

NZHGPA Paragliding Competition Manual

Version 10.3 27 September 2010

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1.1 General

These rules apply to all official NZHGPA Paragliding Competitions. Organisers and competitors must fully comply with the rules.

This competition manual is produced and updated by

the Paragliding Competitions Committee (PCC) in the interests of fostering development in the competitive elements of our sport and as a guide for competing pilots and competition organisers in the running of New Zealand paragliding competitions.

Any suggestions for improving this manual are very welcome and should be made to the PCC, care of Kat West, Loess Lane, Hawea Flat, RD2, Wanaka, or by email to high@xtra.co.nz, or to the NZHGPA, care of the executive committee.

1.2 Changes to these rules.

The PCC or the NZHGPA executive committee may change these rules at any time.

Reasonable effort shall be made to avoid changes to the rules during the New Zealand competition season.

Changes to the rules shall take effect 14 days after they have been posted on the NZHGPA website (on the paragliding competition page and the forum) AND no significant objections have been raised.

All changes are subject to the approval of the NZHGPA executive.

1.3 Aims Of The NZHGPA Competitions System

- To provide a safe and structured series of competitions for pilots of all levels of competition skills.
- To achieve and maintain, for New Zealand pilots, a high standard of competitive performance at international competitions.
- To provide a clear understanding of the responsibilities and privileges for competitors and organisers of Paragliding events.
- To provide a framework upon which the competitive aspects of paragliding can be administered and allowed to develop.
- To determine the NZ national champion annually.
- To provide the base data for determining a national pilot ranking system (The National Ladder).
- To encourage fun, skill improvement and increased participation in NZ competitions.

1.4 The Paragliding Competitions Committee (PCC)

Within the NZHGPA a Paragliding Competitions Committee has been formed to assist with the discharging of the responsibilities of the NZHGPA in

the coordination and promotion of the competitive aspects of the sport at all levels.

The NZHGPA executive committee may dismiss the PCC at any time and discharge their responsibilities directly.

1.4.1 Selection/ Election of the Paragliding Competition Committee

The PCC may be appointed by the NZHGPA executive committee.

In the absence of an appointment by the executive committee, the PCC may be elected by NZHGPA members during a NZ Open round at a general briefing of all pilots.

Sufficient notice of the intention to hold this election must be given to pilots. Verbal notice given at the previous general pilots briefing will be accepted as sufficient.

Potential candidates for the PCC may be requested to make a presentation to the pilots of their ideas and directions for the sport of paragliding in New Zealand.

The newly appointed PCC begin their duties at the end of that competition.

1.5 Competition Format

NZHGPA Paragliding Competitions will be held each summer season (defined as running from 1 October to Easter inclusive).

There will be two levels of Paragliding Competition: NZ Open & Regional Competitions.

The NZ Open shall consist of up to two rounds each season. Each round shall be a maximum of 8 days long.

Regional Competitions (RC): RCs will be club based competitions, with each recognised NZHGPA club able to run a maximum of 3 RCs each season.

These can be of any length (normally from 2 - 4 days), preferably over a weekend; longer if there are associated public holidays. These may be held concurrently by different clubs.

If any international competition has 6 or more NZ (full NZHGPA members) pilots it may be nominated as an RC with the same level of notification and scoring. The results shall be sent to the PCC for inclusion by the pilot making the notification.

Ladder: All tasks at the NZ Open rounds will count towards the ladder. Each pilot will count 4 tasks from RCs towards their ladder score. Refer Section 4 of

these rules.

1.5.1 Notification of NZ Open Rounds

There will be a minimum of 2 month's notice of an NZ Open Round.

1.5.2 Notification of Regional Competitions

Dates for a RC shall be notified by the Club Competition Contact (CCC) a minimum of 4 ½ days (eg Monday evening for following Saturday) prior to the first briefing. Note earlier notification is possible.

The RC shall be confirmed or cancelled by a further notice 36 hours prior to the first briefing.

If an RC has been notified, yet no tasks are set, it will not count as one of the RCs for that club that season.

1.5.3 Notification Methods

Notification for RCs and the NZ Open rounds shall be via a notice in the forum of the NZHGPA website.

Where possible a notice shall also published in Airborn magazine and on the competition page of the NZHGPA website.

The notice shall consist of a minimum of:

- Name & contact phone number of the Competition Organiser (who may also be the CCC)
- Time & location of the first briefing
- Probable sites to be used for the competition
- Format for the competition (Standard or XC only)
- Entry requirements
- Cost

1.5.4 Number of competing pilots

Each task in a RC must have a minimum of 6 competing pilots to score points on the ladder. A maximum number of pilots participating in an RC or an NZ Open competition may be set by the Competition Organiser, the CCC or the PCC and will be included in any notice of the event.

1.5.5 Competition Levy

Each NZ Open Round will charge a levy of \$10 per competitor. There will be no levy charged at RCs.

The levy forms part of the Paragliding Competition Fund and is administered by the PCC to further the aims of the NZHGPA competition system as set out in 1.3 above.

It is the responsibility of the Competition Organiser to collect this levy and forward it to a member of the

PCC.

The Paragliding Competitions Fund is currently administered by the NZHGPA.

1.6 Selection Of Competitions

1.6.1 NZ Open

Potential Organisers of an NZ Open Round should send their submission to the PCC by 21st April each year or as notified by the PCC.

The locations and dates of the following seasons events will then be decided by the PCC and published in the next available Airborn and on the Competition page of the NZHGPA website.

When selecting NZ Open Rounds, preference should be given to having one in each island. It is also possible to have one in Australia.

Preference shall be given to competitions that meet the requirements of FAI Cat 2 and are sanctioned by the FAI.

If there are still vacancies for NZ Open Rounds after this date, they may be awarded on a "first come, first served" basis, provided each club can be notified at least 2 months before the competition starts.

1.6.2 Regional Competitions

Regional Competitions shall be facilitated by a Club Competition Contact (CCC).

A Club Competition Contact may be nominated by each member club of the NZHGPA. Nominations will be called for at the same time as NZ Open Round bids. This person shall be approved by the PCC and a list of Club Competition Contacts published in Airborn and on the Competition page of the NZHGPA website.

The CCC may be the Competition Organiser of the RC, however they may also nominate another person for a specific RC as long as this is also approved by a member of the PCC prior to the competition dates (See 1.5.2).

1.7 Regional Competition Scoring

The PCC will arrange a scorer and scoring program for each RC.

The Competition Organiser is responsible for collecting run reports & GPS track logs, managing the report in procedure and delivering data to the scorer by 9.30pm each day. Preliminary results should then be available by 8.30am the next day.

Data may be delivered via email. If briefed at the competition, competitors may send individual GPS track logs direct to the scorer, which may be a website.

Note that for the NZ Open competitions, scoring and verification is the responsibility of the Competition Organiser to organise.

1.8 Competition Organisers

The Competition Organiser (CO) is defined as:

- the person (or club) who submits a bid to hold an NZ Open Round to the PCC.
- Or
- the person notified as the contact for an RC as given in Section 1.5.3 above

The Competition Organiser does not need to be a paraglider pilot, however an understanding of paragliding and competitions is essential.

The Competition Organiser shall be given an "Organiser's Pack" by the PCC containing:

- A copy of these rules
- A copy of a proforma Emergency Plan to be completed by the CO (Appendix A)
- A copy of a typical Entry Form (Appendix B)
- A proforma Task Board layout

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2.1 General

2.1.1 Interpretation and Exceptions

Exceptions to the rules are not allowed when the rules are definite and feasible. If compliance is not feasible, the Technical Delegate shall make any necessary exceptions in consultation with the Competition Organiser. Where these rules are not sufficiently explicit, interpretation shall be made by the Technical Delegate.

To ensure consistency in future competitions, the Technical Delegate should include a copy of any such interpretation with the written report to the PCC (Refer para 2.3.4) to allow the rules to be updated if required.

Competitors shall be informed of additions or changes by posting a dated, written addendum on the main competition notice board **and** verbal advice at the next scheduled general competitors' briefing.

2.1.2 Competition Noticeboard

The Competition Organiser must make the following information available to all competitors:

- List of all pilots entered, showing Wing type, colour and pilot number.
- Official rules (plus amendments & additions).
- Latest pilots results.
- Latest weather forecast.
- Next briefing time & place
- Applicable Airspace Maps
- Map showing turnpoint locations (if any)
- A copy of the Emergency Plan (see Appendix A)
- radio frequencies used by the Competition organiser for safety broadcasts
- Contact phone numbers for Report In, SAR & local emergency services

For an RC this information may be on a noticeboard at the briefing area or on a website.

2.1.3 Competition Briefings

A General Pilots Briefing shall be held at the start of each competition day & at the start of each task (see 2.5.1)

The first competition briefing should include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Election of a pilots committee (See 2.3.1)
- The location of the copy of the Official rules of the competition
- Any special information relating to the local flying area and competition sites
- Vehicle retrieval routes if any
- Any specific emergency plan requirements including but not limited to, visual "I need help" signals, Sign in / Report in systems, contact phone numbers of officials etc

- That it is always the pilots personal decision whether or not to launch and fly the route
- That the scoring system makes allowance for safety decisions
- The time and location of the next briefing

2.2 Competition Entry

2.2.1 Pilot Acceptance

Unless specified otherwise by the Competition Organiser in consultation with the PCC, Pilot entries shall be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis.

Intending competitors must register prior to the registration deadline. Late entries shall only be allowed at the discretion of the Competition Organiser.

See Appendix B for a suggested Entry Form format.

2.2.2 Pilot Qualifications

The competition is open only to those pilots who comply with the requirements in Section 3.4 & 3.5

Competitors must be able to fly safely and without supervision.

The onus rests with the competitor to prove compliance with the entry requirements, if called upon to do so.

2.2.3 NZ Open Competition Pack

The Competition Organiser at a NZ Open Round shall provide printed copies to all competing pilots of the following information:

- Maps of the flying areas, preferably with turnpoints and airspace control areas marked.
- Turnpoint List with lat/long, NZ grid coordinates & altitudes of all launch sites, Turnpoints & Goals
- A copy of the Emergency Plan (see Appendix A)
- radio frequencies used by the Competition organiser for safety broadcasts
- Contact phone numbers for Report In, SAR & local emergency services

2.3 Committees, Elections and Officials

2.3.1 Pilots Committee

At the first competition briefing a two person "Pilots Committee" must be elected by the competitors. The Pilots Committee are to represent the competitors and to provide an interface between the competitors and the CO. This committee may be reduced to 1 pilot at an RC.

2.3.2 Task Committee

The Pilots Committee and the CO jointly form the Task Committee.

2.3.3 Protest Committee

Refer para 2.10

2.3.4 Safety Committee

A three person Safety Committee may be appointed by the CO at the first competition briefing. This committee should be made up of different pilots to the Pilots Committee. Their responsibility is to assess flying conditions and the task with a particular focus on safety issues, and liaise with the Task Committee and the CO as required. A simple majority of this committee has the power to stop or cancel a task at any time if conditions are or become unsafe. Refer para 2.5.5

2.3.5 Meet Director

The CO may delegate some or all of their tasks to a "Meet Director". The areas of responsibility of the Meet Director shall be clearly defined to competitors at the initial competition briefing.

2.3.6 Launch Director

The CO shall appoint a Launch Director for each task. In the absence of such appointment, the CO shall be the Launch Director. The Launch Director's responsibility is the efficient & safe controlling of the launch area whilst competitors are launching .

The Launch Director must remain at the Take Off area until all competitors have taken off, or until the Window is closed.

The CO shall ensure that the Launch Director has a two way radio available for communication of safety broadcasts AND a mobile phone for use in emergencies if cellular coverage is available at the launch site.

The Launch Director must have sufficient knowledge of Paraglider flying to be capable of safely carrying out the above duties.

2.3.7 Goal Marshall

For a task with a physical goal line as the declared goal there shall be a Goal Marshall recording arrival times of competitors in goal.

This should be done using GPS time or a watch corrected to GPS time.

The CO may declare the first competitor to arrive in goal as the Goal Marshall. This competitor is then responsible for recording their own time and the times

of subsequent competitors.

It is recommended that the Goal Marshall has a two-way radio and mobile phone for communication purposes.

A Goal Marshall is not required when a GPS goal is declared.

2.3.8 Technical Delegate

A Technical Delegate will be appointed by the PCC for every competition and is responsible for ensuring the competition and scoring are accurately and fairly run according to the Paragliding Competition Manual.

Specific duties include:

- Acting as safety back up for the CO
- Advising the CO on implementation of these rules & ensuring they are complied with.
- Specifying task validation criteria.
- Appointing a Protest Committee should one be required.
- Collecting final competition results from the CO and reporting them to the PCC.

At the conclusion of each competition the technical delegate will report to the PCC.

This should include:

- Reports from Protest Committees (if any)
- Rule interpretations required during the competition (if any).

2.4 Rest Days (NZ Open rounds only)

The CO may declare a rest day after six consecutive days, except on the last competition day. However if this option is to be used, it must be declared before the first competition day.

2.5 Tasks

2.5.1 Setting the Task

The task shall be set by the Task Committee at a meeting at the Launch site.

The task committee should take into consideration the following factors:

- Current weather including wind directions at different altitudes
- Forecast weather
- Unavoidable local hazards
- Sensitive local landing areas
- Land-by deadlines
- Skill level & experience of competitors
- Ideally, the task increases in difficulty along it's route
- If a goal is set, then 25% of competitors making goal is ideal.

2.5.2 Task Briefing

The task for the day will be announced at a general pilot briefing at or near the launch site.

The briefing will include (but is not necessarily limited to) the following:

- a verbal summary of all the points on the Task Board.
- A reminder of the need to sign in before launch.
- Sensitive areas along a task route.
- The launch procedure and launch areas available

If applicable it shall also include:

- the allotted time for each competitor to launch
- actions in the event of a failed launch

Launch shall be declared open not less than 15 minutes after the pre-flight briefing has finished.

2.5.3 Launch Noticeboard

There will be a noticeboard at the launch area (or other clearly defined briefing location near the launch area) that will have the following items available during the launch window:

- Task Board
- Task Map
- Written copy of the rules
- Pilot list for Sign in
- Emergency Plan
- First Aid Kit

2.5.3.1 Task Board

The following information is to be displayed on the daily Task Board:

- Date and Task Number
- Type of task
- List of turnpoints
- Total distance to Goal
- Validation criteria (dist & no of pilots)
- Description of Goal and finish line
- Launch Window open and close times (see 2.8.5)
- Start Tarp times (if required)
- Goal Deadline
- Last Task Time
- Landby deadline (optional, used for safety reasons)
- Deadlines for reporting in / safety check in
- Run Report deadline
- Turn Direction within 1km of Launch
- Any known unusual hazards on the task route
- Safety Radio Frequencies
- Contact phone numbers

The Task board shall also show GPS coordinates and altitudes for any waypoints used in the task but not included in the Turnpoint List issued to the competitors (see 2.2.3).

2.5.3.2 Task Map

A map shall be posted on the Launch Noticeboard detailing the start point, turn points, goal, reflight area (if applicable) and any areas to which entry is restricted.

It should also mark any controlled airspace on the task route.

2.5.3.3 Signing In

See also Section 3.7

A Sign-in sheet & writing instrument (eg pen) shall be placed on the Launch Noticeboard. Note that the number of pilots signed in to fly is one of the criteria for Task Value and DMF calculation.

2.5.4 Task Validation Criteria

The task validation criteria will be announced by the Technical Delegate at the task briefing and written on the Task board.

MINIMUM validation criteria are: 2 competitors or 15% of the pilots* (which ever is greater) flying at least 5km.

Note - low validation distances are acceptable as the TASK VALUE will be reduced significantly if the task is a short distance.

The validation distance should still be at least the predicted glide distance in the task direction on the competition day.

The Technical Delegate will take into account the flying site, weather conditions and task set when determining the validation criteria.

*Pilots = Number of registered competitors less any competitors that inform the CO of their intent not to fly before commencement of the briefing .

2.5.5 Cancelling, Changing or Stopping a Task

2.5.5.1 Cancellation or Changing a Task

Before any competitor has taken off, even if the launch window is open, the CO or the Safety Committee may cancel or change a task if the weather becomes unsuitable.

If the task is changed then the window must be closed, a re-briefing is required, and the window may not re-open until at least 15 minutes after the end of this briefing.

After some or all competitors have taken off, the CO or the Safety Committee have the power to cancel a task only if hazardous weather or other conditions which would endanger pilot safety cannot be avoided by the competitors. (Refer 2.8.4 & 3.6 for suspension

of launch window details).

Cancellations shall be announced at takeoff and broadcast on the official radio frequency. Other forms of announcement may be published and announced before the start of the competition.

No points (except for certain penalties - ref para 2.9.4) will be awarded if a competition round is cancelled.

2.5.5.2 Stopping a Task

The CO or the Safety Committee have the power to stop a task after some or all pilots have taken off only if hazardous weather or other conditions which would endanger pilot safety cannot be avoided by the competitors.

A task may be only be stopped instead of cancelled if more than 50% of the competitors have launched and the validation criteria have been met.

When a task is stopped, but not cancelled, the pilot's scores will be determined from their GPS track log position at the time the task was stopped.

3.5.5.3

If the task is cancelled or stopped pilots are directed to land as soon as possible at a safe location and 'report in' in the usual way.

If it is safe to do so, pilots are also directed to pull in "big ears" to signal to one another that the task is finished.

2.5.6 Types of Task

Tasks will be one of the following:

2.5.6.1 Open Distance

Any Open Distance ,Out & Back, D1 or Triangle flight types as defined in 2.11.9

2.5.6.2 Race to Goal

Pilots start the race from the air or ground simultaneously. Each pilot's timing begins when the window (or tarp in the case of an air start) opens. The pilot who reaches goal first is the winner. Pilots who do not reach goal only get distance points.

2.5.6.3 Elapsed Time

Each competitors start is individually timed. The winner is the pilot with the shortest elapsed time. Pilots who do not reach goal only get distance points.

2.5.6.4 Combination Race/Elapsed Time

50% of the time points are given for each pilot's

elapsed time, and 50% for their race time. This task rewards competitors for taking off early once the window is open, without penalising too badly those competitors who take off later.

2.5.7 Starting and timing the task

2.5.7.1 Elapsed Time and Combination Race/Elapsed Time Starts

Each competitor's take off time is recorded. The launch shall be manned by timing officials for a specified period (as detailed on the task board). Pilots who launch after this time shall have the time at which the launch officials cease recording launch times as their start time.

Times shall be recorded to the nearest second.

2.5.7.2 Race to Goal Ground Start

Simultaneous start from the ground. Each competitor's flight time begins immediately the window opens.

2.5.7.3 Race to Goal Air Start

Simultaneous start in the air. Pilots launch while the window is open with a start gate time stated on the task board. Each competitor's flight time begins at the start gate time.

Pilots must have a GPS track log showing that they are within the Start Gate Cylinder before departing for the first turnpoint.

The track-log must also show at least 2 minutes of data and at least 5 continuous track-log points prior to and after a start.

The radius of the Start Gate Cylinder will be stated at the briefing and written on the task board.

2.5.7.4 Open Distance Starts

Start from the ground. No timing taken. Window open and close times as per task board.

2.6 Turnpoints and Flight Verification

Competition flights shall be verified by each pilot recording their flight on a GPS.

2.6.1 General

GPS verification of the flight should be on a single track log, recorded on a GPS compatible with the scoring system.

It is the competitor's responsibility to confirm that their GPS is compatible before using it in a task.

Use of a non-compatible GPS without prior permission

from the CO will result in a score of zero for the task.

If a non-compatible GPS is used, with permission of the CO, then it shall be the CO's responsibility to verify the track log and submit the data to the scorer by the run report deadline.

The GPS used for the flight must be handed in to the scorer by the run-report deadline shown on the task board. Pilots making goal shall hand in their GPS to the Goal Marshall.

If possible the downloads should be completed at check in and the GPS returned to the competitor. If this is not possible, or there is a long wait, the competitor should have the option to leave their GPS with the scorer at their own risk.

To be considered as valid, the track-log must satisfy the following criteria:

- The track-log must have valid and consistent time stamps.
- continuous track-log points are where each consecutive point is 30 seconds or less from its predecessor.
- The track-log must include valid and consistent height information

The track log must be continuous in all critical areas of the flight.

Critical areas are defined as:

- turnpoints (see 2.6.2)
- start gate (see 2.5.7.3)
- GPS goal (see 2.7.2)
- areas of actual or potential proximity to controlled airspace (see note below)
 - Any other critical areas as defined by the Comp Organiser at a general briefing
 - Start points for XC competition flights (minimum 2 minutes of track log)
 - End points for XC competition flights (minimum 2 minutes of track log)

2.6.1.1 Guide to assessing prohibited airspace infringements with a GPS track log

Note: NZ VFR rules currently require all pilots to fly with a calibrated barometric altimeter accurate to within 100 feet

Any infringement of a CAA rule will be penalised. Refer Section 2.9

There is a difference in measurement processes between the legally required barometric flight altimeter and the GPS being used to verify the competition flight. It is not possible for a GPS tracklog to provide absolute accuracy when assessing whether the pilot breached a height limit on their barometric altimeter.

However a flight shall be deemed to have definitely infringed prohibited airspace if there are any track log

points:

- greater than 300 feet vertically within the defined airspace

Or

- completely within the horizontally defined airspace on a digital overlay of the appropriate air chart

Or

- visually on the prohibited side a designate d ground feature marked on the appropriate air chart to an extent that would be apparent to a pilot in flight

In some areas it may be appropriate to use lower tolerance within a competition to ABSOLUTELY ensure that no pilot flies within prohibited airspace. For example, requiring the GPS tracklog to show points MORE than 300 feet BELOW the airspace height limit. In this case, tolerances shall be briefed at a general pilot briefing before the start of the proposed task.

If a track log has sections where the track log points are greater than 30 seconds apart, then if it is possible to breach prohibited airspace by either:

- Flying in a straight line at 30km/hr

Or

- By a change in altitude with an equal to or less than 3m/s rate

During the time period for which there are no track log points then the pilot will be deemed to have infringed airspace and penalties will be applied.

Where possible this assessment should be modified by the actual environmental conditions for the flight. For example, if the average thermal climb rate was actually 5m/s then this climb rate will be used, or if cloud base was consistently 5000' then this will be used as a cap on altitude.

Where infringement of airspace is deemed to have occurred through this method, it is then the responsibility of the pilot to produce other evidence to show that this did not occur.

2.6.2 GPS Turnpoint Cylinders

A turnpoint is awarded if the track log shows a track log point within the turnpoint cylinder, or a couple of points if there are no points inside the cylinder, but you can see two points just outside and the line between cuts through the cylinder (this can happen with a large track log interval).

The track log must also have least 2 minutes of data and at least 5 continuous track-log points prior to and after the track-log point.

Note: Turn Point cylinder is generally a 400m radius but may be specified otherwise on the Task Board. Start Cylinder and other control gates often differ.

Pilots should be aware of the time intervals that their GPS uses to record track points as this may affect the path shown by their track log.

Where the GPS track log does not show the competitor passing through the GPS cylinder, the competitor's score shall be determined from his/her tracklog as if the competitor had NOT achieved the turn point.

2.6.3 Backup GPS

Competitors may use a backup GPS.

If a competitor uses a backup GPS it will only be downloaded if the Primary GPS track log fails for some reason. It is the responsibility of the competitor to request this be done.

If there is a sufficient overlap in the track logs of the Primary & Backup GPS to verify that both GPS were on the same glider during the task then a composite tracklog may be used to verify the flight.

2.7 Finishing the Task

Goal shall be defined by either a physical goal line or a GPS goal.

2.7.1 Physical Goal Line

The goal line will be aligned perpendicular to the track from the last turnpoint. A goal line is defined by two goal markers (described to the competitors at the task briefing) at each end of the goal line with a safe landing area immediately before and after the line.

Where a physical goal line is used its actual position will override any GPS coordinates given as information to the competitors. This shall be specified at the task briefing.

To achieve the goal a competitor must cross the goal line at an altitude that enables easy identification of the glider by goal officials (note: below 300m is a safe guideline). A competitor is considered to have crossed the goal line when the pilot's foot cuts the line using only the energy of the glider but not of the pilot.

Pilots making goal will have their time recorded to the nearest second.

It is each competitor's responsibility to check with the timekeeper immediately after landing to ensure their finish was observed and their time has been taken correctly.

Where a goal official fails to record the time of a competitor, and there is no doubt that the competitor correctly crossed the goal line then a finish time shall be determined by the goal officials using all available evidence.

2.7.2 GPS Goal

A GPS goal may be declared at the task briefing.

GPS Goal Cylinder: The goal is awarded if the track log on the competitor's GPS shows them to have crossed through a circle centred around the goal coordinates with a radius defined at the Task Briefing and written on the Task Board.

GPS Goal Line: The goal is awarded if the track log on the competitor's GPS shows them to have crossed through a line centred around the goal coordinates and perpendicular to the track from the last turnpoint, with a length defined at the Task Briefing and written on the Task Board.

The track log must also have at least 2 minutes of data and at least 5 continuous track-log points prior to a goal.

The goal time shall be determined from the competitor's GPS track log as the time of the track log point after the pilot has entered the GPS Goal Cylinder or crossed the Goal Line.

Pilots making goal will have their time recorded to the nearest second.

2.7.1 Free Flying Following Overflight of Goal

Pilots are able to overfly the Goal if they comply with the following:

- The Pilot must still Sign out before the Sign out Deadline.
- They may Sign out by contacting the Goal Marshall or CO by radio or cellphone from the air.
- If the task involved any turnpoints other than the goal line or used a GPS goal then the competitor must still submit a Run Report by the time specified by the CO. If they do not do this then they will be scored the bomb out distance.
- If the crossing of the goal line was not verified by the Goal Marshall, the following will also apply:
 - They will need to sign out by some other means before the Report In Deadline or they will become a "Missing Pilot" and SAR procedures will be activated.
 - They must submit a Run Report by the time specified by the CO.
 - They will not score any time points

It is the responsibility of the competitor to check that the Goal Marshall has verified that they reached goal and Signed Out.

When the first pilot to reach goal is also the Goal Marshall (See 2.3.4) then they may not overfly goal unless specific policy has been declared by the CO at

the briefing.

2.7.2 Goal Deadline

Announced at the task briefing and displayed on the task board. Pilots who land in goal after the goal deadline but before the landby deadline or last task time will score maximum distance points but no time points.

2.7.3 Last Task Time

A Last Task Time shall be announced at the task briefing and displayed on the task board. If a pilot is still flying at this time then their flight distance shall be calculated as the position showing on their GPS track log at the track log point immediately prior to the Last Task Time.

2.7.4 Landby Deadline (optional)

This may be announced at the task briefing and displayed on the task board if conditions are expected to become dangerous later in the day. For safety reasons all competitors must be on the ground by this time.

Refer to penalties section (2.10.5) for failure to land by the landby deadline.

2.7.5 Sign Out.

See also Section 3.7

Sign Out is mandatory for all pilots registered in the competition.

Pilots must sign out by the deadline.

At the discretion of the CO, pilots making goal may be able to fill in run reports and hand in their GPS at goal and not have to report in back at the competition HQ.

2.7.5.1 Sign Out Deadline

Announced at the task briefing and displayed on the task board. This deadline will take into account retrieval difficulties and is a serious SAR deadline.

See also 3.7

2.7.6 Run Reports & Run Report Deadline

Pilots must submit a written Run Report to the competition scorer or other designated official by the time specified by the CO.

The Run Report must be accompanied by a GPS for downloading of the track log for verification of their flight.

The deliberate falsification of landing details will lead

to disqualification.

A Run Report Deadline shall be announced and displayed on the Task Board. If a pilot is unable to submit their run report by this deadline, they may contact the CO and arrange a time extension. See also 2.9.4 (Penalty Points).

2.8 Setup And Launch

See also 3.6

2.8.1 Setup Procedures

Pilots are to setup in the area allocated by the launch director. This area is for the unfolding and preflighting of gliders.

When ready, pilots should bunch their gliders and proceed to the take off area/queue and wait for a take off space.

2.8.2 Take Off Area

See also 3.6

Once a competitor enters the take off area he/she must launch as soon as possible. A pilot who holds up other competitors by failed launches or waiting for better conditions will be ordered out of the take off area and must go to the back of the queue.

2.8.3 Launch Procedures

Where possible the launch shall be 'open window' with pilots entering the take off area on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Where sites and/or conditions do not allow open window launches then a queuing system or predetermined launch order may be implemented.

Launch details to be announced at the preflight briefing include:

- the launch procedure and areas available
- the allotted time for each competitor to launch
- actions in the event of a failed launch

2.8.3.1 Launch Order / Queuing Systems

Should the launch need to be controlled for safety reasons, the CO may implement a queuing system.

The system used is decided by the CO, but details must be announced at the first competition briefing and published on the competition notice board. It is suggested that on the first day the current National Ladder be used, and on subsequent days the placings in the current competition.

2.8.4 Launch Closure

If conditions change and it is no longer possible to safely take off, the launch may be closed until conditions improve. (See also Section 3.6)

Pilots shall only be allowed (or required) to launch when the launch is open. If launch is closed, then a pilot required to launch shall be allowed the full period of allotted time (see 2.8.3) after the launch is reopened.

2.8.5 Launch Validity

For the task to be valid, the launch must have been open for at least two minutes per competitor divided by the number of launch slots available. (For example: 60 competitors, 3 launch positions, Required take off time = 40 minutes).

Once the launch window has opened, and the first competitor taken off, the window may only be closed by the Launch Director for safety reasons.

2.8.5.1 Launch Window Extensions

If the required take off time (See 2.8.5 above) has not been reached at window close time due to launch closures, then the window close time may be extended, provided that a maximum window extension period has been announced at the task briefing and posted on the task board.

Apart from the above case window close times can not be altered once any competitors have launched.

If the required take off time is still not reached at the maximum extension of window close time then the task will be declared invalid.

2.8.6 Failure To Launch

A failed launch is defined as a launch attempt resulting in the glider being required to be laid out again. Requiring an assistant to untangle a twisted line, or remove an entanglement present during inflation is not classified as a failed launch unless the entanglement was caused by the glider striking an object after the pilot started their takeoff run.

Following an unsuccessful takeoff attempt a pilot may be allowed to launch from further down the launch area provided that the glider is not required to be laid out again and that the launch is completed within the allotted time.

A launch deliberately aborted due to safety reasons, which, in the opinion of the launch director, are outside the control of the pilot, shall not be classed as a failed launch.

2.8.7 Reflights

The Organiser may designate a 'reflight' area. There

are no restrictions on the number of flights in any one day if a reflight area is designated. To qualify for a reflight competitors must land in the designated reflight area.

The reflight area must be announced at the task briefing and posted on the task board.

The pilot may be required to clear their track log on their GPS before re-launching. A pilot's score will be determined on the basis of performance on the last launch in any one task.

If take off times are being recorded, the competitor's take off time remains that of the first launch, unless prebriefed otherwise by the CO.

Pilots who require a reflight shall not enter the takeoff line until all competitors who wish to enter the take off line for their first flights have done so.

2.9 Penalties and Disciplinary Action

The director may penalise a competitor as described within these rules. These penalties may be in the form of deduction of points or disqualification.

The CO shall inform competitors as soon as practical that penalty or disciplinary action has been applied. The pilot's time for submission of a complaint (refer section 2.11) shall commence from the time the pilot is notified.

2.9.1 Severity of Penalties

Except where penalties are prescribed within these rules the severity of penalties which may be imposed range from a minimum loss of points to disqualification.

2.9.2 Unsporting Behaviour

Cheating or unsporting behaviour, including falsification of documents, use of forbidden equipment or repeated serious infringements of rules should, as a guide, result in disqualification from the sporting event.

2.9.3 Penalties For Cancelled Tasks

Penalties that may be awarded on those days where a task is cancelled (or invalid) include:

- penalties for breaches of site rules. (rules intended to retain long term use of the site); and/or
- penalties for breaches of airspace regulations and or concessions; and/or
- penalties for dangerous flying or safety breaches

2.9.4 Guide To Penalty Points

Unless specified and briefed by the CO at a general pilot briefing at a competition, the following default penalties will apply:

- Flying in Cloud (first time): 500 points
- Other dangerous flying: 500 points
- Failure to sign in before launch: zero for task (DNF on ladder)
- Failure to report in on time: 500 points (with possible disqualification from comp & payment of SAR costs at COs discretion)
- Failure to submit run report by deadline with no acceptable reason: 25% of pilot's score if received before next briefing, else zero for task
- Failure to land by landby time (if nominated) : zero for task
- Flying in a prohibited air space: 500 points
- Landing in a prohibited zone 400 points
- Landing in deer/horse paddock: 200 points
- Failure to gather wing on landing: 300 points
- Turnpoints incorrect: distance points to the last correctly documented point.
- landing point not verifiable: distance points to last correctly documented point.
- Exceeding max ballast weight: 20% of task value
- Changing glider without permission zero for task
- Landing and Taking off on course zero for task
- False declarations: zero for task

The penalty values shall be absolute values (i.e. not affected by the task value). They should not be scaled when scoring the Ladder.

The penalty values may be changed during a competition by a Protest Committee (see 2.10) to take into account extraordinary factors in specific cases.

A second offence for any type of dangerous flying will result in disqualification from the competition.

2.9.5 Cloud Flying

To avoid penalty points, if a pilot is inadvertently sucked into a cloud, they must exit rapidly, then descend to below the cloud if necessary, before gliding away, to ensure that they have received no advantage.

Note that flying VFR requires horizontal as well as vertical separation from cloud.

2.10 Complaints And Protests

A complaint may be made to the CO by any competitor to request a correction. This complaint must be handed to the CO in writing or verbally within two hours of the announcement of provisional results. The complaint will be dealt with by the CO. If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, he or she has the right to protest.

A protest must be in writing, accompanied by a protest fee of \$NZ40, and handed to the CO within 2 hours of the announcement of the decision regarding the complaint, except that after the last contest task, where the time limit is one hour.

A three person Protest Committee will be appointed by the Technical Delegate as soon as possible. If there is no conflict of interest, the Safety Committee may be used.

If the protest is upheld the fee will be returned.

Protests over rules as printed or addendum as advised in accordance with the rules will not be accepted.

Any decisions of the protest committee are final.

No protests will be accepted after the final competition results have been declared.

2.10.1 In Flight Complaints

A complaint may be initiated verbally over the radio on the competition frequency by any pilot observing dangerous behaviour eg flying in cloud, airspace violations, aggressive flying etc. This complaint should be followed up with the CO after the task has finished.

Verbal notification heard by other pilots at the time of the violation will be considered strong evidence in support of a formal complaint.

2.11 Scoring & Task Value

The scoring system at a NZ Open Round shall be nominated by the CO at the time of the bid and approved by the PCC.

RCs shall be scored using the following method.

The maximum points available for each task shall be determined by the following factors:

1. Launch Validity (LV)
2. Distance Validity (DV)
3. Time Validity (TV)

TASK VALUE = LV x DV x TV x 1000
Maximum TASK VALUE is 1000.

2.11.1 Launch Validity

Maximum Value 1.0

$LV = \frac{\text{\#of Pilots who flew}}{\text{\#of competitors signed in to fly}} * 0.9$

This is intended to lower the task value if a significant number of pilots do not fly due to safety reasons. The 0.9 factor is to account for lower skilled pilots in the

competition who do not fly for other reasons.

2.11.1.1 Bonus points

If a pilot chooses not to launch due to safety reasons then they should indicate this to the Launch Director. In this case they will be awarded the points equivalent to a flight of the bomb out distance as bonus points.

2.11.2 Distance Validity

Maximum Value 1.2

$DV = (\text{Average Distance of Top 90\%}) / \text{Nominal Distance}$

Nominal Distance shall be set by the PCC for each competition. If a specific Nominal Distance has not been set prior to the competition starting the following values shall be used:

For competitions held within New Zealand : **20 km**
For competitions held in Australia: **30 km**

This factor is intended to ensure that the average distance is a good value, but that this is not affected too significantly by lower skilled pilots. RC competitions are intended to allow first time competition pilots a chance to learn. This should not adversely affect the top pilots scores.

2.11.3 Time Validity

Maximum Value 1.2

This factor is intended to ensure that a task takes a certain MINIMUM time to fly. (If a task takes only 45 minutes to complete, even if it is 30km it should not be worth maximum points. Conversely if a task takes the fastest pilot 4 hours to complete, even if it is only 20km it is a good test of pilot skill, and should be worth maximum points). This factor is allowed to be greater than 1.0 to compensate for lower distance validity.

$TV = \text{Winning Pilot Time} / \text{Nominal Time}$

Nominal Time shall be set by the PCC for each competition. If a specific value is not set prior to the competition starting it shall be **1.5 hours**.

Winning Pilot Time = the length of time the winning pilot was in the air. In non elapsed time tasks this is recorded from Window Open time. In non goal tasks this can only be recorded if the winning pilot is using GPS verification. All possible effort shall be used to obtain this time, though it will not be consistently used until GPS scoring is universal.

If the Winning Pilot Time is not available then $TV = 1$

2.11.4 Distance Measurement

Once a pilot has successfully launched their flying distance is measured from the Start Point to the pilot's best point made along track. All distances will be

measured to the nearest 100 metres on a GPS tracklog (Refer 2.6).

The Start Point may be the Launch Site, a Start tarp, or a turnpoint taken by the pilot in flight, as nominated by the Task Committee.

2.11.5 Minimum Distance

All pilots who launch shall be awarded a minimum distance of the bomb out distance regardless of the actual distance flown.

Bomb out distance shall be fixed at 1.0 km unless nominated otherwise by the TD on the task board.

2.11.6 Race To Goal

A competitors time is measured from the start time to when pilot makes goal. Pilots who do not make goal do not score time points.

$\text{Max Distance points} = (1 - 0.6 \times \text{SQRT}(\text{number at goal/number who flew})) \times \text{TASK VALUE}$

$\text{Max Time points} = \text{TASK VALUE} - \text{Max distance points}$

$\text{Pilot distance points} = \text{Max distance points} \times \text{SQRT}(\text{pilot distance} / \text{best distance})$

$\text{Pilot time points} = \text{max time points} \times (\text{best time/pilot time})^3$

$\text{Pilot day score} = \text{pilot time points} + \text{pilot distance points}$

2.11.7 Elapsed Time

A competitors elapsed time is measured from pilot's take off time to when pilot makes goal. Pilots who do not make goal or who reach goal after goal close time, do not score time points.

$\text{Max Distance points} = (1 - 0.6 \times \text{SQR}(\text{number at goal/number who flew})) \times \text{TASK VALUE}$

$\text{Max Time points} = \text{TASK VALUE} - \text{Max distance points}$

$\text{Pilot distance points} = \text{Max distance points} \times \text{SQRT}(\text{pilot distance} / \text{best distance})$

$\text{Pilot time points} = \text{max time points} \times (\text{best time/pilot time})^3$

$\text{Pilot day score} = \text{pilot time points} + \text{pilot distance points}$

2.11.8 Combination Race/Elapsed Time

A competitors race time is measured from the start

time to when the pilot makes goal. The pilot's elapsed time is measured from pilot's take off time to when pilot makes goal. Pilots who do not make goal do not score time points. The best elapsed time + race time refers to a single pilot.

Max Distance points $= (1 - 0.6 \times \text{SQR}(\text{number at goal} / \text{number who flew})) \times \text{TASK VALUE}$

Max Time points = TASK VALUE - Distance points

Pilot distance points = max Distance points $\times \text{SQR}(\text{pilot distance} / \text{best distance})$

Pilot time points = max time points $\times ((\text{pilot race time} + \text{pilot elapsed time}) / (\text{Best race time} + \text{elapsed time}))^3$

Pilot day score = pilot time points + pilot distance points

2.11.9 Open Distance

Pilot score = TASK VALUE $\times \text{SQR}(\text{pilot distance} / \text{best distance})$.

In an Open Distance task, pilot distance shall be calculated as defined by one of the Open Distance Flight Types:

1. Distance with One free Turn Point: D1 = Straight line distance from start point to any turn point on the track plus the straight line distance from that point to the landing point.
Pilot distance = D1 \times 0.9
2. Open Distance: OD1 = Straight line distance from start point to landing point.
Pilot distance = OD1 \times 1.0
3. Open Distance along an Axis: OD2 = Straight line distance from start point to landing point measured along a pre-defined heading line.
Pilot distance = OD2 \times 1.0
4. Open Distance via a defined turnpoint: OD3 = Straight line distance from take off to a pre-defined turnpoint plus the straight line distance from the turnpoint to landing point.
Pilot distance = OD3 \times 1.0
5. Out and Back: OB = Straight line distance from start point to any turn point, then back to the start point.
Pilot distance = OB \times 1.3
6. Triangle: TR = Straight line distance from the start point to a turn point then to another turn point and then back to the start point. The smallest distance between any 2 points shall not be less than 28% of the total distance.
Pilot distance = TR \times 1.6

SECTION 3. SAFETY IN COMPETITIONS

- 3.1 Objectives
- 3.2 General
- 3.3 Competition Organisers' Responsibilities
- 3.4 Competitors' Responsibilities
- 3.5 Gliders & Equipment
- 3.6 Managing Launch Areas
- 3.7 Sign in – Sign Out
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SECTION 3. SAFETY IN COMPETITIONS

3.1 Objectives

This section has been separated from the general competition rules to highlight safety considerations with respect to these rules, specifically the aims:

- To provide a safe and structured series of competitions for pilots of all levels of competition skills.
- To provide a clear understanding of the responsibilities and privileges for competitors and organisers of Paragliding events.

3.2 General

Competition flying has some specific and general risks in addition to the normal risks posed by flying a paraglider.

Competitors need to be aware of these risks & act in such a manner as to minimise them.

COs also need to be aware of these risks & act in such a manner as to minimise them.

The additional risks involved in competition flying are based on two main factors:

- Larger numbers of pilots (than is normal in free flight situations) launching at a similar time
- Flying a route (the task) which has been determined by a person(s) other than the pilot.

Risks may also exist to people not directly involved in the competition due to these factors.

3.3 Competition Organisers' Responsibilities

The Competition Organiser shall perform, or ensure they are performed, the following tasks:

Prior to the competition:

- Prepare an emergency plan (see appendix a)
- Liaise with launch site owners if applicable

In addition COs of a NZ Open Round shall:

- Notify local emergency services of the general comp format and dates.
- Notify local airports and / or other local air users of expected air space use.

During the competition:

- Obtain up to date weather forecasts for use by the task setting committee.
- Provide & maintain a Competition Notice board (see 2.1.2)
- Provide and maintain a Launch Notice board (see 2.5.2)
- Give verbal briefings prior to each task (see 2.5.1)
- Appoint a Launch Director(s) (see 2.3.4) for each flying day & ensure that this person is identified to the competitors prior to the start of the task.
- Ensure the Launch Director has a two-radio and mobile phone to assist with communication at the launch area

In addition COs of a NZ Open Round shall:

- Provide a competition pack to competitors (see 2.2.3)
- Organise scoring and flight verification procedures.
- Publish daily task results

On a day to day basis the following tasks may also be required:

- Notify local flight briefing office of any airspace requirements
- Notify local airports and / or other local air users of expected air space use.
- Act as the coordinator for emergency situations
- Other tasks as is found necessary for the safe running of each specific competition

3.4 Competitor's Responsibilities

It is the pilot's responsibility to ensure they and their equipment are fit to fly and that their equipment is compatible with the competition requirements.

3.4.1 Pilot Qualifications

Each pilot must:

- Be a member (or visitor member) of the NZHGPA if flying in New Zealand. Any competitors found to be non members will be listed and scored as "Disqualified". Any entry fee received will not be refunded.
- Hold a valid PG2 license (minimum) or equivalent foreign rating.

- Comply with the requirements of 3.5 (Gliders & Equipment)
- Any other requirements as specified by the CO before the competition.

3.4.2 Fitness

A pilot may not fly unless fit. Any injury, drugs or medication taken, which might affect the pilot's performance in the air must be reported to the CO before flying.

3.4.3 Collision Avoidance

Circuit, turning and landing patterns given at Briefing shall be complied with, international collision avoidance regulations obeyed and a proper lookout kept at all times.

Each day the CO will nominate a thermal-turning direction within a 1 (one) km radius of the take-off area. This is to be announced at the task briefing and written on the task board.

A glider joining another in a thermal shall circle in the same direction as that established by the first regardless of height separation.

A competitor involved in a collision in the air must not continue the flight if the structural integrity of their glider is in doubt.

3.4.4 Safety on Landing

As soon as pilots land they must immediately fold or roll up their gliders. A paraglider which has not been gathered up means "I need help".

Any pilot witnessing an accident should inform the CO as soon as possible.

Any pilot who lands safely and does not immediately gather in their wing may be penalised points. (see 2.9.4)

3.4.5 Civil Aviation Regulations / Airspace Restrictions

Civil Aviation Regulations are to be observed at all times. Airspace breaches will result penalty points. Major infringements may result in disqualification and/or further disciplinary action by NZHGPA.

3.4.6 Cloud Flying

Cloud flying is always prohibited.

Pilots are encouraged to report instances of cloud flying to the CO. (see 2.9.4 for penalty points)

3.4.6 Private Property

All competitors and their retrieve drivers are reminded that many landings will be on private property.

Pilots are required to act in such a manner that promotes the continued practice of paragliding in the area:

- All gates should be left as they are found.
- Care should be exercised when crossing fence lines to prevent damage. Use a gate where possible.
- Vehicles should only be driven on marked tracks unless permission to do otherwise has been obtained from the land owner.
- Land in a position that is well clear of stock.
- Leave no litter at the launch or landing site.
- Landings in crops should not be attempted

Some landowners may have specifically requested that pilots refrain from landing in their properties. A map detailing these areas will be displayed on the Launch notice board.

Landing in one of these areas will attract a score penalty. See 2.9.4 for suggested penalties.

3.5 Gliders And Equipment

3.5.1 Standard of Equipment

Gliders and equipment provided by the competitor must be of a performance and standard suitable for the event.

In the case of the Glider & Harness, this could be demonstrated by a valid warrant of fitness.

The CO has the right to refuse any glider not of acceptable standard or configuration.

The glider shall fly throughout the championships as a single structural entity using the same standard of components as used on the first day.

All gliders must (if required), be made available during the Registration period for an acceptance check in the configuration in which they will be flown.

The CO has the right to inspect for airworthiness and, if necessary, ground any aircraft for safety reasons at any time during the event.

3.5.2 Protective and Safety Equipment

Every pilot shall fly with:

- an emergency parachute
- altimeter
- helmet
- protective backplate.
- UHF radio (see 3.5.8)

3.5.3 Preparation for Flight

Before each task, each glider shall be given a pre-flight check by its pilot and may not be flown unless it is serviceable.

3.5.4 Flight Limitations

Each glider shall be flown within the limitations of its Certificate of Airworthiness and its manufacturer's published limitations.

Any manoeuvre hazardous to other competitors or the public, including unauthorised aerobatics are prohibited.

3.5.5 Changing a Glider during a Competition

If a Glider is damaged, lost or stolen then the glider may be replaced by an identical make and model or one of similar or lower performance.

Any major damage shall be reported to the CO without delay and if possible the glider may then be repaired. Any replacement parts must conform to the original specifications.

If it is desired to replace the glider with one of higher performance then approval must be granted by a majority at a general pilots' briefing.

If it is desired to replace the glider when it has not been lost or damaged then approval must be granted by a majority at a general pilots' briefing.

3.5.6 Glider Identification

The Make, Model & Colour(s) of the glider flown by each competitor shall be recorded on a pilot list available on the Competition Noticeboard.

3.5.7 GPS

Flight verification is via a GPS track log (see 2.6). It is the pilot's responsibility to confirm that their GPS is compatible and in working order before using it in a task.

Lack of availability of a particular navigation system will not be accepted as grounds for complaint or protest.

3.5.8 Radios

All competitors shall carry a UHF handheld radio in the interest of safety. Minimum requirement is 0.5W enabled for NZ channels 1-20. (Note US channels are different frequencies).

The Official safety and/or Retrieval frequencies will be announced at the initial pilot briefing. Use of this channel for other than official business is not permitted.

Pilots shall be listening in on the Official safety frequency at all times.

Competitors are reminded of the regulations governing the operation of two way radio equipment.

All equipment must be operated in accordance with the appropriate regulations. All equipment and/or operators must be appropriately licensed.

3.5.9 Ballast

A competing glider may carry jettisonable ballast only in the form of sand OR water. A pilot must avoid dropping ballast at any time or in a manner likely to disadvantage other competing gliders or enrage the public.

Maximum allowable ballast (including glider and all equipment) is 30kg.

3.5.9 Propulsion

Any means of producing propulsive energy to increase performance is prohibited.

3.6 Launch Areas / Take-off Sites

The setup and launch areas may be controlled by a launch director.

All competitors are to co-operate with the launch director to ensure that launches proceed smoothly & safely.

Competitors who disobey a direction of the launch director will on the first occasion be issued a warning. Subsequent failures to co-operate will lead to penalty points being awarded.

3.6.1 Launch Area

The boundaries of the launch area should be clearly marked and / or explained by the CO or the Launch Director.

3.6.2 Launch Closure

If conditions change and it is no longer possible to safely take off, the launch shall be closed until conditions improve. The closure of the launch is at the discretion of the Launch Director.

3.6.3 Free Flyers

It is recognised that most launch areas are on public land or land where it is not legally possible to control people not involved in the competition.

However a reasonable effort should be made to prevent additional pilots (Free Flyers) from launching from the competition launch area when the airspace in front of launch is congested, e.g. during window open time.

Members of the public who are in close proximity to the launch area should also be made aware of the competition launch area boundaries.

3.7 Sign In – Sign Out

3.7.1 Sign In

For safety reasons, all registered pilots must sign in before launching.

CO's may allow pilots to sign in by text message. This must be briefed before the start of the task.

A list of pilots' names will be placed on the Launch Noticeboard for this purpose.

This list must be compared to the list at the report in location at the time of the Report in Deadline.

Failure to sign in for a task will result in the pilot being considered a 'Did Not Fly' (DNF) and will score 0 for the task.

If a pilot is not going to fly due to sickness or any other reason after signing in at Launch, they or their representative must notify the CO or the Launch Director.

If a pilot does not fly due to safety considerations they should state this to the Launch Director or CO when notifying them of their intention not to fly. A compensation score is available in this situation.

3.7.2 Sign Out

Sign out is mandatory for all pilots signed in for a task in the competition.

Pilots must sign out by telephone, radio or in person to the designated check-in HQ by the deadline.

CO's may allow pilots to sign out by text message. This must be briefed before the start of the task.

A pilot who has submitted a run report shall be deemed to have signed out

At the discretion of the CO, pilots making goal may be able to fill in run reports at goal and not have to sign out back at the competition HQ.

3.7.2.1 Sign Out Deadline

Announced at the task briefing and displayed on the task board.

If a signed in pilot has failed to sign out by the deadline then the CO will commence preliminary investigations as to their whereabouts (see 3.8 Emergencies). This will lead to a full scale SAR operation if the pilot remains missing.

As this is a serious safety deadline, pilots who cause

unnecessary SAR operations by failing to report in may be disqualified from the competition.

3.8 Emergencies

When an emergency occurs the Competition Organiser shall be notified without delay.

The appropriate emergency service should be notified by phoning 111 as soon as possible.

It is preferable that this is coordinated by the CO, but individual action should be taken if the CO is not contactable.

Pilots who are flying near a pilot who goes down and is in need of aid **MUST** provide aid to the limit of their own safety.

Compensation to the assisting pilots score will be at the discretion of the CO with the assistance of the Task Committee.

If necessary to ensure unbiased assessment the Technical Delegate shall appoint a separate committee of 3 pilots.

Depending on the emergency it may be necessary to suspend or cancel the task. Any task cancelled will be declared invalid.

3.8.1 Compensation scores

Factors to consider in assessing the compensation score for a pilot(s) assisting in an emergency shall include:

- A: If the competition has more than 3 tasks:
 - The score should be the equivalent of their average daily scores (expressed as a percentage of the daily winner's scores and determined at the end of the competition and applied against the winner's score for the round) + 10%.
- B: If the competition has less than 3 tasks:
 - If the pilot is ranked on the NZ ladder with enough previous tasks since entering the ladder such that their combined DMF is greater than 50%, then the score should be their NZ ladder ranking expressed as a percentage of the winner's score for the round + 10%
 - If the pilot does not have an established NZ ladder ranking then the average of their last 3 tasks from any previous competition + 10% should be used.

In all cases, the CO should also consider:

- The actual location of the situation (position on course compared to the score as calculated above)
- The position of the pilot in the sky as compared to other pilots flying the task and their results.
- If there is any doubt, the compensation score should err in the pilot(s) favour.

3.8.2 Emergency Plan

A template for an emergency plan is provided with the Competition Pack issued to the CO by the PCC.

This is to be completed with reference to the specific competition and a copy provided to each competitor.

A copy is also to be posted on the Launch Notice-board.

3.8.3 First Aid Kit

The PCC has First Aid Kits available for the Competition Organiser to use during a competition.

A First Aid Kit is to be present at the launch area at all times while the launch window is open.

Locations of any other first aid kits should be notified to competitors at the initial briefing of the competition.

It is also recommended that competitors and officials who have first aid training are identified to the other competitors at the initial briefing of the competition.

SECTION 4. NATIONAL LADDER and AWARDS

- 4.1 Objectives
- 4.2 General
- 4.3 The Rules
 - 4.3.1 Pilots Included in the Ladder
 - 4.3.2 Devaluation
- 4.4 Definitions
- 4.5 Fixed Values
- 4.6 Formulae
- 4.7 Results
 - 4.7.1 NZ Open Tasks
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 - 4.7.3 Nominated FAI Competitions
- 4.8 Awards
 - 4.8.1 New Zealand Champion
 - 4.8.2 NZ Female Champion
 - 4.8.3 DHV 2 Champion
 - 4.8.4 Leo Geary Memorial Trophy
 - 4.8.5 Cross Country Champion
 - 4.8.6 Female Cross Country Champion
 - 4.8.7 Opposite Gender Champions

4.1 Objectives

The objectives of the National Ladder are:

- To provide a national ranking list of paraglider pilots;
- To assist with the selection of pilots to participate in competitions where entry is limited;
- To encourage and maintain interest in the competitive aspects of the sport of paragliding and;
- To foster the development of competition skills.

4.2 General

Only the following competitions will count towards the ladder:

- All tasks in a NZ Open Round,
- Each pilots best 4 valid tasks in any Regional Competition,
- Nominated International FAI sanctioned competitions

Rankings will be calculated after each valid task, as defined later in this section, provided a member of the PCC is present at the competition and they are supplied with the daily results. Otherwise the results will be calculated as soon as the daily results are supplied to the PCC.

International FAI sanctioned competitions will count based on the overall results as defined later in this section and will be applied at the end date of that competition

If a competition is both an FAI sanctioned competition and a NZHGPA sanctioned competition then it can not be nominated as a FAI competition to count towards the Ladder.

4.3 The Rules

All competition pilots in NZ are rated out of 1000.

After each valid task or valid international FAI competition a pilots rating will move up or down depending on their result. Pilots who do not fly in a NZHGPA sanctioned competition will move down.

Each task shall be recalculated for a TASK VALUE of 1000 before being used to calculate the ladder.

Prior to this recalculation any penalties incurred by the pilot shall be removed. After the recalculation they shall be reapplied.

All non rated pilots start with an initial rating of 250. Pilots who do not fly will drop by 1/5 of the DMF each valid day.

4.3.1 Pilots included in the ladder

For the purposes of the National Ladder calculation at NZHGPA sanctioned competitions held overseas, only NZHGPA member or visitor member pilots will be counted for the values of N, TT, TV, and G.

Only NZHGPA members will be included on the ladder.

Pilots whose rating drops below 250 will be removed from the Ladder at the end of each season.

The NZHGPA membership status of Pilots on the Ladder should be verified at every NZHGPA competition by the Technical Delegate or the PCC, prior to updating the Ladder.

Pilots whose NZHGPA membership lapses will be removed from the Ladder 3 calendar months after their membership expires.

Note this is often 31st January, so the PCC should verify the membership status of the pilots on the ladder at this time

4.3.2 Devaluation

At the end of the New Zealand flying season directly before the World Championships (1st April 2011, 2013 etc) each pilot's ladder score shall be devalued by 10%

Note – this should be after the World's team selection is made for that year. If this is not the case then the devaluation should be delayed until immediately after the team selection date.

4.4 Definitions

Top Ten	Top ten pilots on the ladder
N	Total number of pilots who launched
TT	Number of Top Ten pilots who launched
TV	Task Value from the task scoring spread sheet. This includes factors for distance, time and launch percentage.
G	Percentage of pilots who make goal (Number at Goal/N)

4.5 Fixed Values

Nominal Movement (NM) = 35%

Nominal Distance (ND) = 20 km

Nominal Time (NT) = 1.5 hours

Nominal Pilots (NP) = 50

FAI Validity Factor (VF) = 1

4.6 Formulae

Dfactor = TV/1000

TTfactor = $0.06 \cdot TT + 0.4$

Nfactor = $\text{Sqrt}(N)/\text{Sqrt}(NP)$

Gfactor = $\text{Sqrt}(G) + 0.68$,
(May NOT exceed 1)

4.7 Results

4.7.1 NZ Open Tasks

TaskFactor = Ttfactor * Nfactor * Dfactor * Gfactor

DMF = TaskFactor * Nominal Movement

Pilot scores above current rank:

New rank = Current rank + DMF x (task score- current rank)

Pilot scores below current rank:

New rank = maximum of (Current rank - DMF x (current rank -task score)) or (Current rank - DMF/5 x current rank)

Note: This is the maximum of their calculated score or their DNF score. This is to encourage top pilots to fly a

task as the maximum you can lose is the same as a DNF

Pilots who do not fly (DNF):

New rank = Current rank - DMF/5 x current rank

Except:

Pilots missing a task due to being part of a NZ team at another competition:

New rank = Current rank

4.7.2 RC Tasks

Nominal Movement = 5%

DMF = Nominal Movement * DFactor

Pilot scores above current rank:

New rank = Current rank + DMF x (task score- current rank)

Pilot scores below current rank:

New rank = maximum of (Current rank - DMF x (current rank -task score)) or (Current rank - DMF/5 x current rank)

Note: This is the maximum of their calculated score or their DNF score. This is to encourage top pilots to fly a task as the maximum you can lose is the same as a DNF

Pilots who do not fly (DNF):

New rank = Current rank - DMF/5 x current rank

Each pilot counts 4 RC tasks towards their ladder score in each competition season.

If they compete in more than 4 tasks, then their best 4 tasks will be used to calculate their ladder score.

If they compete in less than 4 tasks, then they will be scored as a DNF to make a total of 4 tasks counting towards their ladder score.

4.7.3 Nominated FAI sanctioned competitions that are NOT also sanctioned by the NZ PCC

NZFAI = 20

NZFAI shall be set at the end of each NZ competition season by the PCC. It shall be based on the number of WPRS points available over the last two years at NZ FAI sanctioned competitions.

The value shall be published on the competition website.

Pilots who did not fly in the competition:
New rank = Current rank

Pilot who flew in the competition:
Within 2 weeks of the FAI results being published, the

pilot shall forward the following information to the PCC:

1. their WPRS score (WPRS)
2. the maximum WPRS points available at the competition (TS)

The task score for the ladder shall be calculated as a percentage of NZFAI, and normalised to 1000. Note - the DMF shall be modified by the total number of WPRS points available (TS) if these are less than NZFAI.

Task score (max 1000) = $WPRS / \min(NZFAI, TS) \times 1000$

Nominal Movement = 10%

DMF(max 10%) = Nominal Movement * (TS / NZFAI)
New rank = maximum of (Current rank + DMF x (task score- current rank)) or (Current rank – DMF/5 x current rank)

If a pilot nominates an FAI competition but fails to forward the data to the PCC then:

New rank = Current rank - DMF/5 x current rank

The ladder is updated based on the date of the competition.

4.7.3.1 Number of FAI Competitions

A maximum of 2 (two) FAI competitions may be used in any one season (1st April – 31st March)

A pilot must nominate the competitions to be used prior to the competition's first flying day. This notification should be in writing to a member of the PCC. Email or phone messages are also acceptable.

4.7.3.2 World Championships

As the team is limited in size, the results from the Paragliding World Championships will not count towards the NZ ladder.

4.8 Awards

4.8.1 Combined NZ Open score.

N = The cumulative total number of tasks flown in both NZ Open rounds

TN = number of tasks counted towards each pilots score

$TN = (N+1)/2$ rounded up.

EG: if there were 3 tasks in Round 1 and 4 tasks in Round 2 of the NZ Open then N = 7 and TN = 4.
If there were 4 tasks in each Round then N=8 and TN = 5

The highest scores from TN number of tasks shall be

added to calculate each pilots Combined NZ Open Score.

If $TN \geq 2$ AND the combined Task Value of all N tasks ≥ 2000 then the awards shall be made as described below.

If $TN = 1$ OR the combined Task Value of all N tasks < 2000 then each pilot's NZ Ladder scores shall be used to determine the awards.

Only pilots who have registered in at least one task in that season's NZ Open are eligible for these awards.

The awards of NZ Champion, NZ Female (or Male) Champion and NZ Sports Class Champion shall be determined immediately after the final task of the last NZ Open round in the season, and the trophies preferably awarded at the prize giving for the final NZ Open round.

4.8.2 New Zealand Champion

The pilot with the highest Combined NZ Open Score will be awarded the title of NZ Champion.

Only NZ citizens or permanent residents are eligible to become the New Zealand Champion.

4.8.3 NZ Female Champion

The Female pilot with the highest Combined NZ Open Score will be awarded the title of NZ Female Champion.

Only NZ citizens or permanent residents are eligible to become the New Zealand Female Champion.

4.8.4 NZ Sport Class Champion

The pilot flying a LTF 2 / EN C (or lower) category wing with the highest Combined NZ Open Score shall be awarded the title of Sport Class Champion.

Only NZ citizens or permanent residents are eligible to become the New Zealand Sports Class Champion.

4.8.5 Leo Geary Memorial Trophy

Awarded to the most outstanding performance in NZ competitions from an up and coming pilot. This award is generally given to pilots with three years flying experience or less, and is only given to NZHGPA member pilots.

The recipient of the Leo Geary Memorial Trophy is selected between the PCC and the current sponsor of the trophy.

4.8.6 NZ Cross Country Champion

Pilot whose top three cross country flights for the season add up to the most points awarded (see Section 6 of these rules)

4.8.6 Female Cross Country Champion

Female pilot whose top three cross country flights for the season add up to the **most points awarded** (see Section 6 of these rules).

4.8.7 Opposite Gender

If in any season the NZ Champion and / or the NZ Cross Country Champion and / or the National Ladder Champion are Female then the corresponding Female Champion award shall be awarded to the top placed Male pilot and be named "Male Champion".

SECTION 5. NATIONAL TEAMS SELECTION

5	National Teams Selection
5.1	Introduction
5.2	Selection Timetable
5.3	Team Nomination
5.3.1	Pilot Qualifications
5.3.2	Team Positions based on Ladder Ranking
5.3.3	Elected Position
5.3.4	Remaining Positions
5.3.5	Gender Considerations
5.4	Written Agreement with NZHGPA

5. NATIONAL TEAMS SELECTION

5.1 Introduction

The selection procedures contained in this section are to be followed when it is necessary to select a team that will be representing New Zealand in international competitions where entry is limited and the organiser does not invite individuals to compete.

Examples of competitions in this category are:

- World Championships
- World Air Games
- Pre World Championships
- European Championships
- Trans Tasman Challenge

5.2 Selection Timetable

The timetable for the selection process shall be drawn up well in advance so that all pilots are aware of the timing of any decisions.

Where possible the initial nomination of teams shall occur three months prior to the competition starting date. The PCC shall determine the dates by which a final team selection is to be made.

It is suggested that a pilot to whom a position has been offered should accept or decline the position with 14 days or the pilot shall be deemed to have declined. This shall be made clear to the pilot at the time the position is offered.

5.3 Team Nomination

Positions on national Paragliding teams will be offered to pilots on the basis of 5.3.1.1 - 5.3.1.3 below.

Acceptance of a pilot into a national team is concluded upon the completion of a written contract with the NZHGPA as detailed in 5.4.

5.3.1 Pilot Qualifications.

A Pilot selected for the NZ Team must:

- be a New Zealand Citizen or a New Zealand Resident
- Be a current full member of the NZHGPA
- Have a current FAI sporting license issued by New Zealand AND any WPRS points they have accrued within the last 12 months must be registered towards New Zealand on the Nation rankings with the FAI.
- Not have represented another country in a Paragliding Competition within the last 2 years

5.3.2 Team Positions based on Ladder ranking

Pilots ranked from 1 to the number of positions available shall be offered positions in the team.

5.3.3 Elected Position

If there are unfilled positions after 5.3.2 then one national team position shall become an 'elected position'.

5.3.3.1 Definition of Elected Position

An elected position is a place on the national paragliding team where the pilot is elected by the PCC. There is a maximum of one elected position (except as in 5.3.5).

Any pilot may apply for the Elected Position and must do so by writing to the PCC by a date nominated by the PCC at the time initial positions are offered under 5.3.2 above.

5.3.3.2 Elected Position Criteria

In addition to the criteria in Para 5.3.1, a Pilot selected for the Elected Position must:

- Be demonstrably better than ranked pilots who would otherwise accept the position under Para 5.3.4

In selecting the pilots for the Elected Position the PCC will also consider the following:

- A pilot's ability to function positively within a team
- If a pilot can be shown to have personally increased the NZ team size applicable to the competition for which a team is being selected, then they should have priority in selection for an elected position. <note this is for elected positions only>
- Any other extra-ordinary factors the PCC deem important

5.3.4 Remaining Team Positions

Any remaining positions on the national team shall be offered to pilots in their order on the Ladder from the last position offered under para 5.3.2 onwards.

5.3.5 Gender Considerations

Gender is not considered in team selection unless gender requirements are specified by the organiser of the competition.

In such circumstances, the available positions will be filled by the top ranked pilots of each gender on the national ladder according to the process in para 5.3.2

In such circumstances, and if the positions are not filled under para 5.3.2, then there shall also be two Elected Positions possible, one for each gender.

5.4 Written Agreement with NZHGPA

Pilots selected as part of a national team may be required to enter into a written agreement with the NZHGPA detailing the responsibilities of all parties, expected behaviour while representing NZ, etc...

Failure to comply with this agreement may result in disciplinary action on return to NZ by the NZHGPA executive.

SECTION 6. CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Each flying year a National paragliding cross country championship may be run.

An organiser of this championship (XC Champs organiser) may be appointed by the PCC in April of each year. This appointment shall automatically continue in the following years, until he/she is notified otherwise by the PCC, or he/she informs the PCC of their intention to stand down. If no XC Champs organizer is appointed the competition shall be administered by a member of the PCC.

The flying year shall run from 1st April to 31st March the following calendar year.

6.1 Cross Country Championship Format

A pilot's Cross Country Championship score shall be the total of the score from their three highest scoring flights in one flying year.

Flights shall be scored in one of the following categories with points allocated as defined on the xc competition web site.

www.paraglidingforum.com/leonardo

1. Free Flight. (distance X 1.5)
2. Free triangle. (distance X 1.75)
3. FAI Triangle.(distance X 2.0)

6.1.1 XC Rover

An XC Rover table may be part of the XC Championships at the discretion of the XC Comp organizer..

Flights for the XC Rover table must originate from sites more than 50km apart. Only one flight is scored per site to count towards a pilot's total score

A pilot's XC Rover score shall be the total of up to 5 flights in one flying year.

A pilot must have a minimum of 3 XC Rover flights before scoring on this table.

6.1.2 Sub Classes

At the discretion of the XC Champs organiser, sub classes may be collated and shown as part of the XC Championships. These may include:

- Open
- Male
- Female
- Tandem Class
- North Island
- South Island
- Rookie

6.3 Flight Submission and Minimum Documentation

Flight submissions are to be uploaded to the XC website (www.paraglidingforum.com/leonardo) within 30 days of the flight, except that all March flights must be submitted by April 5.

Refer to the website for details. The competition website will be notified at the start of each competition season.

6.3.1 Basic Details for All Flights.

All submissions are to include:

- the name of the pilot,
- flight date,
- take off site,
- GPS track log.

To submit a GPS tracklog, the pilot shall upload a suitable format file to the nominated website.

6.3.2 Flights scoring 50 points and over, or flights claiming a "Record".

All flights scoring 50 points and over, and those claiming a "Record", shall be verified with a 3D GPS track-log. It includes height data in the log.

Refer to Section 2.6 for GPS track log validation criteria.

A "record" claim is for either a site record or a national record. If this flight is under 50 points and GPS verification is unavailable it may still be submitted to the XC Champs but it will not be awarded "record" status.

6.3.3 Flights scoring under 50 points.

Flights under 50 points may submit a 2d tracklog

6.4 Scoring

Unless determined otherwise by the XC Comp organiser the scoring shall be as defined in the rules of the nominated website.

6.5 Challenging a flight.

Any flight may be challenged by the XC champs organiser or by any pilot competing in the XC champs.

If a flight is challenged, initially the XC champs organiser or a PCC appointed scrutineer shall obtain and scrutinise the flight documentation.

If the challenging pilot or the challenged pilot is not satisfied with this outcome, a jury will be appointed by the PCC.

The jury's decision will be final.

6.5.4 Validation of Flight

The flight is valid providing that:

- the flight was flown in New Zealand,
- at least 2/3 of the distance was flown inland (thermal flying rather than coastal soaring),
- the Pilot has at least PG2 rating or foreign equivalent,
- the flight complies with NZ Civil Aviation Authority regulations for paraglider flight.
- The appropriate level of evidence is provide to the XC champs organiser (see 6.3)
- The flight has not been challenged under 6.5

By entering a flight into the Cross Country Championships, the pilot confirms that these conditions have been met.

Foreign pilots may enter the competition providing that they have taken out temporary NZHGPA membership.

Note that the title of NZ XC Champion will go to the best-placed NZ resident pilot.

6.6 Cross Country Records

New Zealand XC records may be claimed by submitting the 3D GPS track log or IGC file to the XC competition organizer. These files will be examined and scored separately from the annual online XC competition.

6.6.1 Categories

XC records will be kept in 6 categories;

1. Open Distance (OD): Straight line distance from start point to finish point.
2. Out and Back (OB): Straight line distance from start point to any turn point, then back to the start point..
3. FAI Triangle (TR): A triangle defined by 3 turn points. One turn point will be the start/finish point. The smallest side of the triangle shall not be less than 28% of the total distance.
4. Declared Goal: Open distance from start point to a goal declared in writing to a witness before launch.
5. Female: Open distance flown by a female pilot
6. Tandem: Open distance flown on a certified tandem glider with a passenger.

6.6.2 Site Records

Separate records for each recognized inland site may be claimed in each of the above categories.