
5. Gliding

Discipline 5.1: Glider Racing

Event Description

The world's top pilots fly and compete in a head-to-head glider race. Following a regatta start, the pilots fly their gliders round a series of compulsory turning points. Prior to landing in front of spectators, pilots make high-speed arrivals to pick up the last precious seconds they need to win. When combined with the latest technologies based on GPS, computer graphics, and glider and helicopter-mounted cameras for air-to-air shoots, spectators can follow how the race develops on a large screen. Glider Racing offers an exciting spectacle in the air and attractive images for spectators on the ground.

Venue

- *Location:* Main venue for take-off and landing.
- *Air Space Requirements:* Contest area of at least 150x150 km with good soaring conditions and as few airspace restrictions as possible up to cloud base.
- *Event Site:* The airfield should be large enough for assembling, parking and operating all gliders. The runway must be long enough to ensure that heavily ballasted gliders can be towed safely. Safe out-landing options must be available in the contest area. Good road and telecommunication network to facilitate retrievals of out-landed gliders.
- *Timing:* Glider Races will take place only in the afternoon. The venue should be available for launches for 1 ½ hours at the beginning of the afternoon, and for 1 hour at the end of the flight tasks for landings.

Competitors

- *Competitor type:* Individuals
- *Team Composition:* 1 pilot
- *Number of entrants:* 12 pilots
- *Support personnel:* 15 (local)
- *FAI – IGC Referee:* 1

Duration

- *Practice Days:* at least 1
- *Competition days:* 5 + 1 day for finals
- *Reserve Days:* 2 afternoons, 1 of which is Competition day.
- *Time per round:* approx. 5 ½ hours, including 3 hours flight.

Technical Equipment specifically required for this event

- 4 tow planes (with pilots).
- Tow ropes (1 per tow plane + 3-4 spare).
- 12 gliders (type to be specified later)
- Parking facilities for gliders with tie-down (cables) and ballasting (water) facilities.
- GPS Tracking system for each glider.
- Weigh bridge
- Parking facilities for glider trailers and cars.
- IGC-approved Scoring Software

Estimated Operational Budget

(For 5 competition days+1 final round)

- Tow planes, fuel, ropes, tracking systems: USD 7'900.-
- Rental of gliders: USD 18'000.-

Notes:

1. *This budget does not include the costs for venue, infrastructure, logistics, accommodation, volunteers and technical equipment required for conducting/ presenting the events, or for interacting with the public (see section 'Technical Equipment').*
2. *Rental of gliders would be drastically reduced if competitors can bring their own gliders to the event.*