

TO: SSA Leadership and advisors
FROM: Rick Sheppe, IGC Delegate
DATE: 16 February 2018

SUBJ: Report to SSA on 2018 IGC Agenda

The annual meeting of the International Gliding Commission will take place in Freudenstadt, Germany on 2-3 March 2018, the same weekend as the SSA Convention. Sorry I won't make it to the Convention!

This document summarizes the agenda, provides relevant links, gives opinions, and asks for voting instructions.

Current status of the agenda

The agenda is a seven-page document ([pdf](#)) supported by about sixty annexes. The annexes are the reports, bids, and proposals. Links to all the documents can be found by starting here: <https://www.fai.org/igc-documents> and clicking through to the 2018 Plenary Agenda. Links to individual bids and proposals are in the tables below.

The agenda is overloaded, in my opinion, and some of the issues up for a vote are controversial. It should be an interesting meeting.

Bids for competitions

Three of the five competitions up for bid this year are competitive. I ask the US Team Committee for voting instructions.

37 th WGC in Open, 20m and 18m Classes (2021)						
Bidder	Site	Terrain	Airspace	Day 1	Entry/Tow (€)	USA vote
France	Central	Flat	Difficult	July 10	950/50	?
Hungary	Central	Flat	Difficult	July 25	900/70	?
Poland	Ostrow	Flat	Moderate	July	?	?

11 th WWGC in Club, Std and 18m Classes (2021)						
Bidder	Site	Terrain	Airspace	Day 1	Entry/Tow (€)	USA vote
Spain	Pyrenees	Mountains	Easy	May	860/60	?
Poland	Northern	Flat	Moderate	May 15	750/49	?
UK	HusBos	Flat	Difficult	?	?	?

12 th JWGC in Club and Std Classes (2021)						
Bidder	Site	Terrain	Airspace	Day 1	Entry/Tow (€)	USA vote
Austria	Wiener-Neustadt	Flat	Difficult	Late June	690/75	?
Czech Rep	Central	Hilly	Easy	Late July	650/50	?
Poland	Leszno	Flat	Moderate	Aug 1	275/50	?

21 st EGC in Club, Std, and 20m Classes						
Bidder	Site	Terrain	Airspace	Day 1	Entry/Tow (€)	USA vote
Lithuania	Pociunai	Flat	Moderate	July 1	575/50	✓

4 th PAGC in Std and 15m Classes						
Bidder	Site	Terrain	Airspace	Day 1	Entry/Tow (USD)	USA vote
Brazil	Northeast	Plateaus	Easy	Sep 12	\$700/\$55	✓

Proposals affecting International Competitions

Here are the topics and our current voting plan.

Topic	USA vote
Minimum distance depends on class	Against
World Soaring Cup	For
WWGC and JWGC may be combined, beginning in 2021	Unsure ¹
Change calculation of speed points and distance points (our proposal)	For
Remove wingloading limit from 13.5m class competitions	Unsure ²
Eliminate start time reporting	For
Add controls to scoring software parameters	For
Make height control at the start mandatory instead of optional	Against
Require proper identification in OGN tracking	For ³
Distinguish between anti-collision FLARM and OGN FLARM	Unsure ⁴

Delete prohibition of external aid to competitors	For
Delete prohibition of carriage of instruments that enable blind flying	For ⁵
Invite reigning champions one more time	Against
Hold an e-concept world championship in 2019	Against ⁶
Combine 13.5m, Club, Standard and 15m WGCs into a single event	Against ⁷
Use both even and odd years for the multiclass WGCs	For
Change WGC and CGC intervals from 2 years to 3 years	Unsure ⁸
Reduce WWGC from 3 classes to 2	Unsure ⁹

Notes:

1. Several WWGC competitors around the world have expressed disapproval of this one. I would like to get Sarah Arnold's opinion.
2. This would eliminate microlights from the 13.5m Class. The class would become a short-wing 15m Class, which some people find attractive. It won't be cheap. This proposal is intertwined with other proposals about e-concept and the championships calendar. This will be tricky to resolve. Advice from our 13.5m Team is sought.
3. This seems to be putting the cart before the horse. OGN is not a feature of the rules yet. But if OGN is to become a necessary aspect of future competitions, then yes, stealthy operations should be prohibited.
4. I don't understand this proposal. Perhaps it will be clarified at the meeting.
5. This is not a proposal to allow blind flying. It merely suggests removing the language that claims we can enforce the rule.
6. See Note 2. This proposal is unacceptable in its current form because it eliminates the 13.5m Class from the WGC calendar with insufficient notice. It should be possible to continue the e-concept experiment without killing the 13.5m Class. Advice from our 13.5m Team is sought.
7. See Notes 2 and 5. Unlike the e-concept proposal to kill the 13.5m Class, this one proposes to strangle it to death slowly. The result would be the same.
8. This is fairly radical, and it appeared with no warning. The adoption of this proposal would make it easier for pilots to participate in all multiclass WGCs. It would also reduce the number of lifetime opportunities for Juniors from 2 or 3 to 1 or 2. Finally, it would reduce the frequency of EGCs, which are very popular, and the PAGC, which is not even mentioned (as usual). The reasons given to support the proposal are not very strong. I'm inclined to vote against it. Advice sought.
9. See Note 1. I think that the women should decide for themselves. Also, there is no current rule about the number of classes in the WWGC. If this idea is supported, then the proposal should be converted into a guideline and not become a rule.

Proposals affecting Badges, Diplomas and Records

Topic	USA vote
Require 50 km from home for Silver Distance	For
Move FR technical requirements out of Sporting Code Main Section	For
Sharpen up the rules regarding multiple Flight Recorders	For
Eliminate Release Point as possible Start Point for closed course flights	For ¹⁰
Remove a paradox in the boundary between the 25% and 28% rules	For
Remove “waypoint codes” in favor of coordinates	For
Remove cylinder OZ distance deduction	Unsure ¹¹
Eliminate landing certificates	For
Simplify declared 3TP performance Task	For
Eliminate straight distance performance	For
Improve Flight Recorder requirements	Unsure ¹²

Notes:

10. The second half of this proposal – to disallow turnpoints in distance-to-a-goal declarations – needs to be justified before we will vote for it.
11. This is the right way to do it, and it should have been this way from the beginning. However, changing it at this point makes it difficult to make a fair comparison of old and new records, especially for the smaller distances (e.g. 100km speed triangle). Advice from B&R Committee is requested.
12. This unnecessary proposal suggests that our FR experts are not doing their jobs properly. Voting for this proposal is an insult to the experts, and voting against it is an insult to Germany. I’ll probably flip a coin.

Advice and voting instructions can be sent to rws@sover.net .