

SSA Rules Committee 2014 Safety Review
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This was, fortunately, a good year with no injuries. The reported accidents/incidents were all off-field landing damage. Though in the past off - field landing damage has been strongly correlated with late field selection, low thermaling attempts, poor pattern planning, and low/slow approaches, I have not located or analyzed the traces of this year's events to see if these or other issues were present.

Region 10 south. "Upon approach noticed high line wires and banked. I hit a tree and a livestock fence. The glider [libelle] was totaled. I am OK."

Region 2. "Off airport landing in to sloped plowed field. Possible ground loop damage. No tail boom break."

Region 4 North. "Gear collapse on off-field landing."

18 Meter nationals had a disqualification for unsafe flying, and subsequent rule 9.13 action. Though laborious, the fact that this process in the end worked is an important milestone.

Nephi and Moriarty both had days in which the task was opened under iffy circumstances. CDs should be reminded that start open 15 minutes from last launch is only a guideline, that they should consult task advisers before opening a task, and in general to be mindful of safety considerations when thunderstorms loom.

We have verbal reports of two gear-up landings at Perry and one at Mifflin.

One gear-up landing at Perry was noteworthy. Glider #1 landed gear up, ending up about 1/3 down the runway. Glider #2 overflew glider #1, had trouble in the flare apparently due to cg problems, and stalled in knocking the gear out. Now we have two gliders blocking the only runway, in a contest with 65 gliders.

This event occurred in the context of a big discussion over the appropriate finish height, with many pilots lobbying the CD for a lower finish, and succeeding in that argument.

The event reminds us that one consideration in finish height should be "what if the runway is blocked." A higher finish may seem unnecessary when all is going well, but a little extra time can be useful if something like this happens.

Thanks to the CDs and CMs who turned in incident reports and others who provided additional information.