez García and supported by the Royal Spanish Aeronautical Federation (NAC Spain).***



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