

Annex A: starting procedure

Proposal : To make the pre-start altitude compulsory

Current rule :

7.4.5.b. A pre-start altitude (MSL) limit may be imposed and shall be specified at the briefing. After the start gate is opened and before making a valid start, the pilot must ensure at least one fix below the specified pre-start altitude limit. Failure to do so will be penalized.

Proposed rule :

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Argumentation: Given a large number of glider in the classes, or unexpected high cloud base, or any other unexpected weather phenomenon (wave), it is often difficult for the latest gliders to take off to have a fair start at the gate opening time. With such an altitude restriction before start, all pilots will be able to start in equitable condition after the gate opening , and that for all championships. It was efficiently tested during last WGC at Benalla, but recent EGCs have shown how unfair the start conditions can be.

Example on how to set the pre-start altitude:

- Time period before opening of the gate = 20 minutes after last take off → average tow duration to 600 meters MSL = 5 minutes.
- Distance from the center of the release area to the start point or start ring = 10km →10 minutes at the average speed of 60km/h.
- Average climb speed = 1.5m/s (good conditions) during 5 minutes (300 seconds) → 450 meters climb.
- Release altitude = 600 meters →the pre-start altitude should be set around 1050 meters MSL.