Directives to 2020 SSA Contest Organizers – COVID-19

2020 SSA Contest Organizers,

The SSA Contest Committee has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation since our March 31, 2020 communication to you. As promised in that communication, we are now providing specific directives for the 2020 SSA contest season.

The public health situation has clarified somewhat over the past two weeks and confirms our overall assessment from two weeks ago. The broad application of stay-at-home orders has slowed the progression of the virus and new cases now appear to have peaked and are beginning to decline. It is also now clear that total active cases will need to drop considerably over the coming 4-6 weeks and testing will need to be put into place (with a potentially longer time to scale up) before limited business and social interactions will be advisable or permitted. Public health officials are advising that for an extended period of time beyond implementation of a nationwide testing regime, large gatherings will continue to be discouraged or prohibited. Prior to introduction of a vaccine, potentially in 2021, there is no way to estimate a timeframe for resumption of normal social activities, such as glider contests, as they existed prior to mid-March 2020.

Therefore, the Contest Committee is announcing the following actions:

1) In consultation with contest organizers, all 2020 FAI Class National Championships are cancelled. They will be moved to 2021 at the same locations and approximate schedule as 2020 with specific dates to be finalized. All currently scheduled 2021 contests and locations will move to 2022 at the option of the organizers.

2) The sanctions for all Regional Contests (and other SSA sanctioned events such as the Sailplane Grand Prix) with start dates prior to July 6, 2020 are rescinded. Organizers should note that this affects the availability of event insurance under the SSA Group Insurance Program. Organizers should contact Costello for information.

3) The Contest Committee will communicate a decision on Sports Class Nationals and Regionals scheduled to commence on or after July 6, 2020 on June 1, 2020.

These actions are driven out of the need to limit large social activities that are part of competition soaring and are not intended to be applied to other soaring activities where local soaring operations make decisions consistent with local public health requirements.

Please reach out to a member of the Contest Committee if you have any questions or issues that need to be addressed.

Best regards and wishes for good health in this challenging time.

SSA Contest Committee
- Hank Nixon - Chair
- Pete Alexander - UST Committee
- Andy Blackburn - Contest Rules Committee
- John Lubon - Site Selection Committee

April 15, 2020