

# 2011 SSA Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

Waller Texas  
November 12, 2011

## In Attendance

QT John Godfrey  
XM Mike Smith  
UH Hank Nixon  
BB John Cochrane  
KM Ken Sorenson  
X John Good (volunteer)

## Election of Officers and Committee Appointments

RC Chair	UH
Secretary	XM
Rules Writer	X
Rules Change Summary	QT
Pilots' Opinion Poll writer	BB
Pilots' Opinion Poll publisher	UH/KM/AA
Pilot Ranking List	JL
Handicap Sub-Committee Chair	DS
Handicap Sub-Committee	UH, Dan Cole
Handicap Sub-Committee	Need one other
Diagram contact person for Seaborn	QT

## Future Schedule

Date	Action	Assignee
11/23	2011 Meeting Minutes to committee	XM/KM
11/30	2012 Draft rule changes to committee	QT
12/7	Rules Change Summary to committee	QT
12/14	Committee responses back to Chair	ALL
12/15	Publish minutes on SSA website, Publish Poll results	UH/QT
12/22	Publish Rules Change Summary on SSA website	UH/QT
1/15	Blue book cutoff date - documents transmitted to Hobbs	KM/UH
May, July	2012 RC Election announcement	UH
Open 9/30	2012 Pilot Poll announcement	UH/KM
8/21	2012 Pilot Poll questions to writer	ALL
9/7	Draft poll to committee	BB
9/21	Poll to Aland for publication	BB
10/18	Poll closed	UH
Nov	2012 RC Meeting	UH

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### Administration

1. Entry Fees/tow costs. We need to keep organizers from losing money while keeping costs to contestants in line.  
RC strongly prefers fixed fee plus tows method. Waivers for increased charges as needed. Don't try to recover fixed fees with tow fees. KM waivers OK.
2. Fixed entry vs. fee +tows. Encourage this format, especially for western or itinerate contests.  
Yes
3. Adjust maximum tow fee?  
\* Rule change: Max tow fee is now \$52
4. Organizer's checklist. Delete proof of ownership check box. Third request.  
UH to contact Denise, Easton, Seaborn.
5. Contest Summary report form-add box for "number of days" flown- KM 10/27  
X to add this to form. Pilot registration will add check box for Flarm. Add SPOT tracking check box and SPOT URL to registration form.
6. Insurance- BOD asks for consideration of guidance to be provided as to coverage. QT/BB 12/2, KM, 8H, Costello 2/2/11 . 8H Telephone.  
Leave as is based on recommendation from Costello, Jan 2011 letter.
7. Publish contest schedule earlier- RAS/ Cochrane. Can we work out how to get BOD approval (excom?) before Fall meeting to permit publishing Nationals schedule sooner?  
Will develop a system for contest organizer mentors to help develop new sites and new organizations, to help with more timely selection of Nationals sites, and to mentor organizers.  
KM to do.  
Request that Excom, rather than full board, approve National site selection.  
KM to do.
8. Rules complexity- Burch, QT 2/18  
QT article in Soaring magazine. Reference guide to the rules. Much of the complexity is to make the contests more pilot-friendly, points for near start miss, points for near finish miss, points for devaluation, points for near turn-point miss, area task.  
BB to write Contest Corner article.
9. "Rules for Dummies" KM,FP 1/31, QT 2/21. Does the guide to the rules adequately meet this need? SSA Guide to Competition. Where is the rules dumbed down X document? Appendix to rules. We need a very short document explaining the rules.

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X/QT to work together on this.

10. Contest reporting. KM/Reinholt 8/6, Shakman 8/3, QT/Shakman 10/18, BB  
The contest manager is responsible for managing the contest web site. Bloggers are welcome, just not on the SSA website. Doug Easton should not give access to the SSA website unless he receives authorization from the contest manager. Publish BB annual review of contest accidents after RC review meeting. Add "Safety Report" to committee assignments and calendar, published at the same time as the minutes. The theme will focus on lessons learned for contest rules.
11. Scoring foreign pilots- is it time to score as regular contestants in Nationals? UH  
Mixed opinion.  
Will Poll 2012
12. Waiver requests- put common requests on sanction application. BB 10/18  
This is a communication issue.  
X and BB to work on a document outlining organizer options within the rules and available as waivers.
13. Awards- retiring travelling trophies- KS/Peter Smith 2/19. UH- maybe some funding to help support this could come from sanction surplus.  
Trophies to stay in the museum with Plaques to the recipient?  
Ask Karl to survey past winners. RC is amenable to retiring the trophies. Make up some nice glass-like trophies.
14. Use of sanction surplus - Gleason, QT, KS  
Make this a line item on the SSA asset sheet.  
QT to head this up, prepare list of guidelines focused on promoting and growing contests. Incentives to develop new sites. Necessary infrastructure (eg scales). Seminars, Camps, CD radio?
15. Revise contest forms SSA SC40(Contest report) and SSA SC42(Accident report) to be either fillable PDF or MS Word to make completion (sometimes by more than 1 person) easier. Sheppe 5/20/11  
X to reissue the forms as fillable pdf.

### Participation

16. Contest participation – KM study Total entries flat, Nationals down substantially.  
Total participation in 2011 was about same as 2010. Regionals went up some. Nationals went down. Schedule: Sat-Sun. We need more supply of contests. More close contests. Make it clear that regionals are also training camps. Combine camps and contests.  
RC reviewed poll results on participation questions.

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Issues: Getting new pilots to Regionals. Getting regional pilots to nationals.

Two polls: 1) Seeding list for Nationals issues.  
2) Open poll for general participation.

Open poll:

Do they fly XC? Do they fly OLC? Do they fly SSA contests?

Are they interested in flying contests?

Interested in attending a camp?

What are the factors that might affect coming? Barriers? Mentoring, training, crewless support, social, camping, cost, distance, contest length, welcoming, dangerous, need better instruments, suitable glider, other

Poll prepared by BB, preamble.

Announce/advertise on SSA home page, RAS, PRL list, Enews,

17. Barriers to participation – Poll comments Time and Money- Crew/crewless pilots –BB

\* Rules change 4.2: Reduce the minimum number of scheduled days to 3. BB to write up a procedure for organizers to support crewless pilots.

18. Mix contests with camps and other events to promote contest exposure and participation.

More camps

19. Mid winter poll re Nationals. KM suggestion?

Issues:

Mifflin: Allow standards to fly with 2% handicap - encourages Standards to come? Handicap Standard/15M, encourages Standards and older gliders.

Montague:

Poll:

Limited handicap range for Standard Nationals 2012 Montague. Limited to .915 up to .95 to include LS4, Discus, ASW24, DG 300.

Limited handicap range for 15M Nationals at Mifflin. Limited range .88 to .91 to bring in older 15M, ASW20, LS6, Ventus1.

Limited handicap range for 15M Nationals at Mifflin. Limited range .88 to .94 to bring in older 15M and current Standard class.

White paper now? – who?. Poll above and also poll about mixed FAI classes and East and West Nationals. Wait for white paper to develop the questions. Check with other

countries: Australia, NZ, France, Brits, Germans, Italy

### Nationals Options

20. Site selection –Shakman 8/2.

We do run Regionals at sites before Nationals. Many sites have special characteristics. The biggest problem at Logan was the climbout. OK to go back

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to Logan, probably not for Sports regionals. Problem this year was weak weather. Logan should be encouraged. OK to go back.

21. Multiple handicapped class for Nationals- BB 10/18  
Canada solution- BB 3/8  
See above
22. East-West Nationals – BB 10/18  
See above

### Sailplanes/ Equipment

23. Flarm- poll comments, the UK rules are restrictive -BB 4/11. Stay the course and encourage adoption by pilots when available.  
UK is using Flarm with “stealth mode” required – they’re concerned about leaching. Seems to be working. Portables are available and were used at Uvalde. BB used at Uvalde, worked well. Flarm and Clearnav displays were useless for leaching. Flarm logger is not working yet. Prototype brick should be at the convention. RC will continue to monitor.
24. Flight Loggers- Add Fly With CE gen 2 to approved list. QT 10/10.  
Yes.  
QT will test. Will replace the current FlyWithCE logger.
25. Revisit the prohibition on the in-flight use of electronic devices that report weather data, since we cannot police their use. Weather depictions are now commonly available on cell phones and GPS navigation receivers. Poll results support maintaining limitation.  
No change in rules. Would add to contest cost.
26. Permit Spot as substitute for ELT- BB 10/18  
No change in rules. SPOT is already allowed. There is concern that some organizers would strongly object to this change.

### Start/ Finish

27. First time in finish cylinder sets finish- clarify. QT, XM 9/7, BB 10/8  
Fix this. Must allow for crossing the finish cylinder during the task and prior to the finish.  
X to rewrite.
28. Finish at airport boundary- Hobbs rules meeting- QT 6/30  
Current rules allow this.
29. Finish line with specified height- Hobbs rules meeting- QT 6/30  
In the interest of simplicity, no change.

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30. Score distance points only for finish TBD feet below bottom of cylinder. BB 10/18
- \* **Rule change.** More than 200 ft. below finish height, no speed. 10.9.2.3 “from the ground to 200 ft. below min finish height”. Change diagrams. Winscore change

### Tasking/Flying

31. Radio check before takeoff- JJ  
No rule change but RC strongly encourages both towpilots and glider pilots to check their radios as part of their pre-flight procedures. Should not be done during the launch. Towplanes must have working radios.  
**X will look in the rules to see if there is somewhere to add this.**  
**BB will add to safety checklist.**
32. Permit Assigned Task in Sports. KM,WE,QT 5/2, BB 5/2. Helpful to make Club more like WGC, but may not accommodate a wide range of handicaps.  
No change. This can be achieved with an MAT with all assigned turnpoints or with a TAT with all small turnpoints until the last one, which is large.
33. MinDist for handicapped FAI class should be 50 miles. Include in rules.  
No change. Distance like sports.
34. Task length. Variety of opinions found in the Poll comments. Poll does not suggest change in the rules, however comments support improved CD/ task advisor guidance.  
No change in rules.
35. Steering turn. Consider larger than 1 mile – QT 6/30- Hobbs  
No change. This has not been a problem.
- 36- Require radio call at steering turn for safety. QT 6/30- Hobbs  
Discussion on the pros and cons of radio call requirement. Decided to not add a rule. CD has discretion to request calls in specific circumstances. Pilots may always make safety calls on 123.3 if needed  
No change.
37. Team Flying. Should we allow this in Regionals for mentoring? Nationals for US Team training/experience? 2010 agenda, 2011 Poll.  
Regionals - continue by waiver.  
**Should be added to list to tell contest organizers about it. We need more experience in regionals before allowing it in Nationals.**
38. Permit CD to specify a minimum height over terrain (SUA file). BB 10/18  
No rule change.

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### Scoring

39. Scoring program error. Rule vs. scoring program- KM, BB, UH 2/18, QT 2/18  
Problem has been fixed. Change from 400-600 didn't make it into Sports 2/18/11. Some SUA files generated by Leibacher have errors. Watch for odd distances. Ted Wagners data is OK.
40. Day cancellation after the fact, for fairness– Shakman letter 8/2, QT, Shakman 10/18  
Very difficult for the CD to do this from a practical standpoint. How to decide what was fair?  
No change.
41. Another Winscore bug- BB8/18, BB 8/27  
This is not a bug. This is a characteristic of the scoring change made last year. It is possible to receive higher points for a longer distance flown and actually get more points, than someone who has flown faster, but a shorter distance.
42. Discuss a rewrite of scoring formulas over the winter. BB. QT 2/18. This relates to complexity - refer to 8 above. Note that changes beyond improving clarity require formal rules change process.  
X to put all the term definitions into one place.  
Concern about introducing errors by changing the formulas. Focus instead on more/better explanation of existing rules/formulas.  
X to look at separating as much as possible the devaluation from the raw scoring. Plain English explanation in Rules for Dummies, 3 page document.  
QT to prepare a CD guide to the rules using the appendix. Include: How do you set good tasks.
43. Add mixed FAI class to Winscore options.  
\* Rule change. Used waiver last year. Need appendix to explain options. Used at Mifflin, Wurtsboro, Moriarty, Elmira. Good feedback. Poll support at 80%. Add to winscore options. Allow multiple "Sports" classes. Also include the option in FAI class rules: Handicapping with no adjustment for weight and allows water. Set minimum distance at 50 miles. "Sports raw handicaps" with no further adjustments. Assigned tasks are allowed.
44. Consider for Sports regional contests undoing the scoring change where short finishes may lose to long land out. QT 11/6  
No changes. Keep rules the same for Sports and other classes for simplicity.

### Class Issues

45. 20M 2 seat class –BB 5/2. Mostly this seems an issue for USTC.  
We need to accommodate these gliders. Will do so in Sports. Have plenty of classes already.

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46. Club Class- Class growth- progression. – Have we seen any?  
Not much club class activity. No change in rules.
47. Class specific seeding for Club Class when scored within Sports  
No change.
48. Recognition of Club Class within Sports – parallel scoring.  
Allowed presently. Done in 2011.
49. Handicap list- DG 808 KM 5/2  
UH will work with Stevenson.  
Also look at ASW27 v ASW29 and Ventus 2B vs. Ventus 2C.  
Need consistent weight adjustment.  
KM to send out notice to send handicap comments to UH by Dec 15
50. Adopt handicapped FAI class into Regional rules. Well received as tested in regional contests this year. Poll It 1 supports with 84%.  
See 43.
51. Allow multiple sports classes in regional contests. Try some other possible options under waiver. BB -10/18 It 10.  
See 43.
52. 13.5 M class. KM/F Pin 3/21, KM 4/5, QT/BB 4/6, Poll  
\* Rule Change: Drop PW5 class (FAI has dropped as of 2014). Due to inadequate participation.  
Allow 13.5 M class by waiver for 2012 in Regionals or SuperRegionals. This is an experiment. Suggestions from the 2012 organizer is welcome. Handicapped.  
No water ballast.
53. Merge the Standard class with 15M class in US contests BB  
No change. See above. #43.
54. Minor modifications/ handicaps. Question raised- will fuselage vent change handicap?. 5U/BB 8/31  
UH recused himself from any decision on the vent issue and did not participate in discussion. BB has a vent and has not seen a performance change that justifies a handicap adjustment. Other vents are used and are not adjusted for. This modification is considered in the category of sealing for which handicaps are not adjusted.

### Errata

### Safety Topics



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55. BB safety report.  
Discussed. Agreed it would be published. Will encourage Regionals to try worst day adjustment. Changed min finish height rule.
56. Critical Safety Checklist. Add organized retrieve to this list. Additional BB Topics  
Need to have a proper retrieve system.  
Need to add radio communication.  
BB will add to Critical Safety Checklist.

#### Communications With Pilots

57. Getting Our Message Out  
BB is doing a good job with Contest Corner.  
Additional BB publications are well received.  
  
KM to contact organizer mentors to get the word out and work with organizers.

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### **Contest Organizer mentors?**

Karl/Iris

Noel Mayes

Rick Walters

Tony Smolder

### **Contest Corner Articles**

Why are the rules so complex.

Crewless pilot self-organization.

Radio for team flying

### **US Team Committee**

What is the current eligible handicap list? Published where?

### **Contest Organizer communication**

#### **KM to do**

Use fixed fee with tow fee if possible.

Allowed tow fee increased for 2012.

If you need to charge more, ask.

Try to put fixed fees in the fixed fees.

Ferry fee should be treated as a fixed fee.

Offer a fixed fee to tow pilots for their costs

Suggest a Ride program during the day after launch – tow pilots make more money.

Remind organizers of flexibility in classes, length of contest, split period, fees, water/no water.

They should publish their cost structure well in advance.

Use updated contest forms – they have changed. Which forms changed?

Note that valid days by class are needed.

Turn in contest forms early.

What waivers are pre-approved this year

Remind regarding task lengths

Combine contest with other events.

Be friendly and helpful to crewless pilots.

Radio usage. Can allow team flying.

Check SUA files for accuracy

Worst day adjustment available. Consider as a safety issue.

Encourage camps/training.

Rules changes for 2012: finish height penalty, Mixed FAI classes allowed, dropped PW5

Use contest safety checklist.

Use appendix

Use Guide to Competition