



13,5 Meter Class Working Group Report

IGC Plenary, February 26, 2016

On completion of the first WGC in the 13.5m class a working group was formed to review the current class rules.

Working group members are: Brian Spreckley, Rick Sheppe, Roland Stuck, Rene Vidal, Artur Rutkowski and Vladimir Foltin.

The working group came to the following conclusions.

- That it is in the interests of gliding and IGC that we should encourage the development of Microlight motorgliders particularly Electric powered Microlight sailplanes.
- That the current rules for this class as applied to the 13.5m WGC will not encourage the development of these gliders as long as pure gliders can participate in the same event.
- It is our opinion that under the current rules there will be gliders made specifically for this competition of a superior performance that lack sufficient appeal or cost saving over current gliders to make them viable for significant production.
- The inclusion of pure gliders in the class definition was motivated by a desire to provide a home for the PW-5 but as no PW-5s competed in the 13.5m WGC and are unlikely to compete in future WGC this reasoning can now be considered outdated.
- The definitions of this class are strongly influenced by regulations from aviation authorities and we should not permanently abandon the current class rules as we cannot be sure how the regulations might change.

It is the recommendation of this group that the 13.5m World Gliding Championships should be limited to self-launching machines.

This can be achieved in the first instance by inclusion of this requirement in the Local Procedures for the next 13.5WGC pending further discussion of a long term future for this class. A decision to add this restriction should be made as soon as possible to declare the intention of this class to any organisation planning to develop pure gliders for the 13.5m class.

We suggest to the Bureau that the following proposals be made to the 2016 plenum.

1. That the 2017 WGC in the 13.5m class should be restricted to self-launching gliders only.

2. That a year one vote should be taken to create a subclass in the 13.5 class for electric self-launching gliders called.

This proposal may be affected by any recommendations from the CWG and it may be relevant to include these recommendations in the CWG discussion.

We are available to assist the bureau to provide background information and the wording of any proposal.

Brian Spreckley