

The SSA Competition Rules describe the requirements that pilots must meet to enter a Sanctioned soaring contest. These requirements are summarized here, for your convenience. Please refer to the Rules for full details and authority.

Submit to: Soaring Society of America, P.O. Box 2100 , Hobbs, NM 88241-2100.
Tel (575) 392-1177, Fax (575) 392-8154, e-mail <contests@ssa.org> Last Update 11/3/2008.



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General requirements:

- Be a member of the SSA
- Hold a valid glider license
- Have an airworthy sailplane to fly
- Know and be prepared to follow the applicable FARs (Federal Aviation Regulations)
- Know and be prepared to follow the SSA Competition Rules

Experience requirements to enter a Sport-Class Regional Contest:

- Have earned a Silver badge and have attended a Cross-country instruction course, **or**
- Be listed in the current SSA Pilot Ranking List (which results from flying in a Sanctioned contest within the past three years)

Experience requirements to enter an FAI-class Regional Contest:

- Have earned the Silver badge, **and**
- Be listed in the current SSA Pilot Ranking List or have earned the Gold Badge distance leg

Experience requirements to enter National contests:

- Be listed in the current SSA Pilot Ranking List
- Foreign pilots may qualify by having an FAI Gold badge and presenting evidence of experience in soaring competition

What to bring to a contest:

- Proof of SSA membership through the end of the contest
- A valid pilot's license with Private or Commercial Glider privileges (foreign pilots may present the equivalent license or certification from their country, with the appropriate US endorsement)
- An airworthy glider that meets the rules of the class you plan to enter
- All the paperwork that makes the glider legal to fly (Registration, Certificate of Airworthiness, etc.)
- A parachute for each seat in the glider, packed within 120 days of the scheduled end of the contest
- Proof that you own the glider, or written permission from the owner (on the SSA Pilot Registration Form)
- If you will be a minor on the first scheduled flying day (practice or competition), permission of your parent or guardian (on the SSA Pilot Registration Form)
- Proof of liability insurance coverage for the glider valid through the end of the contest (a photocopy of the first page of the policy is the best form of this)

Entry Types

All entrants are either regular entrants or guests. Guests are either foreign pilots competing in a US National competition or any pilot who wishes to fly just part of a competition *and has made arrangements with contest organizers*. Guest pilots are scored, but their results do not affect the scores of regular entrants. Guests are not eligible to be declared the contest winner, nor to receive tangible awards (trophies and medallions). Guests must be members of the SSA, meet all entry requirements, and must follow all rules (or be covered by a waiver).

Team entries are those for which two or three pilots will act as pilot-in-command, either of a single-place or a multiplace glider. Each pilot must qualify and register, and the CD must be informed each day as to which pilot will be flying. Team entries are allowed in Regional and Sport National contests, but not in FAI-Class National contests.

Flying a glider that will seat more than one person constitutes a multiplace entry. The pilot is free to take passengers of his choice, or to fly solo (provided weight requirements are met each day). Multiplace entries are allowed in any contest and class whose rules they meet. A multiplace entry is not the same as a team entry, though it could be one if more than one pilot registered and if the pilot-in-command were designated to the CD each day. Two team pilots could fly together each day, or could take turns flying with passengers.

Entry Priority

All contests set an upper limit to the number of entrants. If more pilots wish to enter, there are rules by which entry priority is determined.

Every pilot has a ranking score (from 0 to 100) taken from the current SSA Pilot Ranking List, or from a contest since the ranking list was published; pilots who are not on the Ranking List have a ranking score of zero. For all contests except a Sports-class Regional contest, the ranking score represents the pilot's entry priority (higher is better); for some slots at a Sport-class regionals, the entry priority number is 100 minus the ranking score (lower-ranking pilots have higher priority). At Regional contests, additional priority is given to in-Region pilots and pilots who have won an SSA Medallion at the same contest in recent years.

The date that is 60 days prior to the start of the contest is known as the Preferential Entry Deadline. Entries received prior to this are ranked by pilot entry priority; on that date applicants are admitted to the contest in this order. Any slots that are open (or become open) after the Preferential Entry Deadline are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Foreign Pilots

A foreign pilot is one who is not a US Citizen or Resident Alien. Foreign pilots are fully eligible to be regular entrants in Regional contests – they can be declared the winner and take home trophies and medallions. In US National contests, they must fly as guests.

Foreign pilots must meet the same entry requirements that US pilots do. They must be SSA members and must follow US competition rules and Federal Aviation Regulations. They need not hold a permanent US pilot's license – they can substitute the equivalent license or certification from their country. In lieu of appearing on the SSA Pilot Ranking List, they can qualify for entry by showing evidence of having earned an FAI Gold badge and of experience in a soaring contest.

Though foreign pilots must fly as guests at National contests, those who have not flown in a recent US contest (and are thus not listed on the SSA Pilot Ranking List) are eligible for special entry priority. Two entry positions are available, one per country with priority by date of application. Other foreign pilots may enter if space is available.

Foreign pilots that are listed on the SSA Pilot Ranking List qualify for entry in the same way as US pilots.