



**GLIDING NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

***ADVISORY CIRCULAR***  
***AC 2-10***

**COMPETITIONS**

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## 1 Introduction

This Advisory Circular provides information on the following:

- Sailplane Racing Committee
- Approval of competition events
- National and Regional Championships
- Competition rules, handicaps, and scoring
- Competition turnpoints
- National Championship trophies
- The Tasman Trophy
- GNZ anti-doping policy
- Non-contest flying at championships
- NZ representatives to international championships
- Pilot Ranking List
- Other competitions
- List of relevant documents

## 2 Sailplane Racing Committee (SRC)

- 2.1 The Sailplane Racing Committee (formerly the Contest Management Committee) is responsible to the GNZ Executive for the promotion, support and encouragement of competition flying and for the management and governance of all competition related matters affiliated with GNZ. (However, the safety oversight of flying operations at all times remains the responsibility of the Operations Committee.) Specific SRC aims and responsibilities are outlined in the SRC Terms of Reference (TOR).
- 2.2 The SRC is normally comprised of six elected members who each serve 3-year terms on the committee. Election of members occurs at the Contest Pilots' Meeting that is held during the GNZ annual conference. Alternatively, call for nominations and voting may be held via email prior to, and then electees confirmed at, the Contest Pilots' Meeting. The SRC convenor is elected by the Committee and approved by the GNZ Executive.
- 2.3 Voting eligibility for SRC elections and for other competition related votes is confined to: all competitors and organisers (Contest Director, Contest Secretary, Scorer, Task Setter) of GNZ National and Regional Championships from the previous two years.

## 3 GNZ Approval of Competition Events

- 3.1 Competition events must be approved by the GNZ Executive. The normal procedure is for the Pilots' meeting during the annual GNZ conference to arrive at a Competition Calendar in consideration of the various bids from organising committees, suitability of the site(s), facilities, and any other relevant factors. At its next meeting the GNZ Executive then approves the place, date and organiser of each event by formally adopting this Competition Calendar.
- 3.2 The actual dates of Championship events depend on local conditions, and are normally proposed by the relevant organising committee. Regional Championships are normally shorter and held earlier in the season than the National Championships. Key personnel and the general financial arrangements (entry fee, etc.) are subject to approval by the SRC, while the Rules, Handicaps, and Marking System employed in Championships are those laid down by the SRC.

## **4 GNZ National Gliding Championships**

- 4.1 National gliding championships are held annually in the following classes: Open, 18 Metre, 15 Metre, Standard, Club, Sports. The Open, 18 Metre, 15 Metre, and Standard Classes are held together at the ‘Multi-Class National Gliding Championships’, while the Club and Sports Classes are held separately as the ‘Club Class National Gliding Championships’ and ‘Sports Class National Championships’ respectively. If all the championship classes are hosted together in one event, it shall be known as the ‘National Gliding Championships’.
- 4.2 Generally, National Championships will alternate between North and South Island venues annually (the Sports Class excepted). This is to ensure that pilots have opportunity to compete in a variety of locations and conditions, as well as alternating “home advantages” and sharing the travel and transport burden among the pilot population.

## **5 Regional Gliding Championships**

- 5.1 Northern Region, Central Districts, and South Island Championships are held annually with all racing classes (Open, 18m, 15m, Std., Club, Sports) for which sufficient entry numbers permit.
- 5.2 The venues for Regional Championships must be located the within geographical limits described by the championship names. The Northern Region consists of: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Gisborne. Central Districts: Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Hawke’s Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough. South Island: All South Island Regions.
- 5.3 Where appropriate, and subject to acceptance by the Pilots’ Meeting at the GNZ annual conference, a Regional Championships may be held in conjunction a National Championships.

## **6 Competition Rules, Handicaps, Scoring**

- 6.1 The SRC prescribes and maintains the GNZ Competition Rules, GNZ Handicap Register, and GNZ Contest Marking System, which together are the governing regulations for the GNZ National and Regional Championships. The system is revised annually, with changes taking effect on 1 November each year.
- 6.2 Championship Organisers may also establish a set of Local Procedures and Rules that address specific requirements and peculiarities of the competition venue. These Local Procedures are subject to SRC approval to ensure they do not conflict with the GNZ Competition Rules (or where conflict is found, the SRC resolves and/or approves the non-conformity).
- 6.3 The GNZ Handicap Register is maintained by the SRC and is derived from the handicaps of the British Gliding Association (BGA). Except in the Open Class at the National Championships (which is unhandicapped), BGA handicaps are used for all sailplane types unless special circumstances apply or there is no BGA handicap available. The SRC publishes the Handicap Register in two formats: i) Sailplane Type, and ii) Sailplane Registration. Pilots intending to compete in gliders not listed in either register should contact the SRC to establish an appropriate handicap.
- 6.4 The GNZ Contest Marking System is a set of scoring definitions and formulae for assessing the performances of competitors at championships. The scoring format is based upon the widely accepted and internationally utilized procedures of the FAI Sporting Code – Annex A to Section 3.

## 7 Competition Turnpoints

Turnpoints to be used during the National and Regional Championships are determined by the competition Organisers. Early publication of turnpoints to be used at Championships is mandated in the Competition Rules. Turnpoint information and database files can generally be found by way of the Racing section of the GNZ website.

## 8 Trophies at National Championships

8.1 At National Championships, trophies are awarded to the National Champions of the Open, 18m, 15m, Standard, Club, and Sports Classes. Only persons who are qualified and financial members of gliding organisations affiliated to GNZ may hold championship titles. Foreign and hors concours entrants are not eligible for any National or Regional Championships title. Foreign entrants are defined as any pilot not holding Permanent New Zealand Residency or Citizenship.

8.2 The Trophies for National Champions are:

The Wills Cup	—	Awarded to the Open Class Champion
The Georgeson Trophy	—	Awarded to the 18 Metre Class Champion
The Broadlands Cup	—	Awarded to the 15 Metre Class Champion
The Court Trophy	—	Awarded to the Standard Class Champion
The Lyons Trophy	—	Awarded to the Club Class Champion
The Roake Cup	—	Awarded to the Sports Class Champion

8.3 At the Multi-Class National Gliding Championships and the Club Class National Gliding Championships, or the National Gliding Championships, in addition to the trophies for championship titles, several trophies are awarded for meritorious and other notable performances. “Highest placings” are assessed on a pro rata basis in relation to the number of entrants in each class. (In the event of a tie, the points differential of each pilot to the winner will be the deciding criterion.) As per 7.1 above, the following trophies are also not available to foreign or hors concours entrants:

Swiss Trophy	—	Awarded to the second placed pilot in the numerically strongest class
Mike Rix Memorial Trophy	—	Awarded to the highest placed Junior pilot ( $\leq 25y$ )
Norge Cup	—	Awarded to the highest placed pilot who is competing in a National Championships for their first time
Veterans Trophy	—	Awarded to the highest placed pilot aged 60 years or over
NZ Open Class Motor Gliding Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot of the highest placed motor glider in the Open Class
Masterton Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot(s) of the highest placed club owned glider
Berkett Trophy	—	Awarded to the highest placed pilot who belongs to a club from the alternate island from where the Championships are being held

8.4 At the Multi-Class National Gliding Championships, or the National Gliding Championships, the following trophies are awarded to any competing pilot (excluding hors concours) regardless of nationality (the only condition is that a foreign entrant being awarded a trophy must entrust the safe-keeping of the trophy to a representative of the Organisation hosting the Championships):

Richardson Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot achieving the highest average speed on any task set during the championships (before handicaps have been applied)
Continental Airlines Trophy	—	Awarded to the winner of the longest racing task set during the championships (before handicaps have been applied)
Hansell Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot making the most meritorious flight during the championships
Hookings Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot making the most meritorious flight over a non-triangular task set during the championships
Messervy Trophy	—	Awarded to the pilot making the most meritorious flight over a triangular task set during the championships

8.5 At the Sports Class National Championships the following trophies are awarded (and are not available to foreign or hors concours entrants):

Ruth and Gerry Gotleib Cup	—	Awarded to the pilot of the highest placed PW5 in the Sports Class
Tauranga Trophy	—	Awarded to the PW5 pilot making the most meritorious flight during the championships
Van Dyk Trophy	—	Awarded to the Sports Class pilot achieving the highest average speed on any task set during the championships (before handicaps have been applied)
Hatuma Lime Trophy	—	Awarded to the Sports class pilot making the most meritorious flight during the championships

8.6 All trophy award descriptions listed above are contemporarily accurate at the time of writing. However, the fidelity of the original function and award intention cannot be ensured for all trophies due to lack of comprehensive official record keeping. Some trophies' award descriptions may have been subject to modification in time and/or Championship circumstances have changed such that some trophies presently carry a different function from that of the initial purpose.

## 9 The Tasman Trophy

9.1 The *WA Iggulden Tasman Trophy* is contested between selected representatives from New Zealand and Australia at the National Championships of the host country. The representative pilots are scored in the normal manner as other competitors and the representative with most points wins the Tasman Trophy for his country.

9.2 The trophy jointly belongs to both the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) and GNZ and is exempted from the rule that GFA trophies must stay in Australia, so it regularly travels between the two nations.

- 9.3 Hosting the Tasman Trophy is alternated between New Zealand and Australia as agreed by the SRC and the GFA Sports Committee.
- 9.4 Additional details, rules, and further information about the Tasman Trophy are documented by the formal Tasman Trophy agreement between GNZ and the GFA (March 2011).

## **10 GNZ Anti-Doping Policy**

The GNZ anti-doping policy is described in GNZ Advisory Circular AC 1-03.

## **11 Non-Contest Flying at Championships**

At both National and Regional Championships, all gliding operations from the competition site, including non-contest flying on contest days and official practice days, are subject to the control of the Contest Director or their representative for the duration of the championships.

## **12 NZ Representatives to International Championships**

- 12.1 Pilots wishing to participate at international gliding competitions and representative events should contact the SRC to establish whether entry requires approval of the Royal New Zealand Aero Club (RNZAC), and whether the GNZ Selection Procedure for International Representatives is applicable.
- 12.2 Selection procedures for establishing NZ Representatives at FAI Class 1 events and other international representative competitions are described in the GNZ MOAP 1-8, paragraph 2: Selection Procedure for International Representatives.
- 12.3 All GNZ selected international representatives are subject to the GNZ Code of Conduct for Representative Pilots and Team Members and are required to sign their agreement to the code of conduct as well as the associated policy of Drug Free Sport NZ.

## **13 Pilot Ranking List**

- 13.1 The New Zealand Gliding Competition Ranking List has been adapted from a number of international systems of ranking glider pilots and modified to suit NZ local conditions. The ranking of pilots is based on an individual pilots best single contest performance over the summer season. Each pilot is ranked according to the score they achieve based on nine criteria, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 13.2 The actual ranking list is then compiled after the ratings are calculated, having regard to pilot eligibility. The Ranking List is published each autumn on the GNZ website.

## **14 Other Competitions**

- 14.1 The Air New Zealand Cross Country Championship is a decentralised competition aimed at encouraging cross country flying from club sites, particularly by pilots new to cross country flying. It is a distance only competition extending over the whole year and is run in two divisions; one for flights originating in the North Island and one for flights originating in the South Island. Pilots who have already achieved their Gold Distance are not eligible for the competition. *Air New Zealand Cross Country Trophies* are presented annually at the GNZ AGM to the winners of the two divisions.
- 14.2 The Buckland Soaring Award is a decentralised competition based on the New Zealand division of the Aerokurier Online Contest (OLC). There are two divisions; one for soaring flights commencing in the North Island and the other for soaring flights commencing in the South Island. The winning pilots stand down for the following two seasons. OLC rules and

handicaps are used. The *Buckland Soaring Award* is presented annually at the GNZ AGM to the winner(s) of each division of the competition.

- 14.3 In addition to GNZ National and Regional Championships, there are several other independently organised competitions hosted by Clubs and GNZ affiliates. Such independent competitions usually do not require GNZ approval as long as the event does not constitute an Aviation Event according to CAR Part 91.703 (where approval is otherwise required – see MOAP 2-11 paragraph 1.2). Independent competitions are not subject to any SRC management or rules, but may however utilise some or all of the GNZ Competition Rules, Handicaps, and Marking System as appropriate.

## 15 List of Relevant Documents

In addition to this Advisory Circular, the following GNZ and SRC published documents contain relevant information about competitions:

- GNZ Competition Rules
- GNZ Handicap Register
- GNZ Contest Marking System
- Guide to Flying Tasks GNZ National & Regional Gliding Championships
- A Guide for Organisers and Administrators of GNZ Sanctioned Gliding Competitions
- SRC Guidelines for application of competition penalties for infringements of prohibited airspaces
- SRC Terms of Reference
- GNZ MOAP
- GNZ Exposition
- GNZ Code of Conduct for Representative Pilots and Team Members
- AC 1-03 GNZ Anti-Doping Policy
- The Tasman Trophy Agreement Between GNZ and the GFA
- Air New Zealand Cross Country Championship Rules
- The GNZ Competition Pilot Ranking List

## **Appendix 1    Ranking List Criteria**

Each pilot is ranked according to the competition score(s) they have achieved based on nine criteria, as follows:

### **1. Competition Type**

	<u>Points</u>
a. Worlds	1,400
b. Foreign Nationals	1,100
c. Nationals	1,000
d. Regionals	900
e. Provincials	750

### **2. Class**

	<u>Weighting Factor</u>
a. Open Class	100%
b. 18 metre Class	100%
c. 15 metre Class	100%
d. Standard Class	100%
e. Club Class	60%
f. Sports/PW5 Classes	50%

NB: The Club Class Nationals will have a weighing factor of 100%.

### **3. Number of Competitors**

Effectively more competitors in a particular class in the contest will increase the competition rating for that class. This is calculated by comparing the number of entries with the standard number of entries over a period of a number of years. As an example for every additional competitor above the average the competition ranking score is increased by 0.5 of a point.

### **4. Quality of the Field**

The method adopted for assessing the quality of the field is based on the previous years ranking score of each pilot in the field. Each pilot with a score greater than the competition ranking score (less 100 points) is deemed to be a Pundit for that class and competition and the number of Pundits increases the current competitions ranking points. Every Pundit adds 10 points to the competition ranking points.

### **5. Minimum Number of Days Competing**

For each event to have a champion there is required to be at least three days of competition. If the event is less than three days the Competition ranking score will be discounted by 10%.

### **6. Minimum Number of Competitors**

For each class to have a champion there is required to be at least four competitors in that class. If the class has less than four competitors then the Competition ranking score will be discounted by 10%.



The above six factors lead to the competition ranking score. The remaining three factors relate to the individual performance of the pilot compared to his fellow competitors.

## 7. Position

The individual pilot's place in the event class.

## 8. Score

The individual pilot's score in the event compared with the winner's score.

## 9. Scores in Previous Years

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| a. The current year     | No reduction  |
| b. The previous year    | 10% reduction |
| c. The year before that | 20% reduction |
| d. Three years previous | 70% reduction |

Each pilot's highest score over the past four years after reduction as above will be used for ranking at the end of the current year.

### **Example**

*A pilot has entered the Open/18 metre Class in the Nationals, placing third of twelve and his score was 4,222 points with the winner obtaining 4,655 points. There is one Pundit in the event.*

Competition rating = (Competition type \* Class weighing factor/100) + (((number of Competitors minus standard number of entries)\*0.5) + (Number of Pundits \* 10))

Nationals are rated at 1,000 points.

Open class is 100% weighing factor comp.

There are 12 competitors and 10 standard no of entries for this class.

There is one Pundit in the event.

Competition rating =  $(1000 * 100 / 100) + (((12 - 10) * 0.5) + (1 * 10)) = 1,011$  points.

Thus the event had a competition rating of 1,011. [If the event had had less than 4 competitors or 3 days of competition this figure would have been reduced by 10% (or 20% if both apply).]

Score = comp. rating - (place slope (Position - 1)/(no. of comp.-1)) - points slope \* MIN((winners points - points scored)/(0.6 \* winners points), 1)

Place Slope and Points Slope are both constants, fixed at 475.

MIN is an Excel function returning a value of 1 or less, depending on points scored (the value is 1 if the points are equal to or less than 40% of the winners points).

Score =  $1,011 - ((475 * 1,011 / 1,000) * (3 - 1) / (12 - 1)) - ((475 * (1011 / 1,000)) * \text{MIN}((4,655 - 4,222) / (0.6 * 4,655), 1))$

Score =  $1,011 - 87.31 - 74.43$

Score = 849