

To: John Good, SSA Contest Committee Chairman

Subject: SSA Handicap Committee Report – 10 Feb 2016

The SSA Handicap Committee currently consists of:

Mr. Tim McAllister (Chair), Mr. Robin Clark, Mr. Rick Sheppe and Mr. David Stevenson

The existing committee remains in need of a re-boot with Sheppe currently engaged in IGC business nearly full time and Stevenson no longer actively participating in committee work. It is my hope that the Regional directors put out the word within their region and bring forward names of qualified and interested individuals from across the country for re-constituting the Handicap Committee. Please refer all interested candidates to Chair, Tim McAllister timmcallister@sbcglobal.net or 214-681-8308

Current activities of the committee, in coordination with the Rules Committee (RC) and US Team Committee (USTC), include:

- Finalizing the 2016 Handicap List for use at the 2015 Seniors (March) including
 - Creating and Updating handicaps for HP-24, FJ1, ASH 31 (21m), LSA Phoenix
 - In addition, the Handicap Committee is prepared to address the appearance of a number of new gliders like the Ventus 3 (15/18m), JS-1C, GP 14 (13.5m), Mini-LAK (13.5m) etc. as they make their expected first appearances over the course of the next year(s)
- Harmonizing Handicap List Notations (specifically the “C” – indicating US Club Class Team Selection eligibility) with the USTC Club Class Glider eligibility list, which includes, but is not limited to US Club Class Nationals eligible gliders so that pilots may know what is an eligible glider for selection to the US Club Class Team.
 - The Handicap Committee continues to look for direction from the USTC for this final determination.
- Making recommendation to the Rules Committee (RC) concerning rules for FAI handicapped Classes that allow waterballast. What’s suggested is an adaption of the proposed 2016 rules for the FAI Standard class, as follows:
 - Handicap would be taken from the SSA handicap table, but all variants (including motorgliders) of one model receive the same handicap
 - Pilots may use waterballast and fly at whatever legal weight they choose

Given the Handicapping System we have now, this is a positive way to move forward. Any efforts to make water-ballasted, handicapped racing more “fair” will necessarily involve a rather drastic re-think of the current system (handicaps, reference weights, weight adjustment formula, etc.) The Handicap Committee stands ready to undertake this rather involved exercise should the above recommendation prove to be insufficient.

The committee intends to embark on the following efforts in 2015:

- Bringing new members to the committee through the assistance of the Regional Directors and other outreach. Ideally, the committee would consist of 4 regular members and the chair. With this in mind, the committee is looking for 3 or 4 well qualified individuals with the particular skill-set of : 1) being interested in, and ideally a participant in, handicap racing (US Club , Sports, "FAI Handicap" Classes), and 2) have computer skills, in particular with data analytics. Members of this committee may be expected to do most of their work in the fall/winter months, with occasional need for in-season handicap updates/decisions.
- Analyze the effect of new rules aimed at enabling FAI handicapped class racing that permits the use of waterballast.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy S. McAllister