

# US Competition Rules Committee Policy on Equipment and Devices other than Instruments Carried in Competition February 24, 2012

The US Rules Committee (“RC”) reaffirms the long standing rule that instruments and other equipment which can be used for flight without reference to the ground as well as the accessing of and exchanging of unapproved data and communications are prohibited in competition. The policy addressing instruments has previously been published.

The following policy relating to equipment other than instruments and multi function instruments has been adopted based upon the consideration of the implications and side effects on contest procedures, scoring software and the imminent start of the contest season; and discussions with manufacturer’s and pilots:

## 1. Rule 6.6 will remain as is.

6.6	Restricted Equipment
6.6.1	Each sailplane is prohibited from carrying any instrument which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permits flight without reference to the ground.</li><li>• Is capable of measuring air motion or temperature at a distance greater than one wingspan.</li></ul>

## 2. Display devices - Use of PDA’s, PNA’s, Tablets, and other devices used as instruments or flight displays.

Such devices may be used as display devices if no software, programs, applications etc. are present on the device (or attached memory like SD cards) that provides “flight without reference to the ground” functionality (e.g. artificial horizon and/or “turn and bank”). In addition, no software may be present on the device that enables forbidden voice/ data communications.

It is understood that many of these devices used for display may have sensors or devices that could be used to support AH functions. This is not interpreted by the RC as being out of compliance with the provisions of the rules and associated policies. It is understood that it is getting harder to find economical equipment that does not have these sensors and devices. It will be the responsibility of the pilot to ensure that programs and applications that could make these devices functional as AH equipment are not installed. Presence of these programs or applications will be assumed to be evidence of intent not to comply with the provisions described herein.

The pilot is responsible for ensuring that the navigation or flight management program in use does not have AH function and display capability. It is expected that only a single complying program will be loaded to provide assurance that the pilot could not switch from the displayed program to a non-compliant one.

The RC will endeavor to construct and maintain a list of software that is known to be compliant within the scope and detail of the rules and associated policies. An effort to maintain a list of known non complying software will also be part of this activity. This list will not be exhaustive. It will remain, however up to the pilot to have conforming equipment and software.

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The above also anticipates the gathering of other non-approved information (example- weather) as well as 2 way communications between the pilot and others such as other pilots, crew, etc. None of these are approved under the provisions of 6.6.3. Under the provisions of this policy, organizers may access records of communications from and to these devices to verify compliance with this rule.

### **3. Cell Phones**

Rule 6.11.3 anticipates the presence of cell phones and reflects the expected purpose of these and similar devices ("smart" phones) as not being used in flight and turned off. The RC reaffirms its' position in this respect and recognizes that absolute enforcement of this is not possible, certainly within the scope of what we expect volunteer officials to do.

If such a device is used for the purposes of a flight display as contemplated in (2) above, it is to be set in a mode that disables communication with carrier networks (i.e. "airplane mode" or equivalent). No other applications which could provide prohibited functionality are to be available in flight.

It is otherwise expected that these devices will be stowed in a safe place so as to be available for ground use and that they will be turned off (see Rule 6.11.3 for permissible uses).

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Pilots please note that substituting an inexpensive "retrieve phone" in the glider for a more capable phone used in daily life can be expected to avoid any questions in this area.

### **4. Monitoring and compliance**

Entrants shall comply with the provisions of the rules and associated policies as a continuing display of good sportsmanship.

Non compliance with these rules may be the basis for a determination of unsportsmanlike conduct, the consequences of which are described within the body of the rules. It will be permissible for any contest official (or competitor to request of a contest official) to inspect the glider at any time, consistent with safety, for compliance with these rules. A refusal to permit a reasonable request (as determined by contest officials) will be deemed to be justification for additional investigation.

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Allegations by other pilots of violations will be taken seriously and may be anonymous (safety box) and should be expected to trigger scrutiny of flight records. In the case of flagrant or repeated allegations, the appropriate action will be decided by the competition committee.

It will be permissible for contest officials to request to view records of phone use and internet access if there appears to be reason for further investigation.

It is hoped that, with knowledge and care by competitors, that good sportsmanship will be displayed and the confidence that it is in place will ensure the health and safety of our sport.

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