

# Soaring Society of America US Team Selection Policy

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## 0 Introduction

This document presents the SSA US Team Selection Policy approved by the SSA Board of Directors for use by the US Team Committee.

## GLOSSARY

Following are the definitions of several terms used in the balance of this document:

**CFS** Competition Fractional Score

**IGC** International Gliding Commission

**Junior** A pilot whose 25th birthday occurs in the current or a future calendar year, per US FAI Nationals rule 5.1.2.5, and Section 3, paragraph 7.8.2b of the FAI Sporting Code.

**CGC** Continental Gliding Championships (which includes all FAI Category 1 Continental Gliding Championships)

**PWC** Pre-World Contest

**SY** A USST selection year. Preceding years will be referred to as SY-1, SY-2, etc.

**USNSC** U.S. National Soaring Competition

**USST** U.S. Soaring Team

**WGC** World Gliding Championship

**WGCY** The year of an upcoming WGC. WGCY-1 is the year preceding a WGC (Usually the year in which the associated PWC is held). The year before that will be WGCY-2, and so on. Southern hemisphere WGC contest pilot selection will follow the normal 2 year WGC selection process regardless of the actual southern hemisphere contest dates.

## 1 Pilot Selection Policies

The USST members will be selected by the US Team Committee and approved by the SSA Board of Directors. The following considerations will be used in selecting the team members for each WGC event:

**1.1** Recent pilot performance in National and World competition

**1.2** The size of the U.S. Soaring Team as defined by the IGC and WGC organizers

**1.3** USST funding availability

**1.4** The number of participants in each USNSC

**1.5** The Club Class Nationals are used to select pilots for the Club Class WGC.

**1.6** Members of the US Team for the Junior and Feminine WGC's will be selected by results from any USNSC that are at least 60% of the winner's score.

**1.7** It is the pilot's responsibility to bring to the attention of the US Team Committee any concerns about this Policy or its implementation in a timely manner

## 2 Detailed Pilot Selection Process

A Pilot Score is calculated to provide a means of ranking pilots in each Competition Class, and thus of selecting members of the USST. The Pilot Score is calculated from the pilot's results in designated USNSCs, PWCs, WGCs, and CGCs (CGC results are treated identical to USNSC results); each contest result is expressed as a Competition Fractional Score (CFS).

### 2.1 Selection Schedule

**2.1.1** For all WGC classes, a selection will be made in WGCY-2, upon conclusion of the year's USNSCs, at which time the highest ranked pilot will be selected contingent upon their participation in the PWC as specified in Section 4.4.

**2.1.2** Any additional selections will be in made in WGCY-1.

**2.1.3** If a USST position becomes vacant and must be filled prior to the next scheduled selection, a special selection is held using the most current ranking and procedures.

**2.2.1** In each competition that contributes to USST selection, a pilot's results are expressed as a Competition Fractional Score (CFS):

### 2.2 Competition Results

**2.2.1**  $CFS = (\text{pilot's final point total}) / (\text{class winner's final point total})$  In other words, the CFS represents a fraction of the winner's total score. For this purpose, the winner of a USNSC is considered to be the highest-scoring US pilot; the winner of any other competition is simply the highest-scoring pilot.

**2.2.2** Club Class Pilot Selection: In order for a pilot's CFS to contribute toward US Team selection in the Club Class, it must have been earned while flying a glider that appears on the then current US Team Club Class Eligible Glider List. In the event the Club Class nationals is won by an ineligible glider, the next highest scoring pilot flying an eligible glider will be deemed the class winner for the nationals for US Team selection purposes.

**2.2.3** 13.5 m Class Pilot Selection: In order for a pilot's CFS to contribute toward US Team selection in the 13.5m Class, it must have been earned while flying a glider that meets the current 13.5m WGC rules and the pilot must fly in the Club or Sports US Nationals.

**2.2.3** 20m 2-Place Class Pilot Selection: In order for a pilot's CFS to contribute toward US Team selection in the 20m 2-Place Class, it must have been earned while flying a glider that meets the current 20m 2-Place WGC rules and the pilot must fly in the Open or Sports US Nationals. The Sports Class Nationals are handicapped while the Open Class Nationals are not. Only the pilot of record is selected; not the co-pilot.

### 2.3 Pilot Ranking

**2.3.1** In each USST selection year, pilots are ranked by Pilot Score in each Competition Class.

$$\text{PILOT SCORE} = 52 \times X + 48 \times Y + \text{BP}$$

Where the value of BP (Bonus Points) is calculated from the results of the most recent WGC:

BP = 1.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place

BP = 0.75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

BP = 0.50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

BP = 0.25 for 4<sup>th</sup> Place

BP = 0 for any other result

If a WGC took place during the Selection Year:

X = the larger of A, E, or G

Otherwise;

X = A

Y = the largest of A, B, C, D, E, F, or G (but Y must not be the same CFS as was used for X).

A = CFS from Competition Class USNSC held in SY

B = CFS from Competition Class USNSC held in SY-1

C = CFS from Competition Class USNSC held in SY-2

D = CFS from most recent PWC

E = CFS from most recent WGC

F = CFS from next-to-most-recent WGC

G = CFS from most-recent CGC

**2.3.2** If a valid USNSC is not held in a given year, results from previous USNSCs are used in sequence. For example if a Competition Class has no valid USNSC in SY, the results of the USNSC held in SY-1 would be used for A, results from SY-2 would be used for B, and from SY-3 would be used for C.

**2.3.3** If two or more pilots have identical Pilot Scores, CFS values are examined in the following sequence to decide relative rank; X, E, A, B, C, D, E, F.

**2.3.4** Results from a WGC or a PWC can be used to contribute to a Pilot Score only if there were at least eight contestants whose final score is greater than 60% for the class winner's final score. Results from the Standard, 15 Meter, 18 Meter, Open, 13.5m, 20m 2-Place, and Club Classes apply to any class. Results from the Junior and Feminine WGC and PWC are class-specific. Results from USNSCs and CGCs are class-specific (except 13.5m and 20m 2 Place which currently have no class-specific nationals) and can contribute only to a Pilot Score in the same Competition class as that in which they were obtained.

### **3 Pilot Eligibility**

**3.1** Only US Citizens and Resident Aliens can be members of the USST at any WGC.

**3.2** To be eligible for selection to the USST in a competition Class, a pilot must have a Pilot Score not less than the smaller of:

**3.2.1** 90% of the highest Pilot score in the class.

**3.2.2** The fifth highest Pilot Score in the class.

**3.3** FAI rules regarding the minimum pilot experience to attend a WGC will be followed. As of this document's date, these include:

#### ANNEX A to FAI SPORTING CODE SECTION 3

**3.4** A competitor must be a citizen or resident of the country of the entering NAC and satisfy the conditions of the FAI Sporting Code, General Section 3.7 on citizenship and representation, and must:

- o Hold a gold badge, or, hold a silver badge and have competed in at least two National Championships.
- o Have flown at least 250 hours as a pilot in command, of which at least 100 hours must be in sailplanes.
- o Hold a currently valid FAI Sporting License.

- o Hold a Pilot License or equivalent document issued or endorsed by the authorities of the country in which the sailplane is registered, or of the country where the Championships take place.
- o Know, understand, and abide by the FAI Sporting Code, General Section, Section 3 including Annex A and the Local Procedures issued for the event.

## **4 Pilot Selection**

**4.1** Selection of USST pilots is done as follows:

**4.1.1** First, the competition classes for a WGC event are ranked by the total number of contestants in the most recent three valid USNSCs. Let C1 represent the class that ranks first by this method, C2 represent the class that ranks second, and C3 represent the class that ranks third, etc. until all classes are covered. Let C1 represent the class that ranks first by this method, C2 represent the class that ranks second, and C3 represent the class that ranks third, etc. until all classes are covered.

**4.1.2** Next, pilots are selected for available USST positions.

- o The first pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C1;
- o The second pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C2;
- o The third pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C3.
- o Etc, until one pilot has been selected in each class. This selection procedure then repeats in the same sequence until all USST positions for the WGC event are filled or no eligible pilots remain.
- o If a point is reached where a class has no remaining eligible pilots, the process continues with the other classes as long as team positions and eligible pilots remain.

**4.2** A pilot is removed from a class's selection if:

**4.2.1** The pilot has already been selected as a member of the USST for any WGC event in the calendar year of the target WGC event. This includes any pilot who has received a separate specific invitation to participate (as is commonly extended to winners of the previous WGC).

**4.2.1** The pilot is unable to or elects not to participate.

**4.3** FAI rules regarding the number of pilots to attend a WGC in specific classes will be followed. As of this document's date, this policy is using the FAI document titled: 2014 edition (valid from 1 October 2014) of Annex A to Section 3 – Gliding, Rules for World and Continental Gliding Championships.

**4.4** WGCY-2 selections are contingent upon the pilot's achieving a final score greater than zero in the PWC event. Otherwise, all selections for the class will be made in WGCY-1.

**4.5** Collaborating with the Handicap Sub-Committee of the SSA Competition Committee, the US Team Committee shall produce and publish at least annually the Club Class Eligible Glider List, which will be similar to but not necessarily identical to that maintained by the IGC for international competition.

## **5 Notification of Selection**

**5.1** The Ranking List Manager will determine and publish ranking lists within two weeks of the availability of finalized score sheets from the relevant contests.

**5.2** The Chair of the US Team Committee will be responsible for sending notification letters by the end of September of the ranking year.

**5.3** The top three pilots from each selection year ranking list will be notified, with appropriate identification of who is selected and who remains as a Reserve pending acceptance of those selected and/or determination of Team size and funding.

**5.4** A pilot who fails to return a signed Notice of Selection and Acknowledgement of Adherence to Team Policies within 30 days of receipt will be deemed to have chosen not to participate.

**5.5** The Chair of the US Team Committee will be responsible for notifying alternates on a rapid basis of their selections.

**5.6** The Notification of Selection will indicate an estimate of available funding and the amount of the expected pilot contribution, and conform to the Committee's decisions on funding support.

## **6 Provision for Non-Flying Team Coach and US Team Captain**

**6.1** To encourage the participation of a competition pilot as a non-flying USST coach and USST Captains, a special provision is made. If due to such participation a pilot is unable to compete in a USNSC, that pilot may use the results of previous years' USNSCs in sequence to compute a Pilot Score. For example, if such a pilot misses a USNSC in SY-1, they can use a CFS obtained in SY-2 as if it had been obtained in SY-1, and the CFS from SY-3 for SY-2.

**6.2** The following restrictions apply to this provision:

**6.2.1** It applies only to a pilot formally appointed to a coaching position with the USST.

**6.2.2** It cannot be used to obtain a CFS that applies to a Selection Year (i.e. It cannot be used to supply value A in the Pilot Score formula above).

**6.2.3** It cannot be used to substitute for a CFS obtained at a USNSC in which the pilot actually participated.

## **7 Changes to this Policy**

Proposed changes to this Policy will be publicized in like manner and on a similar schedule to that used by the Rules Committee. Changes must be adopted by the US Team Committee by majority vote, and ratified by majority vote of the SSA Board of Directors.

END OF THE POLICY