

2007 SRA Pilot Opinion Poll Results

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Percentages usually do not add up to 100% because multiple selections can be made on many questions. Also, some questions are not answered by all survey submitters.

Analysis Categories		All
Summary of detailed data representing All respondents.		124
1.0	Demographics	All
1.1	What class(es) in National contests did you fly this year?	1-26 2% World 3% Sport 15% Standard 9% 15Meter 18% 18Meter 6% Open 4% Senior 6%
1.2	What class(es) in Regional contests did you fly this year?	1-26 - World - Sport 21% Standard 18% 15Meter 23% 18Meter 6% Open 5% Senior 2%
2.0	US Team Selection Policy	All
	US Team Selection Policy limits a pilot to participation in only one WGC event per calendar year.	All
2.1	Should we allow multiple venue participation in one calendar year when a pilot otherwise qualifies for them?	Yes 56% No 38%
2.2	US Team Selection Policy states that, to be eligible for selection, a pilot must have a Pilot Score not less than the smaller of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of the highest Pilot Score in the Class. • The fifth highest-ranking Pilot Score in the Class. Should we continue with the existing restrictions?	Yes 70% No 21%
2.3	If No, what minimum percentage of the highest Pilot Score should be required?	95% 2% 90% 4% 85% 6% 80% 3% none 10%

2.4	If No, what minimum ranking in the Class should be required?	4th 5% 6th 2% 7th 2% 8th 1% 10th 4% none 11%
3.0	Contest Sanction Fees	All
3.1	Current SSA contest sanction fees include a surcharge (\$10 for Regionals, \$20 for Nationals) to contribute toward the annual NAA fee on the SSA, although there is no longer any linkage to our participation in international competitions. In 2008 the amount that the SSA Board decided must be contributed toward the NAA fee will be less than what is currently being collected by the surcharge. Rather than reducing the SSA sanction fee to reflect this, the US Team Committee is requesting that we keep the sanction fee the same and use the excess to help fund the US Team. Should the excess sanction fee be used to help fund the US Team?	Yes 79% No 20%
4.0	Motorized Sailplanes	All
	Current rules allow motorized sailplanes to participate in all SSA Sanctioned Championships except for the 15 Meter and Standard Class Nationals.	All
4.1	Should motorized sailplanes be allowed to participate in the 15 Meter Class Nationals?	Yes 47% No 51%
4.2	Should motorized sailplanes be allowed to participate in the Standard Class Nationals?	Yes 47% No 50%
5.0	Period of National Championships	All
5.1	For all National FAI Class Championships, the rules state that the period of competition shall be ten consecutive days from Tuesday through Thursday. Should the period of competition for National FAI Class Championships be changed to Monday through Wednesday?	Yes 29% No 64%
5.2	For the National Sport-Class Championships, the rules state that the period of competition shall be at least seven, but not more than ten consecutive days (dates as announced). Should the period of competition for the National Sport-Class Championships be changed to ten consecutive days as it is for all other National Championships?	Yes 65% No 31%
6.0	Handicap Change Timeline	All
6.1	The current policy regarding handicap changes is to delay the changing of incorrect handicaps until the end of the soaring season in which an error is identified. Should handicap changes be treated as a major rule changes and be subject to a additional one-year delay prior to implementation?	Yes 15% No 82%
7.0	Handicap Adjustments	All

	Sport-Class rules specify formulas for adjusting handicaps based on weight, winglets, and wingspan, and further state that "other significant aerodynamic modifications" may result in a lower handicap factor being assessed.	All
7.1	Should a lower handicap be assessed for any aerodynamic modification to the glider's originally manufacture condition, regardless of its significance?	Yes 34% No 61%
7.2	Our Current rules specify that a handicap adjustment must be made for changes in weight, wingspan, or winglets, and they prescribe a method for doing so. Should we expand the list of specific modifications that would require an adjustment?	Yes 42% No 55%
7.3	Should a lower handicap be assessed for a sailplane that has been prepared for competition using techniques like smoothing, profiling, and sealing?	Yes 4% No 93%
8.0	Start At Last Exit From Cylinder	All
8.1	Distance to the first turn is currently computed as the distance from the center of the start cylinder to the first turnpoint, minus the start radius. If you exit out the side of the cylinder, you may cover distance that you do not get credit for. Should we compute the distance to the first turnpoint from your last exit from the start cylinder?	Yes 72% No 27%
9.0	Reduced Landout Penalty	All
9.1	Rules changes for 2007 Regionals included an increase in maximum distance points from 400 to 600, with the intention of implementing this change in the Nationals in 2008 if the pilots supported it. Do you want to include the increase in maximum distance points for Nationals in 2008?	Yes 90% No 10%
10.0	In-flight Weather Data	All
	Other than an aircraft-band VHF radio, any device that allows in-flight access to weather data is currently prohibited. However, real time graphical weather data is readily available on cell phones and portable GPS devices.	All
10.1	Should we maintain or eliminate the in-flight ban on cell phone or satellite radio weather information?	Maintain 73% Eliminate 27%
10.2	If you would prefer to maintain these prohibitions, should we take steps to enforce the rules, such as cockpit spot-checks?	Yes 52% No 29%
11.0	Team Flying	All
11.1	Should we maintain or eliminate the ban on radio communications between pilots at Regional Championships?	Maintain 65% Eliminate 34%
11.2	Should we maintain or eliminate the ban on radio communications between pilots at National Championships?	Maintain 65% Eliminate 33%
11.3	If you would prefer to maintain these prohibitions, should we take steps to enforce the rules, such as radio scanning, and examination of flight logs?	Yes 38% No 43%

11.4	Should US Team pilots flying as guests at Nationals or Regionals be allowed to practice team flying for an upcoming WGC, provided that they use a personal band "walkie-talkie" for team communications and continue to monitor 123.3?	Yes 89% No 10%
12.0	Other Issues	All
12.1	Are there any other issues that you would like the SSA Rules Committee to address, any rules-related problems you observed this year, or any questions that you would like to see included on future SRA polls?	39%
12.2	Did you experience or witness any significant safety-related incidents that the rules committee should be aware of?	23%

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Return to main [survey page](#).

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