CIVL 2025 PLENARY – ANNEXE 39 J

PROPOSAL HUNGARY: MIN RADIUS FOR XC TASK CYLINDERS

Amended Hungarian Proposal 1

Introduce a Minimum Radius for Cross-Country Task Cylinders in Paragliding Competitions

Summary

Currently, Section 7 regulations governing paragliding cross-country competitions do not specify minimum turnpoint cylinder radii. This omission occasionally results in turnpoint cylinders with extremely small radii (e.g. 100 or 200 meters), particularly in contexts involving high pilot densities. Such small cylinders have proven to increase mid-air collision risks. To enhance safety, a standardized minimum radius should be formally adopted.

This proposal introduces a default minimum radius of 400 meters for turnpoint cylinders, allowing cylinder radii smaller than 400 meters (but no less than 200 meters) only in clearly justified safety- or terrain-related cases.

Proposed Changes

The proposed change is to add the following sentence to the end of Section 7F, 6.2.1 (added text in red):

Current

6.2.1 Turnpoint cylinder

A turnpoint cylinder is defined as:
• A centre point *c*, given as WGS84 coordinates
• A radius *r*, given in meters

A turnpoint cylinder is then given as the cylinder with radius *r* around the axis which cuts the x/y plane orthogonally at the cylinder's centre point *c*. For task evaluation purposes, only the cylinder's projection in the x/y plane is considered: a circle of radius *r* around *c*. Note that the designation of "enter" or "exit" cylinder has been removed, to reduce a potential source of confusion and task setting errors. Whether a turnpoint is considered reached is determined either by the presence of a single tracklog point inside the turnpoint cylinder's tolerance band, or by the presence of two consecutive tracklog points which lie on opposite sides of the turnpoint cylinder boundary (a "crossing"). The direction in which such a crossing occurs is irrelevant.

Task setters may still choose to indicate whether the start or subsequent turnpoint cylinders are “enter” or “exit”, to explain their intended task route. But pilots are not bound to those indications.

Proposal

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Task setters may still choose to indicate whether the start or subsequent turnpoint cylinders are “enter” or “exit”, to explain their intended task route. But pilots are not bound to those indications.

In paragliding cross-country competitions, the default minimum turnpoint cylinder radius is 400 meters. Cylinder radii smaller than 400 meters (down to an absolute minimum limit of 200 meters) shall only be used in exceptional cases clearly justified by safety considerations or critical terrain constraints. Goal cylinder radius is explicitly excluded from this requirement.

Rationale

A clear, formal definition of a default minimum turnpoint cylinder radius of 400 meters directly contributes to pilot safety by reducing the potential for mid-air collisions in areas of high convergence. Recent competition experiences have demonstrated that very small cylinders (100–200 m) increase significant safety risks when not used carefully. At the same time, absolute rigidity may negatively impact certain carefully designed safety-oriented tasks or those where terrain constraints demand some flexibility. Allowing smaller radii only in exceptional and clearly justified cases (down to an absolute limit of 200 meters) offers balance. Further emphasizing that considerably larger cylinder radii are often beneficial ensures organizers remain guided towards safer task design paradigms.

Zsolt Ero, 7 Mar 2025.