

Proposal for the introduction of “core soaring skill guidelines” for the sporting code

Many recent changes introduced in the Sporting Code SC3 for meeting of FAI certificates, although individually justifiable, have combined to create an overall reduction in the development of core soaring skills.

Proposed that the IGC develop a set of guidelines which define core soaring skills and that the sporting code committee review the rules for C certificate, Silver C and Gold C to ensure that they ensure compliance with these:

Example

“The purpose of FAI C, Silver C and Gold C certificates is to recognise the achievement of a range of core soaring skills that will prepare the pilot for a long career in the sport.

These core soaring skills include

- Weather interpretation that is demonstrated through the ability to plan a task to suit the conditions on the day
- Planning skills that demonstrate ability to measure and calculate a suitable flight path
- Navigation skills to demonstrate an ability to fly to a predetermined location
- Use of technology to capture and review the flight performance
- Core soaring skills that enable soaring flight through varying conditions”

A case study

- Pilot A is flying in his Libelle for his first 50 km Silver Distance flight. He makes a declaration that he will fly from Gawler to Jamestown [150km to the north] and back.
- He takes off and when he lands the OO looks at the flight trace and finds the declaration (which he should have checked before flight) has a declaration for Pilot B flying a Mosquito and that the aircraft flew from Gawler to somewhere more than 50 kms away but to the east near Waikerie and back.
- Pilot A was lost all day and just turned around and headed back towards where he hoped Gawler might be located. Luckily he found it.
- The OO can then make a statement that Pilot B was in the Libelle and that he flew a distance of more than 50 kms in a straight line somewhere during the day so he qualifies for his Silver C distance.

What core skills were not achieved? Is this acceptable?