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GFA MOSP **PART 4** **Soaring Development**

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GFA MOSP, Part 4 – Soaring Development

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GFA MOSP, Part 4 – Soaring Development

1 Purpose

This document describes the operating procedures for the Soaring Development Panel (SDP) of the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA). The SDP is one of four committees constituted under the GFA Regulations and the GFA Objects and Articles of Association. Reference documents that support this manual are listed at the end of the document.

The SDP reports to the GFA Executive through the Chairman of the SDP (Head of Department).

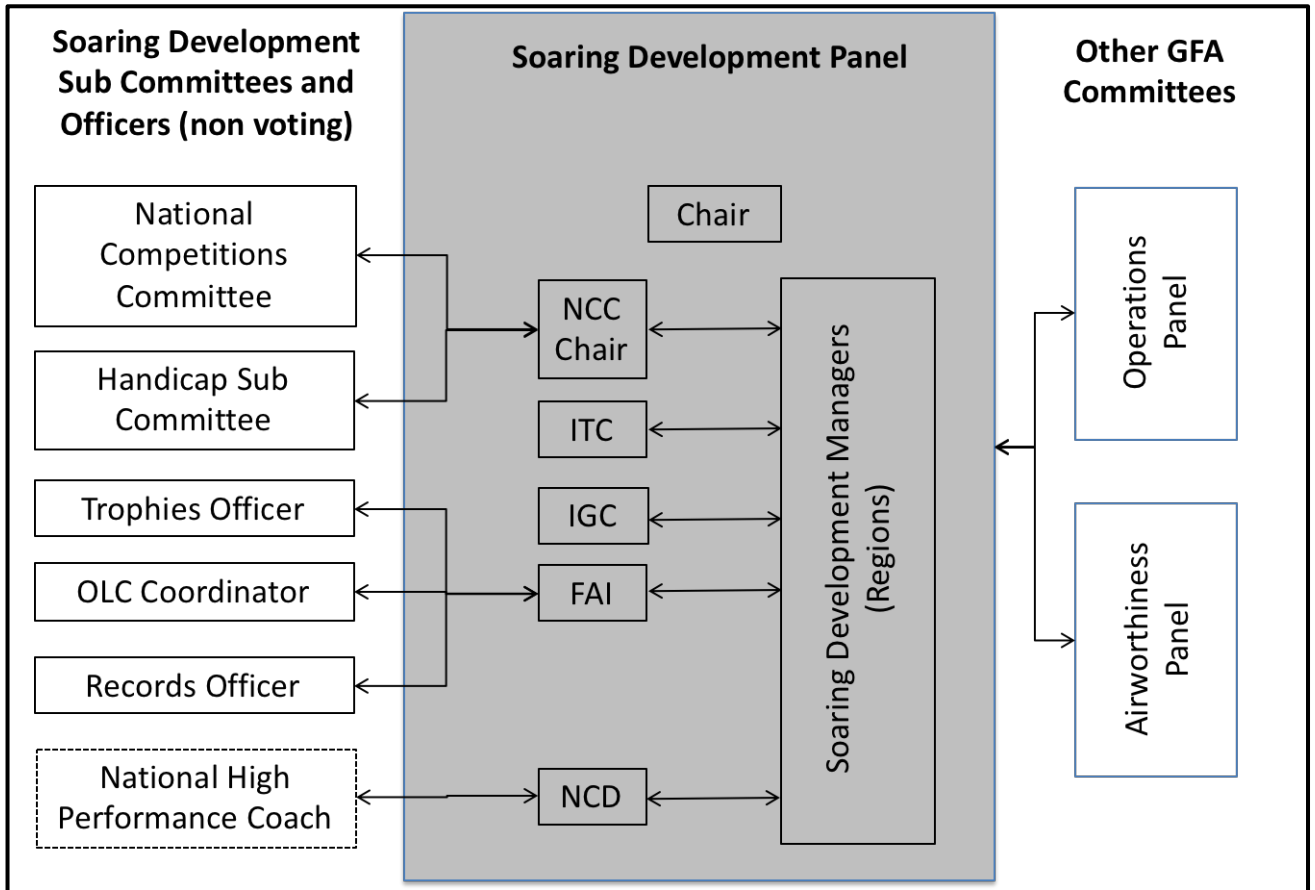
The function of the SDP is to coordinate and manage GFA's sporting, soaring development, post solo soaring activities, competition, and cross-country advancement and competitions. To this aim, the SDP and its sub committees:

- Promote and develop the soaring and cross country flying for gliding in Australia;
- Coordinate and provide direction for Coaching;
- Manage and report on the Online Competition for Australia;
- Coordinate Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) badges and records;
- Liaise with the FAI and International Gliding Commission (IGC) on international gliding matters;
- Manage Sports Trophies;
- Review Soaring Development matters raised by members and pilots;
- Coordinate and plan National Competitions, and assist with State-based competitions with regard to National Co-ordination if requested;
- Develop, amend and ratify National Competition rules as directed or as needed;
- Manage the National Selection List, select pilots for international competitions and approve funding to international pilots and teams;
- Administer the funding for international squads, in conjunction with the GFA Treasurer according to the financial rules set by the Board;
- Manage an annual budget and submit to the Board for approval.

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2 Panel Structure

Role	Appointment or Election
SOARING DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEMBERS	
Chairman of the Soaring Development Panel (CSDP)	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP to the Board, Confirmed by the GFA AGM
Soaring Development Managers (One for each Regional Association)	Appointed by Regions with support from CSDP, approved by the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
National Competition Committee Chair (NCC)	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP, through CSDP to the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
International Teams Convenor (ITC)	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP to the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
National Coaching Director (NCD)	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP to the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
FAI Coordinator	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP to the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
International Gliding Commission (IGC) Representative	Appointed by the Board by recommendation from the SDP to the Board. Confirmed by the GFA AGM
SUB COMMITTEES AND OTHER APPOINTED NON-VOTING ROLES	
National Competitions Committee (NCC)	NCC Chair plus Pilot representatives elected by pilot vote at Multi-Class (2), Club and Sports Class (2) and Junior class (1) nationals
Handicap Sub Committee – 3-5 members with one being the Convenor	Appointed by SDP of suitably qualified and experienced GFA members. Report to NCC Chair
National High Performance Coach	Appointed by SDP approved by the Board, reports through the NCD. Confirmed by the GFA AGM on a needs-basis.
Trophies Officer	Nominated and appointed by SDP, reports through the FAI Coordinator, ratified by the Board
Records Officer	Nominated and appointed by SDP, reports through the FAI Coordinator, ratified by the Board
OLC Officer	Nominated and appointed by SDP reports through the FAI Coordinator, ratified by the Board
Chairman of the Operations Panel (COP)	Appointed by the OPS panel and is co-opted to the SDP as required or requested.
GFA President	GFA President is an ex-officio member of all GFA committees.



3 Responsibilities of Soaring Development Panel Members

3.1 Chair of the Soaring Development Panel (CSDP)

The CSDP is responsible for ensuring that the members of the SDP fulfil their roles correctly and on time. The CSDP is ex officio a member of each of the sports sub committees and can give direction based on advice from the Board or Executive.

- Convenes and chairs SDP meetings
- Oversees the management of the various SDP Departments
- A member of the Executive and the Board
- Has a maximum term as defined within the GFA Articles
- Sets activity programs and budgets for each year
- Maintains and publishes MOSP 4
- Leads SDP role for Safety Management
- Ensures minutes are published

3.2 National Coaching Director (NCD)

- Plans and coordinates the development of soaring skills of all glider pilots through coaching in Australia

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- Liaises with the SDMs for each region on the National Coaching events and regional coaching events
- Liaises with Operations panel to ensure alignment of coaching/instructing
- Supports the National High Performance Coach
- Creates plans and budget for the development of coaching in Australia in conjunction with the SDP, approved by the SC
- Coordinates International Teams Training and Development (including Squad week) in conjunction with Team Captain(s).
- Appoints National Team coaches and works with ITC for the appointment of the Team Captain position
- May appoint a National High Performance Coach in accordance with budgets and requirements.

3.3 Soaring Development Managers

There are five Soaring Development Managers (SDM), one for each of the five GFA regions. These officers may have one or more assistant SDMs or a region may be subdivided as required. The SDMs will be a member of the committee of their Regional Association.

- Provide feedback on coaching activities in their regions
- Work actively with their relevant Regional Associations with respect to soaring development
- Appoint and revalidate Coaches in their regions and notify GFA to keep records current
- Coordinate training of coaches in the region and advise SDP
- Maintain regional records and notify GFA
- Arrange coaching events and theory courses, lectures, and events in the regions
- Liaise with Operations at the regional level
- Report to regional committees and the NCD on progress with soaring development and achievements
- Identify talent for development
- Seek funding for regional coaching events

3.4 Chair National Competition Committee (NCC)

With the assistance of the NCC, the Chair NCC:

- Convenes and chairs NCC meetings annually
- Maintains and publishes Rules, and Guidelines for the conduct of National and Regional Gliding Competitions
- Maintains and publishes handicaps and associated data in conjunction with the Handicap sub committee
- Implements actions that aim to improve safety of National Competitions.
- Review safety reports from all National and Regional championships and liaise with EMO re-evaluation of trends and issues.
- Submits results of national and regional championships to the IGC ranking list
- Publishes the IGC ranking list for Australian pilots annually
- Selects and approves sites and timing of contests for which NCC is responsible, and negotiates to avoid conflicting schedules
- Ensures that representative meetings of pilots are held at each National Championship and that the minutes of those meetings including any recommendations are considered by NCC and SDP when setting rules and guidelines
- Maintains and publishes Rules and Guidelines for the conduct of National Gliding Competitions
- Approves Local Rules and Budgets for all contests for which it is responsible
- Endorses Contest Directors and contest locations for suitability and for insurance purposes
- Appoints Stewards at National Competitions
- Liaises between successive contest directors and other officials to ensure that operational and safety lessons learned in previous events are passed on to new contest organisers. Such liaison can be formal or informal

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- Liaises with GFA Regions to encourage conformity in rules and guidelines.. Where regional events rules differ significantly from the Nationals those events may be omitted from Ranking calculations. Where possible NCC should encourage and work with regional organisers to effect standardisation
- Liaises as needed with other GFA Departments on matters that may affect competition conduct and rules. This includes reporting any identified safety concerns (Operations and/or Airworthiness), airspace (Executive, Operations), or promotional issues (Development)
- Ensures that representative meetings of pilots are held at each National Championship and that the minutes of those meetings including any recommendations are published and are considered by NCC and SDP when setting rules and guidelines

3.5 International Teams Convenor (ITC)

- Maintains and publishes ITC documents, particularly the Selection Guidelines which are established and approved by the SDP
- Updates and publishes the Selection Criteria on the GFA Website
- Maintains and updates the ITC Funding Policy in coordination with the Board's direction
- Maintains and monitor the ITC Fund and provides ITC budge to SDP.
- Co-ordinates the selection of Pilots, Team Captain/Manager and Support staff for International World Championships
- Recommends ITC funding and International Teams funding and Reserve Budgets
- Ensures the effective organisation of International Teams in conjunction with Team Captain(s)
- Selects pilots to represent Australia in International gliding championships under the Selection Guidelines
- Calls for application of, and approve crew members and the Team Manager/ Captain
- Updates the Team Captain Manual and Codes of Conduct
- Ensures pilots and all International team members understand and sign (acknowledging compliance with) the Code of Conduct
- Supports the organisation of International Teams

3.6 IGC Representative

- Attends IGC meetings annually
- Presents Australian bids for International competitions to the IGC
- Has Australia's vote in site selection bids for future World Competitions and Grand Prix
- Presents any issues Australia has with the FAI Sporting Code to the IGC.

3.7 FAI Officer

- Process all Australian FAI badge/diploma claims as per SC3
- Process all International FAI badge/diploma claims as per SC3 and forward to relevant NAC.
- Have a good understanding of the Sporting Code, ability to utilise verification programs and maintain good records
- Report all achieved badge/diploma listing for publication in the gliding magazine
- Maintain and file of all submitted badge/diploma claims
- Prepare annual budget and submit to the SDP each year

4 Soaring Development Supporting Roles

4.1 National Competition Committee (NCC)

The National Competition Committee comprises the following members:

- A Chairperson, who is appointed by the SDP (upon recommendation of NCC) and who is a voting member of the SDP
- Two pilot representatives elected by direct vote of the pilots at the most recent Multi-Class National Championships

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- Two pilot representatives elected by direct vote of the pilots at the most recent Club and Sports Class National Championships
- One pilot representative elected by direct vote of the pilots at the most recent Junior National Championships
- Liaise with SDMs on any relevant Regional Issues

All the above are voting members of NCC. In addition to these voting members, NCC may include specialist non-voting advisors from time to time in areas such as the Chair of Handicap Committee, Trophies Officer, Scoring, Safety, Insurance, or Operational liaison.

The NCC meets at least once per year, usually following the close of the competition season.

4.2 Handicap Sub Committee

Consists of a Convenor selected by NCC and endorsed by the SDP plus two to four other members of this sub-committee selected by NCC. All members of this committee should be chosen for their practical expertise in the area of comparative glider performance,

This sub committee reports to SDP through the NCC. It convenes annually and determines handicaps for the coming season.

It maintains and publishes two lists of handicaps and associated reference weights for all gliders that may compete in any National Championships, one for ballasted gliders and one for unballasted gliders, published by 31st Aug each year.

4.3 Trophies Officer

- Maintains and publishes the Competition Trophies Manual
- Tracks and manages and maintains GFA Sporting Trophies
- Establishes a budget each year in conjunction with the SDP
- Prepares a report each year for the SDP

4.4 OLC Officer

The OLC Officer has the following responsibilities:

- Holds administration rights for the On Line Competition (OLC) in Australia and liaises with the OLC administrators
- Promotes the OLC to members through the website and Soaring Australia and other means of communication
- Calculates and publishes Summer and Winter Competition Winners each year
- Liaises with the Trophies Officer for distribution of OLC Trophies
- Liaises with SDMs for encouragement of use of the OLC

4.5 Records Officer

The SDP nominates the Records Officer. The role requires a person with experience and good understanding of the FAI Sporting Code, and it is essential that the person be regarded as having great integrity.

The Records Officer has the following responsibilities:

- Homologate all National records flown by Australian pilots within and outside Australia.
- Liaise with ASAC to homologate all world and continental records and records flown by international pilots within Australia
- Ensure publication of all records on the GFA web page
- Maintain and ongoing database of Australian records, and to provide a complete list of current records to the SDP as a yearly summary of all records homologated to the GFA for inclusion in the annual report
- To ensure that the fees for Record Claims are paid to GFA and ASAC, and to recommend a Record Certificate for issue to Australian pilots in recognition of their achievements

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- Provide advice to any pilot on the provisions that need to be met in order to satisfy the requirements of the FAI Sporting Code section 3, and to advise them of the current Australian National or World Record for the task they wish to attempt
- Provide timely notification of changes to record categories and to the introduction of new record categories
- Liaise with SDMs

5 Activities of the Soaring Development Panel

5.1 Coaching

The coaching mission is the development the soaring skills of Australian Glider pilots to achieve their full potential and their soaring, cross country and or competition goals. Coaching may take the form of lectures or practical flying, whether in a 2 seater or as a lead-and-follow exercise.

The role of the coach in gliding is development of soaring skills, cross country, badges/diplomas, records and competition flying, and assisting pilots to attain their Glider Pilot Certificate (GPC). The initial training elements provided by coaches is located in the Training Manual which includes training of both pre and post solo pilots up to the completion of the GPC.

Coaches promote and support the further development of higher standards of cross-country and competition flying, up to and including international competition. Training elements for advanced cross-country and competition flying are covered by the Coaching Manual.

5.1.1 Gliding Coaches

There are three levels of Coaches, each with a specific target group:

Silver

A Silver rated coach is focused on assisting pilots to develop the knowledge and skills to become competent soaring pilots, safely achieve cross country flight and achieve the Silver badge. Training at this level is focused on the coaching elements of the Glider Pilot Certificate as defined in MOSP 2.

Diamond

A Diamond rated coach assists pilots to advance their knowledge and skills to

- Achieve a 500km flight in 5-6 hours
- Declare and achieve Gold and Diamond badge flights
- Enter the Online Competition (OLC)
- Enter and fly in their first competitions

Diamond rated coaches should also conduct soaring camps and coaching events.

High performance

- A High Performance rated coach assists pilots to achieve high performance goals including high performance at national and international competition, records and distance flying.

Coaches may hold more than one coach rating. Instructors are encouraged to become accredited coaches with at least a Silver coach rating. Gliding coaches are accredited by the respective SDMs in each region, and their roles are to work with pilots at all levels to develop their soaring skills, and to encourage pilot development and goals. In addition, coaches may assist club members to attain their Glider Pilot Certificate and other goals.

Ideally each gliding club should have at least one coach. Large clubs will probably need four to eight coaches. If necessary, one coach may have to be available for several clubs.

A gliding coach will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe, efficient gliding skills
2. Improve the quality of early cross-country and soaring training for all pilots
3. Systematically teach the basic skills of improving cross-country speed using a variety of coaching methods

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4. Assist pilots to develop competition skills and the skills required for record attempts
5. Provide leadership and motivation, acting as a role model for pilots in the development of gliding skills
6. Identify factors that affect the performance of pilots, including physiological and psychological implications

Specifically, coaches will be able to:

- Conduct ground training courses in the areas related to cross country flying and overall athlete development
- Conduct safe flying coaching sessions that progressively develop a pilot's skills
- Develop and monitor cross-country training programs for individual pilots
- Assist the pre-flight preparation and planning with cross-country pilots attempting FAI certificate and other cross-country flights
- Teach the skills of interpretation of weather and its impact on gliding performance
- Assist individual pilots to develop competition skills
- Identify new talent and assist in the development of that talent.

Refer to the Gliding Coaching Manual for details of the role, requirements and training.

5.1.2 Coach Accreditation and Revalidation

Coaches are trained and accredited by the SDM (or delegate) for each region in accordance with Table 1. SDMs will identify candidates for training and candidates may self-nominate by contacting the SDM for their region.

Accreditation will be for a maximum of two years with a common expiry date of 31 August in even numbered years.

Coaches must be current in coaching in the two-year period immediately prior to the expiry date and meeting the revalidation requirements defined in Table 1.

GFA maintains records of accredited coaches and the coach ratings held by each coach. The SDM is responsible for ensuring that the GFA coach record is accurate.

Table 1 - Coach accreditation and revalidation requirements

	Silver	Diamond	High Performance
Training prerequisites	<p>GPC</p> <p>Minimum 50 hours solo</p> <p>Air Experience Instructor rating</p> <p>Official Observer rating</p> <p>One or more flights of at least 300 km cross country distance</p> <p>600 km or more total cross-country flight over the previous two years</p> <p>Training Principles and Techniques (TPT) accreditation</p> <p><i>Or equivalent combination of the</i></p>	<p>Meets requirements of a Silver rated coach</p> <p>Minimum 250 hours solo</p> <p>At least two Diamond badges</p> <p>At least one flight achieving 100 points on Speed-OLC</p> <p>Flown in at least two competitions, regattas or organised cross country events</p> <p>At least 2000 points on OLC in previous 12 months</p> <p><i>Or equivalent combination of the above at the</i></p>	<p>Meets requirements of a Diamond rated coach</p> <p>Demonstrated skills as a trainer</p> <p>Minimum 1000 hours solo</p> <p>Achieve a high level of performance:</p> <p>Flown in at least 5 national or international competitions achieving an average of 85% of winner score in at least two of those competitions; or</p> <p>Held one or more Australian National speed or distance records</p> <p>Participated in at least one Australian Institute of Sport program</p> <p>Participated in at least one Australian national squad week</p>

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	<i>above at the discretion of the SDM</i>	<i>discretion of the SDM</i>	<i>The NCD may approve exemptions for some of these criteria</i>
Training Syllabus	Completion of the Silver coach training syllabus defined in the Coaching Manual	Completion of the Diamond coach training syllabus defined in the Coaching Manual	Training will vary at the discretion of the SDM and NCD. Further information is available in the Coaching Manual
Biennial Revalidation Requirements (Currency requirement over the two years ending 31 Aug in even years)	600 km or more total cross-country flight (this may include coaching) Participated in one or more formal coaching events Coached in a two-seat glider for two or more flights	Participated as a flying coach (two-seat or lead and follow) in at least one formal coaching event; or Five formal club coaching flights; or 4000 Points on OLC <i>Or equivalent combination of the above at the discretion of the SDM</i>	Coached at least two pilots participating in national or higher level competition or record flying Participated as a flying coach (two-seat or lead and follow) in at least one formal coaching event Flown in at least one national or international competition; or flown at least two attempts, with official declaration, achieving at least 85% of an existing record, as validated by an Official Observer

5.2 National Competitions

National Competitions include:

- Multi-Class Nationals
- Club and Sports Class Nationals
- 20m Two-Seater Nationals
- Junior Nationals (Joey Glide)
- Australian Grand Prix, also incorporating the Qualifying International Grand Prix
- Formula 1.0 GP

5.2.1 Site Selection for Australian Competition Events

NCC will select and approve sites and timing of contests for which it is responsible and negotiate to avoid conflicting schedules. The State and National competition dates and locations will be published on the GFA website.

If a site has not been confirmed, approximately 20 months prior to the time of the event, NCC will advertise in Soaring Australia for a site willing to host the event.

From bids received, approximately 18 months prior to the event, NCC will recommend a site to the SDP who will ratify the final NCC decision.

The decision will be based on the quality of the bid in terms of site, organisation, optimum time of the year for the site taking into account the applicable weather and quality/approval of the budget, and also on the need to rotate the event to different states so as to provide local pilots an opportunity to compete

It is desirable that the Multi-Class and Club and Sports Class Nationals be held at a site well distant from each other (in a North/South sense). Site alternates north/south for each class each year.

If no satisfactory bids are received, NCC will use its best endeavours to identify and negotiate with suitable sites and event organisers.

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NCC will work with the NCC Junior Pilot Representative to seek suitable sites for Joey Glide to enable the largest possible participation at reasonable cost of travel. NCC will recommend a site and dates to the SDP who will ratify the final NCC decision.

5.2.2 National Competitions Guidelines

The NCC Maintains and publishes guidelines on how to organise a National competition.

5.2.3 Scoring Systems

NCC seeks support from appropriately experienced and interested persons for assistance in scoring systems and support to competitions.

5.2.4 Pilot Funding for National Championships

In order to promote participation, GFA pays the entry fee for any Junior pilot or pilots from Western Australia or Northern Territory flying in the National Multi-Class or Club and Sports Class Competitions. Pilots should apply to the SDP to arrange payment.

The NCC Maintains and publishes guidelines (Sport 0014) on how to organise a National competition.

5.2.5 National Competition Requirements

The two mandatory positions for running a National competition are the Competition Director and the Safety Officer, neither of whom can fly during the event.

The same person cannot hold both positions.

Competition Director

The Competition Director must:

- Have a thorough understanding of the relevant Regulations, Rules and Guidelines
- Be able to provide a safe and fair competition environment in accordance with the Rules.
- Be able to work collaboratively with Pilot Appointed Representatives, the Safety Officer, and Steward
- Be a current or former competition pilot or have extensive experience as an official in competition organisation.

Safety Officer (*This section in yellow is pending confirmation from Operations*)

The Safety Officer must meet the following criteria:

- Good understanding of the Competition Guidelines
- Able to work collaboratively with Pilot Appointed Safety Representatives, the Competition Director, and Steward
- Knowledge of emergency response and recovery as detailed the club's SMS
- Can complete SOAR reports and conduct investigations
- Conflict Resolution skills
- Experienced Competition participant from National or Regional Competitions
- Local Knowledge

The RMO shall approve both the Competition Director and the Competition Safety Officer. Instructor qualifications are preferred but not mandatory; they must be credible and capable of performing their operational responsibilities. The RMO should seek advice of both positions from the Chair of the National Competition Committee.

Responsibilities are listed in the National Competition Guidelines document.

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5.2.6 Competition Insurance Requirements

All pilots flying in a GFA sanctioned competition must have 3rd party insurance for \$1 Million which carries the GFA standard competition endorsement¹.

The following standard statement is required in the Insurance policy:

“In respect of the use of the Aircraft competing in a gliding competition sanctioned by the Gliding Federation of Australia, the Third party Liability and Passenger Liability Sections (as applicable) of this Insurance are extended to include as jointly insured, The Gliding Federation of Australia, any affiliated State Gliding Association, any affiliated Gliding Club and any individual organiser or helper acting in connection with such sanctioned gliding competition but limited to the extent of coverage and Limit of Liability as provided by this policy.”

5.2.7 Sporting Licences

All participants of FAI/GFA approved competitions held in Australia are required to hold a current FAI Sporting Licence. An Australian Sporting Licence is available to pilots who have completed their GPC and who are Australian citizens or residents as per the Sporting Code.

5.2.8 Competition Radio Frequency

GFA is allocated the sole use of the radio frequency 122.025 for use as a competition frequency. The use of this frequency is managed by the NCC and overseen by the Soaring Development Panel.

Frequency 122.025 will be available for competitions and regattas subject to the following priority:

- National competitions; then
- State competitions; then
- Permanent competitions/regattas (e.g. Horsham Week, Orange Week, etc.); then
- State Coaching events; and then
- Other Regattas.

Application for the use of the frequency should be made to the NCC by the competition/regatta director.

Providing the frequency is not already in use within the “geographical area”, approval is not expected to be withheld. The CSDP shall arbitrate if a decision by the NCC is disputed. The geographic area will be determined as follows:

The aircraft VHF radio range (aircraft to aircraft) is 240nm (450km). Assuming the longest leg of a competition is 300kms, the geographic area will be defined by a 750km (300km plus 450km) radius around the competition aerodrome.

Overlapping geographical areas should be avoided but a small overlap may be accepted by the NCC.

5.3 International Team Selection

The International Teams Convenor applies the approved Selection Guidelines and makes recommendations to the SDP on International teams. The Guidelines are formula-driven and subjective decisions are generally considered, but will be managed by the SDP. The Selection Guidelines and any amendments are approved by the SDP. Conflicts of interest in regard to the Convenor’s role and subsequent selection of the Convenor for an International Team Position shall be managed by the SDP, with any members with conflict of interest stepping down from decisions.

5.3.1 Funding of International Events

The SDP will publish a five year rolling calendar according to the International Teams Fund guidelines approved by the Board. This calendar will list all international championships that will

¹ Note that the GFA BBL policy provides this level of liability insurance.

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be supported during that period. Anticipated funding allocations will be indicated by the SDP, in line with the International Teams Fund Guidelines.

5.3.2 Recognised International Competitions

Competitions to be supported may include but are not restricted to the following:

- World Championships and practice championships
- Championships of high level and equivalent standing to National Championships and Pre World Championships. E.g. European Championships, Hanweider, etc, as agreed by the SDP

5.4 FAI Certificates and Records

5.4.1 General

The Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) is a world organisation concerned with aspects of air sports such as certified performances for the purpose of records, certificates, FAI badges, and competitions. The members of FAI are the National Airsport Control (NAC) organisations who exercise control of air sports in their own countries. The Sporting Code General Section detail core requirements for sporting achievement for all air sports.

Sporting Code Section 3 (SC3) is the specific section which covers soaring performances by gliders and motor gliders, and is the responsibility of the FAI International Gliding Commission (IGC). SC3 provides for the encouragement, control and certification of national and international soaring records, badges and diplomas and world championships.

5.4.2 National Airsport Control (NAC)

At National level, the organisation responsible for National Airsport Control (NAC) of gliding sport is then responsible for implementation of this Code in the control and certification of flights subject to FAI procedure. The NAC for gliding is ASAC. The Air Sports Australia Confederation (ASAC) is the FAI appointed NAC for Australia. This group represents the majority of aviation sports pilots in Australia and is supported financially by members of those aviation sports who are members. ASAC alone is the controlling body for all aviation sport in Australia. The board of ASAC consists of members from aviation sporting bodies within Australia.

ASAC delegates the control of gliding certificates, badges, diplomas, records and championships to GFA. The GFA SDP appoints an FAI certificates officer and an FAI records officer and the GFA executive ratifies these positions.

These appointed FAI officers must control and certify all gliding achievement as stated in the FAI SC3. All FAI badge flights carried out in Australia must be observed by GFA appointed FAI Official Observers (OO) and processed by either the Australian FAI certificates officer, or the Australian FAI records officer.

5.4.3 Official Observers (OO)

Australian issued OO to observe claimed flights in Australia – for badges and diplomas and Australian records.

OOs for Continental and World records have additional qualifications.

information on Official Observers can be found in FAI documents and on the GFA website.

5.4.4 FAI Records

FAI Record officers homologates record claims made by Australian pilots in any of the following categories:

1. Australian Records – Flown in Australia by Australian Pilots
2. Australian National Records – Flown by Australian Pilots anywhere else in the world. Must be greater than the Australian record
3. Continental Records – Flown in the designated (continent area) as per the IGC ruling
4. National Records – Flown by international pilots in Australia
5. World Records and Continental Records – Flown from any site by pilots of any nationality

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5.4.5 FAI Badges and Diplomas

A, B, and C Certificates are managed by the Operations Panel, and available online (GFA Website). Silver, Gold, Diamond badges, and Distance Diplomas are assessed and managed by the FAI and Badges Officer, under FAI rules.

5.5 Trophies

The GFA Trophies Manual covers the history, location, recipients, and photographs of Trophies. It is maintained on the GFA website (Sport 0031) and as a separate document held jointly by the Trophies Officer and the secretariat. A full list of trophies may be found on the GFA website. GFA Trophies are awarded for sporting excellence in competitions and recognition of other sporting achievements.

5.6 Online Competition (OLC)

The OLC is an online competition that encourages pilots to log their cross country flights, and prizes are awarded annually at the AGM. The OLC has categories for speed, FAI tasks, distance, and clubs. Refer to the GFA website and the OLC website for more details, rules etc.

6 Administration of the Soaring Development Panel

6.1 Meetings

As a guide, SDP meetings will be held as follows:

February (electronic)	Held prior to the IGC meeting, discussion of budget decisions and review of previous season events.
May/June (face to face)	Review of MOSP4, ratification of rule changes, liaison with other Departments
September (electronic)	Held prior to the next season

Other electronic meetings shall be held to align with key activities.

Informal meetings and discussions may take place to manage the business of the Panel between meetings, but any decisions and changes to procedures shall be formally minuted and ratified at meetings.

Questions for determination by Panels shall be determined by a simple majority of votes with the Chairman having an ordinary vote plus a casting vote in the event that the ordinary vote is deadlocked.

Minutes will be taken at each meeting by an appointed minute taker. Meeting minutes will be circulated to the Panel within 4 weeks of the meeting, and ratified by email within another 4 weeks, to ensure the draft minutes are published for the membership in a timely fashion on the GFA website. Meeting minutes will be formally adopted at the next formal meeting.

6.2 Reports

Each Panel member will provide a written report to the SDP Meeting prior to each meeting, for incorporation into the AGM SDP report.

The CSDP will prepare an annual Report to be presented to the AGM and ABM each year, summarising the year's issues, with input from Panel members.

6.3 Budgets and Planning

The SDP budgets, ITC and the General budget are reviewed at the April Board meeting. Panel members should communicate their financial requirements to the CSDP on request.

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6.4 Sports Rules and Procedures

The SDP will review the MOSP4 at least annually and more often as required to ensure its currency and relevance.

The Nationals Rules shall be reviewed by the NCC and approved at SDP meeting in time for publishing for the next season.

International Teams Selection Criteria Guidelines and procedures shall be approved by the SDP.

6.5 Documents and Records

Minutes of meetings, approved SDP documents, and other references are located on the GFA Website.

6.6 Supporting Documents

There are many documents that describe and support the GFA Sporting area that change over time, and these are listed at the end of this document. It is not the intent of this document to detail their content as they may change often.

7 Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

ASAC	Air Sport Australia Confederation
CSDP	Chairman of the Soaring Development Panel
FAI	Federation Aeronautique Internationale
GFA	Gliding Federation of Australia
IGC	International Gliding Commission
ITC	International Teams Convenor
NAC	National Airsport Control
NCC	National Competitions Committee
OLC	On Line Competition
OO	Official Observer
SDP	Soaring Development Panel

8 Document List

8.1 Approved by the Panel

	Document	Managed and controlled by:
Sport 0008	Ballasted Handicap List	NCC (HC)
Sport 0009	Unballasted Handicap List	NCC (HC)
Sport 0010	National Competition Rules	NCC
Sport 0014	Competition Organising Guidelines	NCC
Sport 0022	Coaching Manual Part 1	NCD
	Training Manual (coaching components)	NCD
Sport 0023	Pilot's Code of Conduct	ITC
Sport 0024	Team Code of Conduct	ITC
Sport 0027	National Gliding Team Pilot's Handbook	ITC
	Soaring Development Panel Meeting	CSDP
	Decentralised Competition Guidelines	OLC Officer
	Selection Master Lists	ITC
Sport 0030	Selection and Funding of International Teams	ITC
	Budget	CSDP

8.2 Other Reference Documents

	Document	Managed and controlled by:
	Official Observers Guide	FAI
	FAI Sporting Code	FAI
	Current World Records	FAI
	Current Australian Records	Records Officer
Sport 0031	Trophies Manual	Trophies Officer
Sport 0016	On Line Competition	OLC Officer
OPS 0019	GPC Syllabus	Ops Panel
Sport 0037	Cross Country Pilots Handbook	NCD
	Competition Safety Briefing Pack	NCC
Sport F001	A, B & C Claim on-line form	GFA Website
Ops F007	Glider Pilot Certificate Application on-line Form	GFA Secretariat
Sport F004	FAI Badge Claim Form	FAI Officer
	Australian Record claims	GFA Website
	Official Observer Training and Test	GFA Website