



Updated US Team Selection Process v1.0.3

By US Team Committee

Overview

US Team Committee discussions concerning the current US Team pilot selection process have raised a number of issues, including the following:

- To select the best-qualified pilots, the provision that flying the pre-WGC guarantees a spot on the next US Team should be more flexible, taking previous pilot achievement into account.
- An uncharacteristically bad National contest result (e.g. due to illness) in selection year #3 may cause the best-qualified pilot to miss the US Team.
- A close match of demonstrated pilot skill to expected WGC conditions (e.g. mountains, desert, flatlands) can be important to achieving good WGC results.

The fundamental point is that the goal of every US Team should be to obtain the best results possible at any World Gliding Championships (WGC), and the current team selection process does not appear to be achieving that goal. Accordingly, the US Team Committee is proposing significant changes to the process by which US Team pilots are selected.

Updated US Team Selection Process

This updated selection process is similar to the current British Team's selection process with one additional step as a check and balance by the US Team Committee. The process adds 2 additional steps beyond the current US Team Selection Process as defined in current US Team Selection Policy document (v3.3.3 Dec 2014).

Step #1: US Pilot Eligibility

Pilots eligible to be selected to compete in a WGC event are designated as members of the US Team Squad. Those who are actually selected and who agree to participate are designated US Team Pilots. To identify members of the US Team Squad, the procedures defined in the current US Team Selection Policy document would be used, with the following changes:

1. Make the most recent 3 years of U.S. Nationals or FAI Category 1 Contest results eligible for use in team selection, selecting the best 2 years.
2. Eligibility for early selection as a US Team Pilot by virtue of attending a pre-WGC contest would require selection score of 97 or better, and the invitation of the US Team Committee.

In addition to eligibility achieved by contest results, a pilot can be declared a member of the US Team Squad by a vote of US Team Committee members. This provision is intended to be used in unusual circumstances that cause an obviously well-qualified pilot not to be eligible based on contest results. (An example might be a pilot who was flying well but was forced to withdraw from a National contest for reasons outside his control - such as illness or a family emergency).

Step #2: Preferential Voting By Qualified Pilots

An important part of the updated team selection process is the opportunity for qualified pilots to vote by preferential ballot for members of the US Team Squad they believe are most likely to place well at upcoming WGC events.

A pilot becomes qualified to vote in one of two ways:

1. By achieving a pilot ranking score of 85 or higher in a US National contest in the previous 3 years
2. By participating as a Pilot or Captain on a US Team at a WGC event in the previous 3 years

Voting is class-specific and confidential beyond the US Team Committee. Ballots would list eligible US Team Squad Members within a competition class scheduled for an upcoming WGC event. The voting process would be online using the current SSA web-based voting system supported by Aland Adams for the US Rules Committee and US Team Committee elections. All voters who have eligibility in that class would be given access to the online web based voting system. Voters rank the candidates based on their view of which are most likely to achieve good scores and placings at the upcoming WGC event.

Step #3: Final Team Selection By The US Team Committee

Final team selection is done by the US Team Committee, with close regard to the results obtained by evaluating the preferential ballots. Committee members who may themselves be eligible for selection would not participate.

The final selection will be done under the guidance that a pilot selection different from that indicated by the preferential vote requires significant evidence that the new selection better serves the primary goal of achieving the best possible results for the US Team.

The final team selections by the US Team Committee will be published including comments, as appropriate, on how team selection decision were made.