Discussion Paper from the Sporting Code Committee

Free Records Proposal

With the imminent establishment of a vast array of new International Records with Continental Records, it seems logical that we should look at what is involved with the current record lists to see if there are anomalies which could, and perhaps should, be removed.

It is now several years since the concept of "Free Distance Records" was first introduced to the IGC. A major argument for allowing free records was that:

- a. there are situations where the soaring conditions are much better than expected so a much greater distance could be achieved than the declared course and would open a whole new universe for gliding.
- b. given the distances now required to surpass current records, there is a much greater chance that unknowable poor soaring conditions over distant turn point areas will prevent a declared task from being completed.

Having now had free records for some years, the SC3 committee thought it reasonable to survey the free distance record results (attached). Have we got this big difference between pre-declared and free records?

The short answer is "no". The survey illustrates that free records in all categories and in a high proportion of the claims, are usually only a few km longer than a concurrently claimed pre-declared task – often the claimed distance for the free record is exactly the same as the declared distance task.

Free record attempts and claims are often not being made as a response to the presumed reasons for which they were established. What pilots are earning in about half the claims is an additional record for no extra effort – in merchandising terms, "buy one, get one free".

If a World Free Distance record is to have any cachet as a significant and highly praiseworthy accomplishment requiring unusual effort and skill from the pilot, as is now recognised with other gliding records, then what is occurring now in practice does not meet that definition.

Therefore, our committee recommends that changes should be made to correct this, either:

a. A free distance record and a declared distance record cannot both be claimed for the same flight,

or

b. free distance tasks may be claimed in conjunction with a declared task only if it has clearly extended the distance of the declared task, that is, it is a "different" task. The suggested distance is 110% of a concurrently claimed declared task.

We put this forward as a serious subject for serious discussion for the 2011 IGC meeting with the aim to raise a proposal at the 2012 meeting.

Ross Macintyre Chairman Sporting Code Committee.

WORLD records (all classes) in which free distance flight claims have been coupled with declared distance flight claims

date	free tri	tri dist	dist diff	% diff
12-Jan-11	1755.5	1750.6	4.9	0.28
25-Dec-10	1650.0	1621.0	29.0	1.79
8-Dec-10	1608.2	1600.2	8.0	0.50
30-Nov-09	1409.2	1391.9	17.3	1.24
28-Jun-09	530.1	507.3	22.8	4.49
23-Jan-07	1376.2	1373.8	2.4	0.17
23-Nov-06	1568.5	1556.3	12.2	0.78
3-Dec-05	2193.1	2089.8	103.3	4.94
13-Dec-03	1508.4	1502.6	5.9	0.39
25-Dec-98	1409.2	1391.9	17.3	1.24
25-Dec-98	1037.3	1036.6	0.7	0.07
11-Dec-98	818.8	778.0	40.8	5.24
5-Jan-97	796.2	796.2	0.0	0.00
2-Jan-97	518.1	518.1	0.0	0.00
26-Dec-96	504.7	504.7	0.0	0.00
15-Jul-95	382.1	382.1	0.0	0.00
8-Jan-95	877.9	877.9	0.0	0.00
totals	19943.5	19679.0	264.6	1.34

A. Free triangle claims

uncoupled free triangle dist

20-May-07	563.4
9-Jan-07	1582.8
16-Jan-04	1458.6

B. Free (straight) distance claims

date	free dist	goal dist	dist diff	% diff	uncoupled	
4-Dec-04	2192.9	2128.4	64.5	3.03	free (straight) dist
9-Jul-04	627.6	560.1	67.5	12.05	9-Jul-10	660.0
24-May-03	156.1	156.1	0.0	0.00	12-Jan-10	2256.9
9-Jan-03	1501.9	1449.3	52.6	3.63	19-Jul-08	791.0
5-Jan-03	1078.2	965.3	112.9	11.70	18-Jul-05	972.0
15-May-99	635.2	574.5	60.7	10.57	23-Nov-03	2174.5
21-Apr-98	508.1	508.1	0.0	0.00	21-Nov-03	1687.0
14-Jun-93	593.9	593.9	0.0	0.00	16-Dec-99	1546.6
6-May-93	1078.1	1078.1	0.0	0.00	1-Jun-93	1394.0
25-Jan-93	1039.9	1039.9	0.0	0.00		
14-Jan-93	539.9	539.9	0.0	0.00		
17-Apr-92	1383.0	1383.0	0.0	0.00		
totals	11334.8	10976.6	358.2	3.26		

C. Free 3TP distance claims

	free		dist					
date	3TP	*various	diff	% diff	_	uncoupled	l free 3TP flts	
24-May-03	357.4	312.2	45.2	14.48	-			
5-Jan-03	1081.2	1078.2	3.0	0.28	10 Dec 10	1051.4	1 Dec 98	778.0
20-Dec-02	1715.5	1708.4	7.1	0.42	25-Apr-09	1002.1	16-Jul-97	887.3
26-Aug-01	220.1	205.9	14.2	6.90	6-Jan-06	2127.5	12-Apr-97	516.3
22-Jul-01	771.7	741.6	30.1	4.06	25-Nov-05	1851.6	17-Dec-96	1351.1
21-Jul-01	682.4	627.2	55.2	8.80	20-Nov-05	1355.0	6-Jan-96	971.2
5-Jun-01	619.6	511.6	108.0	21.11	11-Jan-05	1270.5	30-Apr-95	1219.0
30-Jul-00	618.0	591.1	26.9	4.55	30-Dec-04	1302.2	5-Nov-94	2049.4
14-Jul-00	517.4	503.2	14.2	2.82	22-May-03	799.5	12-May-94	1433.9
25-Dec-98	1042.6	1036.6	6.0	0.58	21-Jan-03	3009.0	1-Jun-93	1394.0
21-Apr-98	508.1	508.1	0.0	0.00	12-Nov-02	2624.1	12-Jan-93	1353.3
13-Jan-98	767.5	767.5	0.0	0.00	1-Jan-02	2029.7	24-Dec-92	1351.2
4-Apr-97	1236.3	1236.3	0.0	0.00	24-Dec-01	1511.0	1-Dec-92	1043.5
4-Jan-97	1025.1	860.5	164.6	19.13	26-Nov-00	2463.7	30-Nov-92	1196.1
15-Jul-95	382.1	382.1	0.0	0.00	18-Dec-98	1030.8	10-Oct-92	1081.2
totals	11545.0	11070.5	474.5	4.29				

* The free 3TP record has, at times, been combined with O&R, triangle dist, and free O&R claims.

D. Free O&R distance claims

	free		dist					
date	O&R	O&R	diff	% diff				
18-May-09	632.3	622.4	9.9	1.59		uncoupled	d free O&R flts	
11-Dec-03	1545.2	1501.5	43.7	2.91				
2-Dec-03	2247.6	2245.6	2.0	0.09	6-Jan-06	1559.6	28-Dec-96	685.6
23-Nov-03	2069.9	2025.2	44.7	2.21	28-Nov-05	1220.6	25-Dec-96	826.5
5-Jun-01	511.6	501.0	10.6	2.12	30-Dec-04	1193.2	24-Dec-96	680.0
26-Aug-01	205.9	204.5	1.4	0.68	2-Dec-03	1294.2	10-Aug-96	884.7
15-Aug-00	262.9	260.8	2.1	0.81	23-Nov-03	2069.9	9-Aug-96	508.0
14-Jul-00	517.4	508.0	9.4	1.85	14-Nov-03	2008.4	22-Jul-96	1003.0
29-Jun-00	205.4	200.0	5.4	2.70	24-May-03	312.2	24-Apr-96	999.8
25-Dec-98	1042.6	1042.6	0.0	0.00	16-Nov-02	1709.0	5-Jan-96	800.0
16-May-98	580.3	580.3	0.0	0.00	26-Jun-02	610.3	1-Jan-96	758.0
21-Apr-98	508.1	508.1	0.0	0.00	21-Nov-00	1550.2	29-Dec-95	685.6
13-Jan-98	767.5	767.5	0.0	0.00	29-Dec-99	1412.2	28-Dec-95	718.8
18-Feb-97	757.2	757.2	0.0	0.00	16-Dec-98	813.6	15-Dec-95	809.5
15-Feb-97	705.0	705.0	0.0	0.00	11-Dec-98	1002.8	30-Oct-95	739.3
4-Jan-97	860.5	860.5	0.0	0.00	10-Dec-98	783.8	20-Oct-95	841.2
24-Jun-96	622.0	622.0	0.0	0.00	8-Jul-98	1304.0	16-Oct-95	546.5
					16-Jul-97	887.3	15-Oct-95	519.0
totals	14041.4	13912.2	129.2	0.93	16-Feb-97	892.2		

Notes to data

- Overall, 133 free records of all four types are listed (as of 15 Feb 11).
- 46% (61) have been claimed in conjunction with a declared task.
- Of the 49 free closed course flights, perhaps on only 2 were the declared TPs "out of sight" of the pilot.

A. Free triangle claims (20 claims)

- 85% (17) were claimed in conjunction with a Triangle Distance declaration.
- Only the 3 Dec 05 flight significantly extended (by 103 km) the declared distance.

B. Free (straight) distance claims (20 claims)

- 60% (12) were claimed in conjunction with a Distance to Goal task.
- 7 flights claimed the declared goal as the free finish point.
- Only 3 flights extended significantly past the declared goal (>10%).

C. Free distance using up to 3 TPs claims (43 claims)

- 52% (28) claimed in conjunction with declared tasks.
- Many seem to be extracted from essentially O&R courses with one or two TPs selected from the vagaries of the track flown. Some flights were declared O&Rs to which both a Free O&R and a Free 3TP was added.

D. Free O&R distance (50 claims)

- 34% of these claims (17) have been appended to an O&R Distance declaration.
- This has been the most active record type.
- Only two flights had the free turn point extend more than 20 km beyond the declared TP, 15 claimed the declared TP or a point a kilometre or less beyond.