

2009 - Sporting Code Committee

Report

The Committee had a busy year, for in addition to the important work in putting the finishing touches to the new edition of the Sporting Code we have prepared a new edition of Annex C. In consultation with the Bureau we will ensure that the new Annex C covers the changes in the new SC3 edition and hope to have it published on the web site before the 1st October.

In the rewrite, we have endeavoured to maintain the tradition and integrity of the various badge and record tasks so that the new code's requirements compare directly with previous years'.

The committee received a number of queries involving interpretation of the rules. These queries are useful to the committee as they highlight areas of the code that may need to be reworded for clarity. The rewrite has been an opportunity to incorporate such changes where needed. Generally, the problems raised were a result of attempts to read more into the rules than was intended.

Thanks must go to the members of the committee for their contributions and suggestions towards the final draft. In particular, I must especially note the help from Tony Burton in Canada who has been a source of good advice and editorial assistance, not just this past year but ever since I was appointed as chairman of the SC3 committee. He also acts as our word processing expert, and the finished result comes from a great deal of his hard work. As editor of the Canadian magazine "Free Flight" he is very much aware of activities in the world of gliding. Judy Ruprecht who is the "badge lady" for the SSA, has the experience of dealing with badge and record claims in USA and her practical advice is always welcome. Tor Johannessen, is well known to IGC members and gives the benefit of his many years of experience, while Axel Reich has a watching brief to help in his work on Annex A. I am delighted to say that all members of the committee, including myself, have offered to serve again in 2009 and I recommend that they be reappointed.

Ross Macintyre
Chairman Sporting Code Committee.

2009 - Sporting Code Committee

Proposal, Year 2, Major Rewrite of the Sporting Code

This proposal was put forward last year in a “not quite finished” state which led to the plenary deciding to hold it over until this year, giving the committee time to finish the draft and also to refer it to the delegates and also a number of pilots who had expressed an interest in the finished result (SC3 beta group). There were two opportunities for this

Major changes which have been incorporated are as follows:

- Any rules specifically designed for photography have been deleted.
- Deletion of the start and finish lines, leaving the release (or stopping the MoP) and a declared start point as the basic alternatives for starting a performance. For a finish, a landing and entering the observation zone of a declared finish point remain, as now, with a new “virtual” finish selected post-flight from a valid FS fix. This latter provision gives a glider a similar finish option as the motor glider who can start the motor to finish the performance.
- The observation zone for both start and finish is restricted to the sector OZ to remove confusion that has led to incorrect applications of the cylinder OZ for start or finish. It also removes an anomaly that allowed both starts and finishes to occur before the start or finish points had been attained. The choice of either type of OZ is now available for any turn point.
- A Straight distance flight currently may be verified with only a barograph as the verification instrument. This provision has been retained.
- Chapter 4 Appendix. This gives specific rules for the use of GPS position recorders for silver and gold badge flights, replacing the camera. Included are the criteria that the unit must meet for an NAC to authorise its use. The NAC must ensure the unit complies with these rules.
- Chapter 5 and the old Chapter 6 have been combined. The Official Observer and Certification are more logical this way. While there have been no changes to duties or certification from the OO, there is one additional certificate from the pilot which has been added. It has long been accepted that pilots are expected to fly legally, and the new certification is for the pilot to say that this was the case. We have already published this certification for World Records in the FAI Claim Forms. It is included in Chapter 5, as part of 5.3.2 to apply to badges as well. The need for legal flying is just as applicable to badge flights as it is to World Records. This certification also incorporates the current rule regarding night flight.

The 2008 consultation periods for the delegates and beta group have led to only minor changes. Restoration of start and finish lines was requested by two delegates but it was felt that they were a complication which was not warranted, and the sector OZ was a reasonable substitute. It must be remembered that SC3 Annex A covers competitions, where start and finish lines are still permitted.

One objection to the use of 1km radius OZs for closed course starts and finishes on grounds of safety after long flights led to the emphasis being shifted to goal flight starts and finishes using the 1km OZ radius. A closed course flight where a goal was not required, such as distance flights for badges and diplomas can be treated as a 3 TP distance even though the flight is a closed course it is not a goal flight, so the 1km restriction is not required. The use of a limited radius start and finish for goal flights also introduces an element of navigational accuracy which will help to differentiate the Goal flight from a routine distance flight.

We believe the integrity of badges and records will remain even with these changes and recommend that the plenary approve the new edition of the Sporting Code for implementation from the First of October 2009.

Ross Macintyre
Chairman, Sporting Code Committee.
22 Dec 2008