

HANG GLIDING COMPETITION MANUAL

Version 1.0,04 October 2011

SECTION 1 Introduction

1.1. General

- 1.1.1.1 These rules apply to all official NZHGPA Hang Gliding Competitions. Organisers and competitors must fully comply with the rules.
- 1.1.1.2 This competition manual is produced and updated by the Hang Gliding Competitions Committee (HGCC) 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 Hang Gliding competitions.
- 1.1.1.3 Any suggestions for improving this manual are very welcome and should be made to the HGCC, care of Matt Barlow, 14 Carston St, Leeston, Canterbury, 7632, or by email to matt_barlow@slingshot.co.nz, or to the NZHGPA, care of the executive committee.

1.2. Changes to these rules.

- 1.2.1.1 The HGCC or the NZHGPA executive committee may change these rules at any time.
- 1.2.1.2 Reasonable effort shall be made to avoid changes to the rules during the New Zealand competition season.
- 1.2.1.3 Changes to the rules shall take affect 14 days after they have been posted on the NZHGPA website (on the hang gliding competition page and the forum) AND no significant objections have been raised.
- 1.2.1.4 Hang Glider Pilot Members will be notified via email of potential changes to the rules and postings on the NZHGPA website.
- 1.2.1.5 All changes are subject to the approval of the NZHGPA executive.

1.3. Aims Of The NZHGPA Competitions System

- 1.3.1.1 To provide a safe and structured series of competitions for pilots of all levels of competition skills.
- 1.3.1.2 To achieve and maintain, for New Zealand pilots, a high standard of competitive performance at international competitions.

- 1.3.1.3 To provide a framework upon which the competitive aspects of Hang Gliding can be administered and allowed to develop.
- 1.3.1.4 To determine the NZ Champion annually.
- 1.3.1.5 To provide the base data for determining a national pilot ranking system (The National Ladder).
- 1.3.1.6 To state the process used to select a NZ Hang Gliding Team.
- 1.3.1.7 To encourage fun, skill improvement and increased participation in NZ competitions.

1.4. The Hang Gliding Competition Committee (HGCC)

- 1.4.1.1 Within the NZHGPA a Hang Gliding Competition 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.
- 1.4.1.2 The NZHGPA executive committee may dismiss the HGCC at any time and discharge their responsibilities directly.

1.4.2. Selection/ Election of the Hang Gliding Competition Committee

- 1.4.2.1 The HGCC may be appointed by the NZHGPA executive committee.
- 1.4.2.2 In the absence of an appointment by the executive committee, the HGCC may be elected by vote at the NZHGPA AGM similar to the 'election of officers' process.
- 1.4.2.3 Sufficient notice of the intention to hold this election must be given to pilots.
- 1.4.2.4 Potential candidates for the HGCC may be requested to make a written statement of their ideas and directions for the sport of Hang Gliding in New Zealand.
- 1.4.2.5 The newly appointed HGCC begin their duties at the end of the AGM.

1.5. Competition Format

- 1.5.1.1 NZHGPA Hang Gliding Competitions will be held each NZ summer season (defined as running from 1 May to 30 April).
- 1.5.1.2 There will be two levels of Hang Gliding Competition: NZ Open & League Competitions.
- 1.5.1.3 The NZ Open shall consist of one round each season. The round shall be a maximum of 8 days long.
- 1.5.1.4 Leagues will be club based competitions, with each recognised NZHGPA club able to conduct a maximum of 3 Leagues each season.

- 1.5.1.5 Leagues 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.
- 1.5.1.6 If any international competition has 6 or more NZ (full NZHGPA members) pilots it may be nominated as a League with the same level of notification and scoring. The results shall be sent to the HGCC for inclusion by the pilot making the notification.
- 1.5.1.7 Ladder: All tasks at the NZ Open will count towards the ladder. Each pilot will count 5 tasks from Leagues towards their ladder score. Refer Section 3 of these rules.

1.5.2. Notification of NZ Open

- 1.5.2.1 There will be a minimum of 2 months' notice of the NZ Open.

1.5.3. Notification of Leagues

- 1.5.3.1 Dates for a League shall be notified by a club member a minimum of 4 ½ days (e.g. Monday evening for following Saturday) prior to the first briefing. Note earlier notification is possible.
- 1.5.3.2 The League shall be confirmed or cancelled by a further notice 36 hours prior to the first briefing.
- 1.5.3.3 If a League has been notified, yet no tasks are set, it will not count as one of the Leagues for that club that season.

1.5.4. Notification Methods

- 1.5.4.1 Notification for Leagues and the NZ Open shall be via a notice on the Competition forum of the NZHGPA website, and by an email from the Competition Organiser (through NZHGPA Administrator) to all Hang Glider Pilot members.
- 1.5.4.2 Where possible a notice shall also be published in Airborn magazine.
- 1.5.4.3 The notice shall consist of a minimum of:
 - (a) Name & contact phone number of the Competition Organiser
 - (b) Time & location of the first briefing
 - (c) Probable sites to be used for the competition
 - (d) Entry requirements
 - (e) Cost

1.5.5. Number of competing pilots

- 1.5.5.1 Each task in a League must have a minimum of 6 competing pilots to score points on the ladder.

1.6. Competition Levy

- 1.6.1.1 Each NZ Open and League will charge a levy of \$5 per competitor.
- 1.6.1.2 The levy forms the Hang Gliding Competition Fund and is administered by the HGCC to further the aims of the NZHGPA competition system as set out in 1.3 above.
- 1.6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Competition Organiser to collect this levy and forward it to the NZHGPA Administrator.
- 1.6.1.4 Results from the NZ Open or Leagues will not be considered valid until the correct levy is received by the administrator.

SECTION 2 Selection of Competitions

2.1. NZ Open

- 2.1.1.1 Potential Organisers of a NZ Open should send their submission to the HGCC by 30 June each year or as notified by the HGCC.
- 2.1.1.2 The locations and dates of the following season's events will then be confirmed by the HGCC and published in the next available Airborn and on the Competition page of the NZHGPA website.
- 2.1.1.3 When selecting the location of the NZ Open, preference shall be given to the Island that missed out the previous year. However in the absence of a nomination for that Island, it is acceptable to hold the NZ Open in the same Island 2 or more years in a row.
- 2.1.1.4 Preference shall be given to nominations that meet the requirements of FAI Cat 2 and are sanctioned by the FAI.
- 2.1.1.5 If there are no nominations for the NZ Open after the cut-off date, the location shall be determined on a first in first served basis.

2.2. Leagues

- 2.2.1.1 Leagues shall be facilitated by Club Members.

2.3. League and NZ Open Scoring

- 2.3.1.1 The latest software and scoring program on the FAI website www.fs.fai.org is to be used to score the NZ Open and all Leagues. As of 04 October 2011 the latest scoring program on the FAI website is FS, GAP2008.
- 2.3.1.2 Notwithstanding the above the ‘Race’ and ‘Seeyou’ software programmes may be used to score competitions if scorers prefer.
- 2.3.1.3 In order to maintain consistency from region to region the following parameters are to be used:
- (a) Bombout Distance - 5km
 - (b) Nominal Distance - 30km
 - (c) Nominal Time - 1 hour 30 min
 - (d) Nominal Pilots in Goal - 25%
 - (e) If required the HGCC will arrange a scorer and scoring program for each League.
- 2.3.1.4 The Competition Organiser is responsible for collecting 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.
- 2.3.1.5 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.
- 2.3.1.6 Note that for the NZ Open, scoring and verification is the responsibility of the Competition Organiser to organise.

2.4. Competition Organisers

- 2.4.1.1 The Competition Organiser (CO) is defined as:
- (a) the person (or club) who submits a bid to hold a NZ Open to the HGCC or
 - (b) the person notified as the contact for a League as given in Section 1.5.3 above
- 2.4.1.2 The Competition Organiser does not need to be a hang glider pilot, however an understanding of hang gliding and competitions is essential.

SECTION 3 Competition Rules

3.1. General

- 3.1.1.1 In order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure HG competitions conducted in NZ are in line with international standards the default competition rules for a NZ Open and Leagues are as per the FAI Sporting Code – Section 7A. These rules can be viewed at http://www.fai.org/hang_gliding/documents
- 3.1.1.2 Notwithstanding the above, where the FAI Sporting Code is over prescriptive or inadequate, Competition Organisers are expected to develop and adopt any number

of Local rules that better suit the specifics of the site and competition they wish to conduct.

SECTION 4 National Ladder and Awards

4.1. Objectives

4.1.1.1 The objectives of the National Ladder are:

- (a) To determine the National Champion annually;
- (b) To provide a national ranking of hang glider pilots;
- (c) To assist with the selection of pilots to participate in competitions where entry is limited;
- (d) To encourage and maintain interest in the competitive aspects of the sport of hang gliding and;
- (e) To foster the development of competition skills.

4.2. National Ladder Rules

4.2.1.1 Only the following competitions will count towards the ladder:

- (a) All tasks in a NZ Open
- (b) Each pilots best 5 valid tasks in any League Competition

4.2.1.2 Rankings will be calculated after each valid task, as defined later in this section, provided a member of the HGCC 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 HGCC.

4.2.1.3 For the purposes of determining the New Zealand Champion (see 3.4.1 below), only scores from the flying season just flown are to be used to score the ladder.

4.2.1.4 For the purposes of assisting the Selection Panel select a NZ Team (see Section 4 below) scores from the previous two flying seasons are used to score the ladder.

4.2.2. Ladder Scoring System

4.2.2.1 Each pilot counts 5 League tasks towards their ladder score in each competition season. If they compete in more than 5 tasks, then their best 5 tasks will be used to calculate their ladder score.

4.2.2.2 Each pilots best 5 league tasks are then added together, along with their combined total from the NZ Open. The pilot with the highest overall total (from both the leagues and NZ Open) is awarded the number one ranking, with the next highest total awarded the number two ranking, and so on.

4.3. Awards

- 4.3.1.1 The intent of the Awards section is to formally recognise the talent, commitment, and dedication of high achieving Hang Gliding pilots within the NZHGPA.
- 4.3.1.2 Nominees for each of the Award Categories will be considered at the conclusion of every flying season. The winners of each Award will be presented with a trophy to signify their achievements. The same trophies will be passed on from year to year so members can look back at the competitive history of our fine sport.

4.3.2. New Zealand Champion

- 4.3.2.1 Awarded to the top ranked pilot on the National Ladder based only on points gained from the previous NZ flying season. Only NZ citizens or permanent residents are eligible to become the New Zealand Champion.

4.3.3. Winner of the NZ Open

- 4.3.3.1 Awarded to the winner of the New Zealand Open Hang Gliding Championship. The top 3 scoring pilots from the NZ Open will be recognised with the winner being the pilot with the highest score.

4.3.4. Rookie of the Year

- 4.3.4.1 Awarded to the pilot who in their first 2 years of Hang Gliding demonstrated the greatest levels of commitment, enthusiasm, and competence in the sport. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) details of the pilots starting date, notable accomplishments such as first high flights, first top landings, first competitions, unusual out landings/retrieves, model of glider, etc.

4.3.5. Instructor of the Year

- 4.3.5.1 Awarded to the Instructor who achieved the greatest instructional success during the season year. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) the number of students trained, quality of students trained, safety record, and the pilots overall commitment to Hang Gliding.

4.3.6. NZ Hang Gliding Cross Country Champion

- 4.3.6.1 Awarded to the Pilot who flew the farthest distance when combining their four longest flights during the season. The top 3 pilots will be nominated. Additionally the pilot with the longest flight for the season will also be recognised.

4.3.7. Social Pilot of the Year

- 4.3.7.1 Awarded to the Pilot who is always out there flying, encouraging other pilots to fly, supporting club activities, and displaying character and enthusiasm for the sport. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) details of the pilots club flying including frequency, efforts to co-ordinate flying activities, attendance at club

meetings, support of club social activities, and perhaps a line or two detailing an occasion that typifies the character/antics of the pilot!

4.3.8. Administrator/Volunteer/Supporter/Driver of the Year

- 4.3.8.1 Awarded to the volunteer (not normally a pilot) who demonstrated the greatest support to NZ Hang Gliding Pilots through their Administrative, Supportive, and/or Driving efforts. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) details of the volunteer's frequency and quality of admin/support/driving.

4.3.9. Up and Coming Pilot of the Year

- 4.3.9.1 Awarded to the Intermediate or Advanced Rated Pilot (who has not previously been a National Champion), who demonstrates the greatest potential to break into the top 10 ranked pilots in the country during the next flying season. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) details of the pilot's progress throughout the last year/s including results from any competitions, their ranking on the NZ Ladder, and/or their selection in to the NZ High Performance Training Squad.

4.3.10. Outstanding Pilot of the Year

- 4.3.10.1 Awarded to the Pilot who achieved the greatest overall success within the last season. Nominations should include (but not be limited to) details of the pilots performances in Leagues, the NZ Open, the Omarama Classic, the Cross Country Competition, National Ranking Ladder, other NZ based competitions, Overseas Hang Gliding Competitions, World Ranking, and any other flying achievement deemed worthy of noting.

4.3.11. Nomination Process

- 4.3.11.1 Anyone can nominate someone for an Award. Nominations should take the form of a written summary of no more than 150 words stating why the person qualifies for the Award.

SECTION 5 National Team Selection

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1.1 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.
- 5.1.1.2 Examples of competitions in this category are:
- (a) World Championships
 - (b) World Air Games
 - (c) Pre World Championships

- (d) European Championships
- (e) Trans-Tasman Challenge

5.2. Selection Timetable

- 5.2.1.1 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.
- 5.2.1.2 The HGCC shall determine the dates by which a final team selection is to be made.
- 5.2.1.3 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. Pilot Applications

- 5.3.1.1 Any pilot wishing to be considered for selection into a NZ HG Team should make themselves known to the Selection Panel (see 4.4.1) prior to selection date.

5.3.2. Pilot Qualifications.

- 5.3.2.1 A Pilot selected for a NZ Team must:
 - (a) be a New Zealand Citizen or a New Zealand Resident
 - (b) Be a current full member of the NZHGPA
 - (c) 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.
 - (d) Not have represented another country in a Hang Gliding Competition within the last 2 years
 - (e) Meet all FAI requirements and criteria.

5.4. Team Selection Philosophy

- 5.4.1.1 A variety of systems may be used to select a NZ team. Whatever the system, the best pilots, available, FAI qualified, and willing to fly, should be selected into the team.

5.4.2. Typical Selection Process

- 5.4.2.1 Whenever possible the HGCC shall nominate a specific hang gliding competition (e.g. the Pre Worlds or similar) that pilots should attend if they wish to make the team. Automatic selection will be given to the top 3 NZ pilots at that competition so long as a minimum of 6 NZ pilots flew in the competition.

5.4.2.2 The remaining 3 team positions and 2 reserve positions shall be selected by a Selection Panel.

5.4.3. Selection Panel

5.4.3.1 The Selection Panel consists of the HGCC less any HGCC member who wishes to be selected into the team themselves.

5.4.3.2 When deciding the final positions on the team, the Selection Panel will take into account any flying performance or competition result made known to them from the 2 years prior to the selection date. Notable performances and results include results at the NZ Open and NZ Leagues, position on NZ Ladder, result in overseas comps, World Ranking points, etc.

5.4.3.3 All pilots who notified the Selection Panel that they wish to be considered for selection will be notified of the Team Selection, and have 7 days to contest the teams selection if they feel they need to.