

Report of the Continental Records Working Group

Review and Update

At our last IGC plenary 2009 in Lausanne we had a detailed and profound plenary discussion regarding our proposal for continental records. A crucial issue in the discussion was related to the question whether to open continental records to all pilots or to restrict them to pilots of the respective continent only. At the end, a broad majority of delegates voted pro the proposal to include all pilots - without any restrictions. The final adopted (year one) version:

The FAI Sporting Code (General Section and Section 3) be modified to include continental records for gliding performances.

1. The record categories, classes and types defined for world records (see Sporting Code, General Section, 3.1) shall apply also to continental records.
2. The rules for world records and the procedures for their verification and homologation shall apply as far as possible to continental records.
3. For continental records, the continental regions defined in para 3.4.5 of the General Section will be used, with one exception: that part of the Russian Federation east of the 61° meridian will be assigned to Asia.
4. Flights which cross the borders of continental regions will be assigned to that region in which the greater part of the flight took place.
5. A minimum performance shall be stipulated for each continental record category, class and type. Proposals for the minimum performances should be worked out by the continental records working group in cooperation with the FAI office.
6. All continental records are open to any pilot with a valid FAI Sporting Licence.

Preview

There is broad agreement and support for the major goal, which is to ensure that record flying continues to be attractive and provides an incentive for exploring new regions for gliding in the world. Continental records are expected to contribute to the development of gliding on all continents. Another important aspect is to open record flying to a wider group of pilots and to make our sport attractive to the media.

These days, other Air Sport Commissions are including continental records in their rules as well. We now have four Air Sport Commissions (Ballooning CIA, Parachuting IPC, Hang Gliding CIVL and IGC) which are on the way towards implementing continental records. CIVL has just finished their rulemaking on continental records, their rules are in force since 1st May 2009!

Implementation into SC3

The proposed wording to the SC3 is strictly based on the IGC plenary decision last year. The proposed wording corresponds largely to the respective Sporting code section for continental records of the Hang Gliding (CIVL) Air Sport Commission. The exact wording has been worked out in close cooperation with the FAI bureau. Also the handling of minimum performances for continental records resembles the respective CIVL definitions.

In the meantime CASI, the FAI "Air Sports General Commission", has established a working group on how to implement Continental records into the overall framework, the General Section (GS) of the Sporting Code. It is to be expected that CASI will amend the GS in a sense which gives the ASC's a certain amount of flexibility to adjust CR to their needs.

I would like to express my very thanks to all those who contributed to the proposal for continental records with their support and valuable advice: to Max Bishop, former FAI

Secretary General, to Marcel Meyer from the FAI office, to Peter Ryder and to all the members of the continental records working group.

Hanno Obermayer
Continental Records Working Group