

# **RULES FOR SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX**

Series 12 Version 6 (17.06.2025)

These rules apply to the World Sailplane Grand Prix and to Qualifying Sailplane Grand Prix

Changes from Series 11 are highlighted in red

Change from Series 12.3 to 12.4 in pink

Change from Series 12.4 to 12.5 in blue

Change from Series 12.4 to 12.6 in green

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

**CONTENTS**

<b>Para</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Pg</b>	<b>Para</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Pg</b>
<b>PART 1</b>	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>		<b>PART 7</b>	<b><u>SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX PROCEDURES</u></b>	
1.0	Definitions	2	7.1	The Launch Grid	9
1.1	Objectives of the Championships	2	7.2	Launching	9
1.2	General Requirements	2	7.2.1	Launching Procedures	9
1.3	Championship Classes	2	7.2.2	Procedures for Motor Gliders	10
1.4	Responsibilities of the Organisers	2	7.3	Starting	10
			7.3.1	Definitions	10
<b>PART 2</b>	<b><u>SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX OFFICIALS</u></b>		7.3.2	Starting Procedures	11
2.1	The Sailplane Grand Prix Director	3	7.3.3	Radio Procedures	11
2.2	Referee	3	7.3.4	Validity of Starts	12
			7.3.5	Circling Direction after the start	12
			7.4	Turn Points	12
<b>PART 3</b>	<b><u>PILOTS</u></b>		7.4.1	Definitions	12
3.1	Selection	4	7.4.2	Turn Point Procedure	12
3.2	Entries	5	7.4.3	Validity of Turn Points	12
3.2.1	Application for Entry	5	7.5	Outlanding	12
3.2.2	Entry Fee	5	7.6	Finishing	13
3.2.3	Rejection of Entries	5	7.6.1	Definitions	13
3.3	Pilot Criteria	5	7.6.2	Finish Procedures	13
3.4	Registration	5	7.6.3	Validity of the Finish	13
3.5	Insurance	6	7.7	Landing	14
			7.8	Flight Documentation	14
<b>PART 4</b>	<b><u>TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS</u></b>		<b>PART 8</b>	<b><u>SCORING AND PENALTIES</u></b>	
4.1	Sailplanes and Equipment	6	8.1	Definitions	14
4.2	Aircraft Weight and Weighing Procedure	6	8.2	Basic Scoring	15
4.3	Aircraft Identification	7	8.3	Place Scoring	15
4.4	Tracking System	7	8.4	Scoring Parameters	15
			8.4.1	Competition Day	15
<b>PART 5</b>	<b><u>GENERAL FLYING PROCEDURES</u></b>		8.4.2	Competitors	15
5.1	General	8	8.5	Scoring Formula	16
5.2	Briefing	8	8.5.1	Daily Time Score	16
5.3	External Aid to Competitors	8	8.5.2	Daily Place Scores	16
5.3.1	Radio Transmitters and Transceivers	8	8.5.3	Overall Place Scores	16
5.3.2	Other Types of Aid	8	8.6	Penalties and Disqualifications	16
5.4	Control Procedures	8	8.7	List of Approved Penalties	17
<b>PART 6</b>	<b><u>RACES</u></b>		<b>PART 9</b>	<b><u>COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS</u></b>	
6.1	The Sailplane Grand Prix Race	9	9.1	Complaints	18
			9.2	Protests	18
			9.3	Treatment of Protests	18
			<b>PART 10</b>	<b><u>RESULTS</u></b>	
			10.1	Results	19
			10.2	Validity of the results	19
			<b>Annex 1</b>	<b><u>LOCAL PROCEDURES</u></b>	<b>20</b>

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

## **PART 1 GENERAL**

### **1.0 DEFINITIONS:**

a. **Sailplane Grand Prix (SGP):** Wherever this phrase is used in these Rules it refers to both 'World' and 'Qualifying' Sailplane Grand Prix events.

- **World Sailplane Grand Prix:** A Grand Prix which has the format of a World Championship, the objective of which is to select the World SGP Champion.

- **Qualifying Sailplane Grand Prix:** A National Grand Prix, approved by the IGC, the objectives of which is to enable pilots to qualify for the next World Sailplane Grand Prix.

b. In this document, wherever the word he, his or him is used, it should be taken as he/she, his/hers or him/her.

### **1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX (SGP)** The objectives of the SGP are:

a. To make gliding competitions more easy to understand and more attractive for the public and the media;

b. To promote world-wide expansion of the public image of soaring;

c. To foster friendship, co-operation and exchange of information among soaring pilots of all nations;

d. To encourage the development of safe operational procedures, good sportsmanship, and fairness in the sport of soaring.

### **1.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

1.2.1 The SGP shall be controlled in accordance with the FAI Sporting Code General Section, Section 3 (Gliders & Motorgliders) and with this document.

1.2.2 The Winner shall be the pilot having the highest total score obtained by adding together the pilot's place scores for each Grand Prix day (refer to 8.5.3 in the case of a tie).

1.2.3 The total duration of the competition shall be a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 consecutive days. The organizers shall make available to all competitors at least one official practice day immediately preceding the opening of the SGP.

1.2.4 The official language of the SGP shall be the English language; this shall include all regulations and information circulated to the competitors, any announcements during the event, and briefings.

**1.3 CLASSES** Qualifying SGP events will be run in an FAI recognized class for single seat sailplanes, The World SGP final will be held in the 18 meter class. All eligible sailplanes will be permitted to participate, including motorised gliders provided they have fully functioning MoP recorders.

### **1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISERS**

1.4.1 The Organisers shall pay due regard to safety and fairness in all aspects of the SGP.

1.4.2 The Organisers shall provide:

a. All facilities necessary for the satisfactory operation of the Grand Prix

b. Each competitor with Local Procedures no later than one month before the event (See Annex

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

1)

c Each competitor with all complementary information upon arrival at the contest site, turn and control points, and an electronic version of the start, turn point and control point data base in the most usual file formats for turn point data files, and

d Full meteorological information during the SGP, access to which shall be available to competitors and assistants in addition to briefing material supplied to the competitors.

1.4.3 The organisers shall perform doping controls in accordance with FAI Rules and National Requirements.

1.4.4 The Organisers of a SGP must pay sanction fees to FAI as decided by IGC.

1.4.5 The living expenses for the International Officials (Referees) are the responsibility of the Organisers. Their travel expenses are the responsibility of the IGC.

## **PART 2 SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX OFFICIALS**

**2.1 THE SGP DIRECTOR** The SGP Director will be in overall operational charge of the event. In case of a World SGP final, the SGP Director shall be appointed by the IGC. The SGP Director is responsible for good management and the smooth and safe running of the SGP. The Director or his nominated Deputy shall be available at the contest site at all times while SGP flying is in progress.

a. He shall make operational decisions in accordance with rules of the SGP and in conformity with the FAI Sporting Code, General Section. Decisions shall be published without delay in writing.

b. He shall penalise or disqualify a competitor for misconduct or infringement of the rules in accordance with the requirements of 8.6 and the penalty list at 8.7.

c. He shall give evidence to the Referee if requested.

d. He shall publish the officially accepted entry list and issue daily results with the minimum of delay.

**2.2 REFEREE** The Referee shall be responsible for the SGP being run according to the rules, for checking all scores and for adjudication of any protests during the SGP. The Referee for a World SGP shall be nominated and approved by the IGC. The Referee for a Qualifying SGP may be nominated by the Organiser and shall be approved by the SGP Management Team.

a. The referee for a qualifying event may be present at the event site for the SGP, or he may act remotely by arrangement with the SGP management team and organiser.

b. He shall check the scoring of every race.

c. He shall deal with protests filed by a competitor by hearing the protest in presence of the SGP Director and give his decision as soon as possible.

d. He has the right to terminate the SGP if the Organisers fail to abide by these Rules and the general sporting requirements of the FAI Sporting Code.

e. He shall approve the final results of the SGP and send them to the FAI.

f. He shall send a technical report to the IGC no later than one month after the event.

## PART 3 PILOTS

### 3.1 SELECTION

a. A Qualifying SGP shall be open to international participation. A maximum of 20 entries shall be allowed including any wild card entries. A minimum of five places must be reserved for international competitors. If at the closing date for entry these places have not been taken up by international pilots they become available for reallocation to national pilots. The organisers may award a wild card entry which must be approved by the SGP management team. If at the closing date there are more entries than places available, priority for both International and national entries will be given according to the IGC Ranking List. The organizer wild card entry is exempted from this process.

In practice the following procedure shall be used:

- i. The provisional entry list shall be organised in order of the IGC ranking list.
- ii. The top five none national (overseas) entries shall be taken out and accepted.
- iii. The wild card entry shall be removed if appropriate.
- iiii. The top fourteen pilots on the Ranking list (or top fifteen if there is no wild card) shall be then accepted regardless

b. Entry to the 10<sup>th</sup> World SGP will be open to pilots who have qualified through a Qualifying SGP according to the following rules:

In a qualifying event with **14** entries or more, the 1st and 2nd place pilots automatically qualify for the final, the 3rd place pilot will be the reserve pilot for this event.

In a qualifying event with more than **8** and less than **14** entries the 1st place pilot will automatically qualify and the 2nd pilot will be the reserve pilot for this event.

In a qualifying event with less than **8 entries there will be no qualifying pilot.**

A competitor participating in a qualifying event after having already qualified for the next final will be discounted from the results for the purposes of qualification. A pilot may be reserve pilot for several events.

The qualified pilots will get an official invitation as soon as possible after the event in which they qualified. If they do not accept the invitation within one month after reception of the invitation or do not answer before this deadline they will be assumed to have rejected their invitation.

The reserve pilot of an event will automatically be invited if one qualified pilot of the same event has rejected his invitation. If he does not accept the invitation within two weeks after reception of the invitation or does not answer before this deadline, the SGP management shall nominate his replacement by inviting a reserve pilot from another event having not yet been invited. Priority shall be given to the reserve pilot having got the highest number of points during the qualifying SGP.

The current champion will be allowed to participate.

If after invitation of all qualified pilots and of all reserve pilots, the number of entries (including the current champion) is lower than 20, the organising country will be granted one wild card entry. The pilot selected must have a recent experience in flying a Grand Prix. The SGP management may fill any remaining vacancies by inviting any pilot they consider suitable to compete in the 12th final.

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

3.1.1 Competitors and crew members, by virtue of entering, agree to be bound by these Rules and the Local Procedures issued for the World Sailplane Grand Prix, by any rulings and requirements stated by the Organisers at any briefings, and the airspace regulations in force during the Championships. They are also deemed to accept without reservation any consequences resulting from the event (for instance see 3.5 on insurance).

### **3.2 ENTRIES**

3.2.1 **Application for Entry** Application for entry shall be accepted only if sent before the deadline, on the official entry form, and accompanied by the entry fee in full. Incomplete entry forms or those containing inaccurate information shall not be accepted.

3.2.2 **Entry Fee** The entry fee shall cover all operational costs during the SGP, except that aero tows may be paid as used, at the discretion of the organisers. A competitor who withdraws shall have no right to the return of any fees.

Entry fees shall be returned:

- (i) In full, if the SGP does not take place,
- (ii) Unused fees shall be paid back if the SGP are stopped or cancelled for reason of force majeure,

**3.3 PILOT CRITERIA** To be allowed to participate in the SGP a pilot must:

- a. Have flown at least 250 hours as a pilot in command, of which at least 100 hours must be in sailplanes;
- b. Hold a Pilot License or equivalent document issued or recognized by the authorities of the host nation;
- c. Hold a current FAI sporting licence;
- d. Fulfill any additional criteria for participation that may be set by the Organizers or the IGC Bureau.

### **3.4 REGISTRATION**

3.4.1 On arrival at the contest site, all pilots shall report to the Organisers' Registration Office to have their documents checked and to receive any supplementary information.

3.4.2 After the close of registration, no change of sailplane or pilots shall be permitted. Pilots whose documents have not been checked and found to meet all requirements shall not be permitted to fly until the requirements are met.

3.4.3 The Organisers, if appropriate, shall require the following documents and translations:

- a. Documentary proof of personal medical insurance.
- b. For the pilot:
  - (i) Proof of nationality or certificate of residence (FAI General Section 3.7) ,
  - (ii) Valid Pilot Licence or equivalent document and proof of qualification regarding hours
  - (iii) FAI Sporting Licence valid for the year of the event.
- c. For the sailplane:

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

- (i) Valid Certificate of Airworthiness or Permit to Fly, and
- (ii) Third party insurance certificate for the sailplane.

### **3.5 INSURANCE**

3.5.1 The sailplane must be covered for third party liability to an amount specified by the Organisers.

3.5.2 It is the responsibility of all pilots and crew members to obtain personal medical insurance covering accidents and sickness during the SGP, including any local hospital costs and the costs of transport back to the team member's home country. Neither the organisers nor the FAI/IGC shall be responsible for any costs resulting from accidents or illness to SGP participants.

## **PART 4 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.1 SAILPLANES AND EQUIPMENT**

4.1.1 The competitors shall provide sailplanes, trailers, retrieve cars, and other equipment, including GNSS Flight Recorders, radios, oxygen systems, parachutes, and survival equipment of a performance and standard suitable for the event.

a. The airworthiness, safety and safe operation of competing sailplanes and any associated equipment and vehicles, as appropriate, shall be the responsibility of the competitors at all times.

b. Each occupant of a competing sailplane shall use seat belt and shoulder harness and wear a serviceable parachute on each SGP flight.

4.1.2 Each competing sailplane must have a valid Certificate of Airworthiness or Permit to Fly not excluding competition flying and shall be flown within the limitations of this Certificate of Airworthiness or Permit to Fly.

4.1.3 Damage to a sailplane must be reported to the Organisers without delay. A damaged sailplane may be repaired. The following items may be replaced instead of being repaired: control surfaces; the complete horizontal stabiliser; airbrakes or flap surfaces; canopy; undercarriage gear and doors; propellers; non-structural fairings; and, wing tips and winglets but not the entire outer wing panels.

If the damage was no fault of the pilot, the whole sailplane or any part of it may be replaced with the consent of the SGP Director. Landing damage is normally assumed to be the fault of the pilot.

4.1.4 A competitor involved in a collision in the air shall not continue the flight but land as soon as practicable. Both pilots shall be scored as having virtual outlandings at the position at which the collision occurred.

### **4.2 AIRCRAFT WEIGHT AND WEIGHING PROCEDURE**

4.2.1 A maximum wing loading and/or a maximum take off mass shall be defined in Local procedures for each qualifying SGP event and must be approved by the SGP management team.

#### **4.2.2 Initial Weighing**

This procedure is intended to verify that the take-off mass will not exceed the maximum mass allowed for this class (or the maximum certified mass of the sailplane if less than this) or that the maximum wing loading is not exceeded if any has been set (or the maximum certified wing loading of the sailplane is not exceeded if less than the maximum wing loading).

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION**  
**SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

During scrutineering, the organizer shall measure the weight of the glider ballasted with all removable equipment (thermos, drinks, tie-down equipment, additional clothing, water-ballast) and the weight of the pilot with parachute. The total mass shall not exceed the maximum take off mass (or the mass corresponding to the maximum wing loading if such a maximum has been set). Water may be dropped if necessary. The organizer shall then measure the weight in tow out configuration (towed by a car with a tow bar and with a wing wheel). This will be the reference weight for the daily weighing. The results of this operation shall be recorded and made available to the pilot concerned.

As far as possible the weighing should be performed in a wind free location and on a hard and horizontal ground. A tolerance of 2 kg is acceptable for the initial weighing.

#### **4.2.3 Daily Weighing**

On all competition days all gliders shall be weighed in their "towing out" configuration with all removable equipment on board at the weighing point on their way to the grid. If a glider is heavier than its reference weight its water ballast must be discharged to achieve their reference weight at the weighing point without incurring penalties. A tolerance of 5 kg may be applied if the weighing is performed outside.

### **4.3 AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION**

4.3.1 Contest numbers, as validated by the Organisers, shall be displayed on the sailplane, trailer and crew car and shall be positioned on the sailplane according to the criteria below or as required in Local Procedures:

a. On the underside of the right wing, approximately 2.5 m from the centreline of the sailplane with the top of the figures or letters towards the wing leading edge. The height of the letters or figures shall be not less than 80% of the wing chord.

b. On both sides of the tail fin and/or rudder. These shall be at least 30 cm high and readable from at least 50m.

4.3.2 Contest numbers shall be in a plain block style with a single colour that contrasts strongly with the sailplane's background colour.

4.3.3 The Organisers may require competitors to modify contest numbers that they deem to be similar, confusing or not complying with this paragraph 4.3. Competitors not complying with the Organiser's requirements may be denied a launch.

4.3.4 The Organisers may require competitors to display transfer logos and advertising banners on their sailplanes.

**4.4 TRACKING SYSTEMS** The Organisers will require competitors to carry data recorders, cameras and data transmitters to provide position information and video pictures to be broadcast via the Internet and television mediums. The pilots have to agree to carry this equipment on board. Any interference with these units in order to prevent them from working properly is prohibited and will be penalised.

All competitors in the FAI/SGP world final are required to have external flarm antenna connections.



## PART 5 GENERAL FLYING PROCEDURES

**5.1 GENERAL** Cloud flying and unauthorised aerobatics are prohibited. Any manoeuvres hazardous to others shall be avoided and may be penalized and competitors shall avoid dropping water ballast in any manner likely to affect other competing sailplanes.

**5.2 BRIEFING** A briefing will be held each morning, during the training and SGP flying periods, at which full meteorological and operational information appropriate to the task of the day and the airfield shall be given. This will include units of measurement and times as appropriate.

**5.3 EXTERNAL AID TO COMPETITORS** The following limitations are imposed so that the SGP shall, as far as possible, be directly between the individual competitors, neither controlled nor helped by external aid.

**5.3.1 Radio Transmitters and Transceivers** Radios are for voice transmissions between team members and between them and the Organisers only. Any other data transmission between competitors, or between them and the ground, is prohibited except as required: (i) by the organisers; or (ii) for safety purpose or; (iii) for anticollision warning,

The Organisers shall designate a common radio frequency on which all transmissions will be made during the contest. All pilots shall remain on this frequency. Non-compliance may be penalized.

**5.3.2 Other Types of Aid** Leading, guiding, or help in finding lift by any non-competing aircraft is prohibited. Competing sailplanes abandoning their task must land or return to the SGP site without delay and may not lead, guide or help other competitors in any way.

## 5.4 CONTROL PROCEDURES

**5.4.1** Flight verification will be made using GNSS flight recorders (FR).

a. All GNSS FRs approved by the IGC up to two months prior to the Opening Day shall be accepted.

b. The pilot may use up to two GNSS recorders. These recorders shall be registered before the competition with the scorer by providing an IGC file from each device for testing and approval. **Prior to the first competition day the pilots must specify which of the approved FR's is their primary FR.**

c. After each flight, the pilot shall provide an IGC file from the primary FR. **In the event that the primary FR does not provide a useable trace to score the flight the scorer will request the secondary FR.**

d. GNSS FRs recording intervals shall be set to 1 sec or less. Non-compliance shall be penalised.

e. If both recorders fail and the flight record is interrupted for a period longer than one minute the sailplane shall be considered as having a virtual outlanding at the point of interruption unless satisfactory evidence can be provided that the sailplane did not, during the interruption of the FR record, violate airspace or, in the case of a motor glider, use the MoP. IGC Files delivered by tracking units may be used to provide this evidence.

f. The altitude taken into account for analysing the flight will be the pressure altitude measured by the flight recorder corrected by an offset value such that the altitude on ground before take off is equal to the elevation of the airfield as published in the local procedures. No correction of the measured altitude with the calibration chart of the Flight recorder shall be performed.

g. In an SGP where the local procedures specify feet as the official unit of altitude, altitudes

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

published in feet will be rounded to the closest meter for all sporting-related calculations.

5.4.2 Penalties shall be imposed by the Organisers for unauthorised interference with the GNSS equipment, data or internal program.

## **PART 6 RACES**

### **6.1 THE SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RACE**

6.1.1 The Organisers shall set a number of Turn Points in a sequence. The minimum length of a SGP race shall be 100km. *Ideally the task duration should not exceed 2.5 hours.*

6.1.2 The race shall be given at the daily briefing in form of a task sheet containing all the pertinent information (TPs, start altitude, max start speed, active airspaces, minimum finish altitude etc). Any change to the task or to this information made before the first launch shall be notified to the pilots on the grid on a paper which has to be signed by each pilot. No change can be made once launching has started.

6.1.3 Several tasks may be given at the briefing; In this case the final choice shall normally be given prior to the take off. In exceptional circumstances the task may be decided after launching but prior to the start count down provided the pilots are briefed that this may happen. Confirmation that the task choice is received must be made with each pilot confirming by responding to a roll call made by the contest director.

6.1.4 After the opening of the Start Line, the competitor shall cross the Start Line and complete the race by passing through these Turn Points, in the sequence designated by the Organisers, and returning to the contest site in the shortest time.

6.1.5 Only one Race may be flown per day.

## **PART 7 SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX PROCEDURES**

### **7.1 THE LAUNCH GRID**

a The grid order shall be set by the ranking on the last official practice day or drawn by lot before the first flying day.

b. The grid will be defined in the local procedures.

c. The grid order shall advance after every valid competition day according to local procedures.

d. Sailplanes must be on the grid at the time specified by the Organisers.

e. Only sailplanes on the grid at the time of the start of the launch shall affect the timing of the Start.

### **7.2 LAUNCHING**

#### **7.2.1 Launching Procedures**

a. The beginning of the launching period will be announced at briefing. The release height and position shall be announced prior to the first take off. *The release altitude should be as close as possible to the start altitude, especially in weak conditions.*

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

- b. If a sailplane or pilot is not ready to be launched due to a fault by the Organisers, the launch shall not be commenced.
- c. Except in emergencies, pilots shall not release until after the tow pilot has rocked the wings of the tow plane. Pull-ups before releasing are prohibited.
- d. If a competitor postpones his first launch on his own initiative, or he is not ready when his turn comes up, he shall be launched after the main launch is complete.
- e. If a competitor has to be relaunched because of a failed take-off or a failure of the tow plane resulting in jettisoning or premature release of a sailplane he shall be relaunched immediately provided he reports to the launch point without delay.
- f. If a competitor requires an additional launch for any other reason, he shall be re-launched immediately after the main launch is complete and shall be released in the nominated release area at the nominated release altitude. However a competitor landing back may also elect to be re-launched after the start line has been opened. He may then be released directly in the Start Area at the nominated start altitude (see rule 7.3.2 h). If several competitors require a relaunch they shall be offered a launch in the same order as they landed back.
- g. Once launching has started, the Organisers may suspend towing if it is dangerous to continue.

#### **7.2.2 Procedures for Motor Gliders**

- a. Motor gliders may self-launch or launch by aero tow. The Organisers shall describe the launch procedures at the briefing.
- b. If they self-launch, their MoP must be shut down in the designated release area below the maximum release altitude.
- c. If they require a second launch for a start, they must land prior to taking the new launch, otherwise they will be deemed to have a virtual outlanding at the position at which they started their MoP.

### **7.3 STARTING**

#### **7.3.1 Definitions**

- a. **Start Line** – a straight line, of 5km length, perpendicular to the track to the first Turn Point.
- b. **Extended Start Line** - the start line extended on both sides to the infinite.
- c. **Start Area** - the half circular area with of 2.5km radius located "behind" the Start Line opposite to the first Turn Point.
- d. **Extended Start Area** - the area located behind the Extended Start Line.
- e. **Start Altitude** – the maximum altitude at which the start line may be crossed once the start line is open. This altitude shall be set daily by the organiser as a function of the meteorological conditions. On the flight record the altitude of the start shall be measured by interpolating between the altitude at the last fix before the start line and the altitude at the first fix after the line. A tolerance of **10** meter shall be applied (the pilot shall get no penalty if he crosses the line less than **10m** above the maximum altitude, but he shall get the penalty corresponding to the full difference between his altitude and the maximum altitude if the excess is higher than 10 m).
- f. **Start Point** – the center of the Start Line. The Start Point should normally coincide with the

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

Goal defined in 7.6.1.b.

g. **Start Speed** – the maximum ground speed at which the start line may be crossed. This speed is 170 km/H. This ground speed on the start line shall be calculated as the average ground speed for the last three seconds up to and including the first fix after the start line. The ground speed measurement on each of the fixes shall be measured by dividing the distance from this fix to the previous one by the time interval between the two fixes. In the event there are not 3 valid fixes available before the first fix after the line that are 3 or less seconds from this fix, the ground speed shall be calculated by measuring the speed from the first valid fix before the crossing of the line to the first fix after the line.

### **7.3.2 Starting Procedures**

a. The Organisers shall announce by radio the opening time of the Start Line which shall be not less than 20 minutes after the main launch procedure has been completed.

b. Once the Start line opening time has been announced, the Organisers shall no longer delay the opening of the Start Line even if pilots fail to stay airborne or to reach the start altitude. They may however cancel the opening of the Start Line if it is dangerous to continue launching or the weather deteriorates so that the task may not reasonably be attempted or if more than half of the pilots fail to stay airborne before opening of the start line.

c. During the last 5 minutes before the opening of the Start Line, circling or turning (by more than 90°) to the right is prohibited in the Start Area. Non compliance shall be penalised.

d. The pilots must be behind the Extended Start Line no later than one minute before the Start Line is opened. Non compliance shall be penalised.

e. Once the Start Line is open the pilots must start by crossing the line below the Start Altitude and within the Start Speed limit. Non compliance shall be penalised. .

f. A pilot starting before the opening of the Start Line shall be penalised.

g. A pilot manoeuvring in such a way as to fly in the opposite direction or perpendicular to the track of the other pilots, within three minutes from the opening of the start line, shall be disqualified for the day. (The intent of this rule is to penalise for turning back in the first few moments after the start which could create a risk of head on conflict with the other gliders). Circling to climb is excepted from this rule.

h. A competitor landing back to the airfield after having started may be relaunched. He shall be released directly in the Start Area at the nominated Start Altitude. He does not need to stay behind start line for one minute and may start immediately but must cross the start line below the start altitude and within the speed limit. In this case no time penalty shall apply for not being behind the start line for one minute before the opening of the Start Line.

### **7.3.3 Radio Procedures** The following radio messages will be made by the Organisers:

a. At least 20 minutes before the opening of the start line: "The Start Line will be opened at y Hour and the maximum start altitude is z m or zz ft " (altitude expressed in QNH).

b. At 10 minutes before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in ten minutes. The maximum start altitude is z m or zz ft. Pilots must be behind the Extended Start line in 9 minutes".

c. At 5 minutes before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in five minutes, the maximum start altitude is z m or zz ft. From now, turns to the right are prohibited in the start Area . Pilots must be

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

behind the Extended Start line in 4 minutes.

d. At 3 minutes before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in three minutes. Pilots must be behind the Extended Start line in two minutes".

e. At 2 minutes before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in two minutes. Pilots must be behind the Extended Start line in one minute".

f. One minute before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in one minute"

g. 30 seconds before the start: "The Start Line will be opened in 30 seconds "

h. 10 seconds before the start: "Start in 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Go !"

**7.3.4 Validity of Starts** A Start is valid if the GNSS FR shows a valid fix or a straight line between two subsequent FR fixes crossing the Start Line in the direction of the first turn point after the Start Line has been opened. Nevertheless a pilot missing the start line by less than 500 meter (i.e. crossing the Extended Start Line at a distance from the edge of the Start Line of less than 500m) shall be considered as having made a valid start, but shall be given a penalty.

**7.3.5 Circling Direction after the start** For safety reasons, the organisers may impose in the Local Procedures a common turn direction up to a given distance from the start. The appropriate penalty will also be defined in the local procedures.

## **7.4 TURN POINTS**

### **7.4.1 Definitions**

a. **Observation Zone** – for a SGP GNSS Turn Point the observation zone shall be a circle of radius 0.5 km, centered on the turn point.

b. **Maximum Altitude** – a maximum limit AMSL may be set for rounding a turn point

**7.4.2 Turn Point Procedure** The pilot has to fly through the Observation Zone of the Turn Point below the maximum altitude limit if any has been set.

### **7.4.3 Validity of Turn Points**

a. A Turn Point is valid if the GNSS FR shows a valid fix or part of a straight line between two consecutive valid fixes within the Observation Zone.

b. If there is no proof that the competitor passed through the Observation Zone the rounding of the Turn Point shall be validated if the competitor was within 500 m of the boundary of the Observation Zone, but a penalty shall be applied.

c. If a maximum altitude has been set for the Turn Point and if a pilot rounds the Turn Point above this altitude the rounding shall be validated but a penalty shall be applied.

## **7.5 OUTLANDING**

a. The starting of a motor glider's MoP, except as allowed by 5.4, or a complete failure of both GNSS FRs, is regarded as an outlanding.

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

- b. The position and time of the outlanding shall be determined from the last valid fix on the GNSS flight record when the aircraft came to rest, before the starting of the MoP, or before the FR failure, whichever occurs first.
- c. If prior to the real outlanding, the starting of the MoP or the failure of the recorder, the sailplane has reached a position giving a greater Marking Distance (see definition in 8.1) it will be considered as landed at the virtual Outlanding position determined from the valid fix on the GNSS flight recorder giving the best Marking Distance.
- d. After landing out, the competitors shall inform the Organisers without delay by giving their position (co-ordinates). Non-compliance shall be penalised.
- e. The Organisers shall assist competitors and crews in every possible way to locate outlanded sailplanes.

## **7.6 FINISHING**

### **7.6.1 Definitions**

- a. **Finish Line** - a straight line, of 0.5 km length, at the elevation of the airfield and clearly identified on the ground. A minimum altitude shall be imposed for crossing the line (see paragraph c).  
*It is recommended to place the finish line at the beginning of the runway in order to make sure that the gliders can land safely on the airfield even if they do not have enough energy to make a speed finish.*

- b. **Goal** - the center of the Finish Line.

- c. **Mandatory Reporting Point** - The organisers shall set a final turn point to align the gliders before the finish.-

A minimum finish altitude band shall be set above the airfield elevation as defined in the local procedures and shall apply from the mandatory point to and including the finish line. Flying below the upper level of the finish band shall be penalised. Flying below the lower level of the finish band will invalidate the finish (see 7.6.3.c.)

The finish penalty band should normally be 30 metres in depth.

### **7.6.2 Finish Procedures**

- a. Competitors shall announce their arrival on the Finish Line frequency according to the local procedures.
- b. The organisers shall repeatedly announce strength and direction of the wind, together with other significant meteorological data at the contest site.
- c. Flying below the minimum altitude between the reporting point and the finish line, including when crossing the line, shall be penalised. A tolerance of **10 meter** shall be applied (the pilot shall get no penalty if he crosses the line less than **10 meters** below the minimum altitude, but he shall get the penalty corresponding to the full difference between the minimum altitude and his altitude if the missing altitude is greater than 10m).
- d. The Finish Line shall be closed at sunset, or when all competitors are accounted for. Competitors still on task after closure of the Finish Line shall be considered as outlanded.

### **7.6.3 Validity of the Finish**

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

- a. A finish is valid if the sailplane **completes the race and** crosses the Finish Line, unassisted, in the direction specified at briefing **above the lower level of the finish altitude band.**
- b. Competitors crossing the Finish Line below the minimum altitude-shall be penalised.
- C Notwithstanding 7.6.3 a, **A competitor landing back at the airfield having completed the race without crossing the Finish Line, OR having flown below the lower altitude level of the finish altitude band, shall be deemed to have finished and shall be given a finish time at which his sailplane stopped moving, plus a penalty equal to 5 minutes.**

## **7.7 LANDING**

- a. The landing procedures shall be detailed at the briefing.
- b. Hazardous maneuvers when approaching and after crossing of the Finish Line shall be penalised. Having crossed the Finish Line the competitors shall land without delay.
- c. Landing later than the end of legal daylight is not permitted. Non-compliance shall be penalised.

**7.8 FLIGHT DOCUMENTATION** All flight documentation, including GNSS records shall be handed in immediately after landing on flash cards or memory sticks. The Organisers may also require back- up documentation within 30 minutes of making the request.

## **PART 8 SCORING AND PENALTIES**

### **8.1 DEFINITIONS**

- a. **Race Distance** - the distance from the Start Point to the Goal via all Turn Points.
- b. **Start Time** - the time at which the Start Line was opened.
- c. **Finish Time** - the time the sailplane first crosses the Finish Line after completing the task, interpolated to the nearest hundredth of second by using the last fix before crossing the line and the first fix after crossing the line.
- d. **Marking Time** – the time elapsed between the Start Time and the Finish Time for an individual competitor.
- e. **Marking Distance** - the sum of the legs correctly completed by the competitor, commencing from the Start Point, in their proper order and the distance achieved on the next leg attempted but not completed if any. The achieved distance of the uncompleted leg is the length of that leg less the distance between the Outlanding position and the next Turn Point, or Goal in the case of the last leg, with the provision that if the achieved distance of the uncompleted leg is less than zero it shall be taken as zero.
- f. **Valid Day** - a Day shall be counted as a SGP Day if:

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

- (i) A launch opportunity has been given to each competitor in time for the competitor to carry out the task of the Day in question, and
- (ii) At least one competitor has completed the task.

## **8.2 BASIC SCORING**

- 8.2.1 The **Scoring Time** of all finishers shall be their marking time plus any applicable penalty.
- 8.2.2 The **Scoring Speed** of all finishers shall be their **Marking Distance** divided by their **Scoring Time**.

## **8.3 PLACE SCORING**

8.3.1 If there are at least 9 finishers, the day's fastest pilot receives 10 points, the second fastest pilot receives 8 points, the third fastest pilot receives 7 points and so on down to the ninth finishing pilot who receives 1 point.

8.3.2 If the number of finishers  $N_f$  is lower than 9, the fastest pilot receives  $N_f+1$  points, the second fastest pilot receives  $N_f-1$  points, the third fastest pilot receives  $N_f-2$  points and so on down to the last finisher who receives 1 point.

*For example if there are only 3 finishers the first finisher receives 4 points, the second 2 points and the third one point.*

8.3.3 In case of a tie of two or more pilots, all tied pilots shall receive the same Place Score. The Place Scores of lower ranking pilots remain unchanged.

*If there were 9 finishers and positions 2, 3, and 4 were tied, the Place Scores would be: 10, 8, 8, 8, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1.*

8.3.4 On the last designated competition day, the organisers shall give an additional 1 point bonus to the winner of the day. In case of a tie between two or more pilots, all the tied pilots will get an additional point.

## **8.4 SCORING PARAMETERS** All times are in seconds and all distances in km.

### **8.4.1 Competition Day**

Dt = Task Distance

Ts = Start Time

### **8.4.2 Competitors**

D = Competitor's Marking Distance

Tf = Competitor Finish Time

T = Finisher's Marking Time = Tf – Ts

$N_f$  = Number of finishers

S = Score

R = Competitor's ranking (according to S)

P = Daily Place Score

O = Overall Place Score



**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

## **8.5 SCORING FORMULA**

**8.5.1 Daily Time Scores** The day is not a valid day if there are no finishers. The scores shall be displayed in hours, minutes and seconds.

For finishers:  $S = T$

### **8.5.2 Daily Place Scores**

For the winner of the day: If  $N_f < 9$ ,  $P = N_f - R + 2$

If  $N_f \geq 9$ ,  $P = 10 - R + 1$

For all finishers: If  $N_f < 9$ ,  $P = N_f - R + 1$

If  $N_f \geq 9$ ,  $P = 10 - R$

If a bonus point has been given on the last day it shall be added to the daily place score of the pilot receiving it:

$$P = P + 1$$

### **8.5.3 Overall Place Scores**

For each pilot:  $O = P_1 + P_2 + \text{etc.}\dots$

**TIEBREAK.** If two or more pilots have the same place score after the last Sailplane Grand Prix day, the sequence between these pilots shall be decided by the daily results. The best ranked pilot shall be the one who has the most daily wins. If a tie still exists, the best ranked pilot will be the one with the most second placings, and so on. In case this procedure does not help to break the tie, the speeds achieved every day will be added together and the faster pilot (the one having the higher total of speeds) shall be ranked higher.

## **8.6 PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION**

**8.6.1** The SGP Director shall impose penalties for infringement of, or non-compliance with, any Rule or Local Procedure. The severity of the penalties ranges from a minimum of a warning to disqualification as appropriate for the offence. The penalties imposed shall be in accordance with the appropriate list of penalties stated in Section 8.7 below.

**8.6.2** All penalties shall be expressed in times and added to the scores after they have been calculated according to section 8.7.

**8.6.3** If a pilot has been disqualified, he shall be scored as though he had not started.

**8.6.4** Offences not covered by this list may be penalised at the SGP Director's discretion in accordance with the provisions of the Sporting Code, General Section 5.2.

**8.6.5** Penalties shall be listed on the score sheet of the Day on which the penalty was given.

**8.6.6** In case of unsporting behaviour the SGP director may penalise a pilot with a warning or depriving him from one position in the overall ranking for first offence. A second offence may be penalised by disqualification from the event.

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

**8.7 LIST OF APPROVED PENALTIES**

<b>Type of Offence</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Overweight of W kilograms in case of a random check	W x 10 sec
<b>Wrong or Missing Information</b>	
Documentation not complete	No launch
Scrutinizing not complete	No launch
Late submission of FR	30 sec
Time interval between fixes > 1s	3 sec
Changing FR without advising the Organisers	1 minute
<b>Incorrect Start</b>	
Time spent outside the Extended Start Area during the final 1 minute before the Start Line is open	Time x 2
<b>Start before the Start Line is open</b>	<b>Time difference x 40 5</b>
Start above maximum start altitude	0 sec/meter for the first <b>5 10</b> meter,
<b>More than 10m including the 10m buffer.</b>	2 sec/meter <del>thereafter</del>
<b>Start speed above max speed defined at briefing.</b>	<b>5 sec/km/h if greater than 10kph</b>
<b>Missing the start line by less than 500m</b>	<b>5 1 minute</b>
Maneuvering in opposite direction or perpendicular to track of pilots attempting to cross the start line	Day disqualification
<b>Incorrect Rounding of Turn Points</b>	
More than 0.50 km from turn point or area	<b>5-2 minutes</b>
More than 1.00 km from turn point or area	No control
Flying above max altitude in the observation zone of a Turn Point (if a maximum altitude has been set)	<b>0 sec/meter for the first 5 10 meter,</b> 2 sec/meter above the maximum altitude thereafter
<b>Incorrect Finish</b>	
<b>Flying below the minimum altitude between the reporting point and the finish line for more than 10m</b>	<del>0 sec/meter for the first 10 meter.</del> <b>4 sec/meter below the minimum defined altitude thereafter (measured at the lowest point)</b>
Landing on the airfield but not crossing the finish line	<b>5 minutes or as defined at briefing</b>
<b>Dangerous or Hazardous Flying</b>	
Cloud flying	30 minutes
Circling in wrong direction in the start area before opening of the start	30sec /right turn or right circle
Towing: early or late release/ pull-up before release	<b>4 5 minute</b>
Finish Line: hazardous manoeuvre	1 minute
Landing: incorrect landing lane	1 minute
Flying above the absolute altitude limit (defined at briefing) if excess altitude < 100m	<b>0 sec/meter for the first 10 meter,</b> 2 sec/meter above the maximum altitude thereafter
Flying above the absolute altitude limit (defined at briefing) if excess altitude > 100m	Outlanded at the entrance in the airspace
Entering restricted or closed airspace	Outlanded at the entrance in the airspace
Landing after legal daylight	Outlanded at the position of the sailplane at the expiry of the legal daylight
<b>Cheating or Falsifying Documents</b>	
Falsifying documents	Disqualifying
Attempt to obtain external help for finding lift from non competing sailplane or airplane	Day disqualification
Use of frequency other than the common frequency	<b>5-Minutes Day disqualification</b>
Attempt to interfere with the tracking units	5 minutes
<b>Other Violations</b>	
Flying under influence of alcohol	Day Disqualification
Positive doping control	See FAI policy
Unsporting behaviour	See Para 8.6.6
<b>No Anticollision beacon fitted (final only)</b>	No launch

## **PART 9 COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS**

### **9.1 COMPLAINTS**

9.1.1 The purpose of a complaint is to obtain a correction without the need to make a formal protest.

9.1.2 At any time during the SGP a complaint may be made by a competitor to the SGP Director or his nominated Deputy. Such complaint shall be dealt with expeditiously.

### **9.2 PROTESTS**

9.2.1 Protests may not be filed against the SGP's Rules.

9.2.2 When dissatisfied with a penalty or the decision on a complaint made during the SGP a competitor has the right of protest to the Referee.

a. Such a protest shall be made in writing, in English, and shall contain the following elements:

(i) It shall refer to the decision, against which the protest is lodged,

(ii) It shall include reasons for the protest, and

(iii) It shall state the remedy sought by the protest.

b. A Protest, together with the Protest Fee of 150 Euros, shall be handed to the SGP Director or his nominated Deputy, by the competitor before the briefing of the day after the publication of the decision against which the protest is made (or within 1 hour after this publication on the last day)

### **9.3 TREATMENT OF PROTESTS**

9.3.1 The SGP Director shall deliver a protest to the Referee without delay.

a. The Referee shall give his decision within 24 hours (as soon as possible on the last day) of receiving the protest from the SGP Director.

b. The Referee shall hear both sides on the matter of any protest, applying correctly the Rules for the SGP and appropriate FAI Regulations. In considering the protest the Referee shall be provided with access to all persons and information to assist in their considerations.

c. The SGP Director is bound by the decision of the Referee.

d. The protest fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld, or is withdrawn prior to the hearing by the Referee.

## **PART 10 RESULTS**

### **10.1 RESULTS**

#### **10.1.1 Definition of status of results:**

- a. Preliminary Results: Performances before any verification.
- b. Unofficial Results: Preliminary results corrected following verification of flight records from all pilots receiving points and including penalties.
- c. Final Results: Unofficial results corrected after expiry of the protest time and after all protests have been dealt with to include the consequences all decisions on these protests made by the referee.

10.1.2 All Unofficial and Final Results shall be published with minimum delay clearly indicating the status of the result and the time of publication and with the pilots ranked by their performance for the day. Unofficial Results shall include the expiry time for protests and Unofficial Results and Final Results shall be signed by the SGP Director or his nominated Deputy.

*A short prizegiving ceremony, based on unofficial results, should be organised daily, no later than one hour after the arrival of the three first pilots.*

### **10.2 VALIDITY OF THE RESULTS**

10.2.1 The cumulative scores of the Sailplane Grand Prix shall be final only after the Referee has confirmed their validity. They will be published before the Prizegiving is held.

10.2.2 The Results of the Grand Prix are valid if there were at least 2 valid races.

**INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION  
SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX RULES**

**ANNEX 1: LOCAL PROCEDURES**

Local Procedures must be provided to the competitors by the organisers no later than one month before the event.

The Local Procedures shall be submitted to the SGP management team for approval no later than two months before the Opening Ceremony.

They are always subordinate to the Grand Prix rule and shall not duplicate rules already contained in this document.

They shall contain the following information:

- A. Documents to be presented by the pilot at registration
  - 1. Pilot
  - 2. Crew
  - 3. Sailplane
- B. Technical requirements
  - 1. Scrutineering : location and schedule
  - 2. List of instruments that must be removed
  - 3. Requirement for High visibility markings
  - 4. Procedure for checking aircraft mass
- C. General Flying Procedure
  - 1. Map of the airfield
  - 2. Units of measurement
  - 3. Single Frequency to be used
  - 4. Carriage of tracking units
- D. Gridding
  - 1. Organisation of the grid
  - 2. Requirements for discharging of water ballasts on the grid
- E. Launch procedure
  - 1. Procedure for motor gliders if they are accepted
  - 2. Release areas
  - 3. Release
  - 4. Re-lights (re-launch)
- F. Finish Procedure
  - 1. Arrival announcement
  - 2. Mandatory Reporting points (if any)
  - 3. Procedure for direct landings
  - 4. Procedure for speed finishes
  - 5. Minimum altitude/height restrictions.
- G. Outlanding
  - 1. Telephone number of the outlanding office
  - 2. Outlanding form (information to be provided)
- I. Scoring
  - 1. Delay for handling of flight documents
  - 2. Handling of IGC files in electronic form
  - 3. Official elevation of the airfield in Meters