



# Improving US Team Soaring Performance v1.0

By US Team Committee

## Overview

Our goal is to improve US Soaring Team performance and results in future World Gliding Championships.

To that end, during the summer of 2015, the US Team Committee began considering changes to the selection and preparation process for our Teams. Outside sources were consulted including former US Team Members and the captains and coaches of the successful national soaring teams of England and France.

Based on our research, the US Team Committee proposes four initiatives which are necessary to field high scoring US Soaring Teams at World Gliding Championships:

### #1: Update US Team Selection Process

We developed and recommend the implementation of a revised selection process as defined in the document: Updated US Team Selection Process v1.0.

### #2: Training

This deserves considerable emphasis: We learned that most of the top British Team pilots fly 3 - 5 national-level contests per season. Top French pilots routinely spend 6 weeks a year in high-level racing and focused training.

While recognizing that US Team pilots do not have as much discretionary time as the Europeans, we must encourage US Team Squad Pilots to compete in two to three: US National Championships or FAI Category 1 contests or the Annual Team Training Camp each year. To that end we will develop:

- 1. Annual Training Camp(s):** We will organize Camps for current US Team members and upcoming pilots. These camps would be similar to the 2012 US Team Training Camp with the participation of invited International coaches. In addition, we will develop the coaching skills of current and past US Team members.
- 2. Other Training Sessions:** We will implement weekend training sessions, seminars, conference calls, and other virtual training methods to improve pair-flying interaction and racing tactics.

### #3: Continuity Of Knowledge

Successful national soaring teams have a low turnover of captains, managers, coaches and meteorologists. These highly experienced individuals are able to pass on their considerable experience to pilots new to the team or a particular contest site. The US Team Committee intends to improve our ability in these areas.

### #4: Growing The Pilot Pool

We believe that supporting our Junior Teams and younger pilots is a critical element in building US Soaring Teams that will compete effectively in the future.

We will focus on identifying, encouraging and coaching promising younger pilots to include inviting them to the US Team Training Camps and Sessions.