

# F.A.I. SOARING AWARDS RULES & PROCEDURES

by JANE ELDREDGE, *Chairman*  
SSA-FAI Awards Committee

This article is intended to set forth the official rules and procedures governing the issuance of the international FAI soaring awards. The official rules are set forth in bold face type with explanations and approved procedures for complying with them set in normal type.

The particular rules for the awarding of soaring badges form Part II (paragraphs 8.0 through 8.3.7) of Section 3 — Class D of the Sporting Code of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. The F.A.I. is the international governing body for all forms of sporting aviation, including records. The F.A.I. Soaring Committee (C.V.S.M.) has charge of Section 3 of the Sporting Code and all changes thereto.

The official representative of F.A.I. in the United States is The National Aeronautic Association in Washington, D.C. N.A.A. has delegated its authority in the field of soaring activity to The Soaring Society of America, Inc., a Division of N.A.A. S.S.A. administers the awarding of soaring badges in the U.S.

## PART II

### 8.0 INTERNATIONAL F.A.I. BADGES FOR SOARING.

#### 8.1 PROCEDURE AND CONTROL OF FLIGHTS.

The flights made to obtain a badge shall be controlled by the National Aero Club and shall satisfy the definitions and formalities laid down in PART I of the present regulations.

#### 8.2 QUALIFICATIONS.

##### 8.2.1 SILVER BADGE.

(a) Duration—A flight of at least 5 hours.

(b) Distance—A flight of at least 50 km. (31.1 mi.) made either:



The Silver C pin as issued in the U. S. The center is blue and the wreath is silver. On Gold C pins, the wreath is gold. The letter N is for U. S., the same as that preceding aircraft registration numbers.

1. In a straight line, or,  
2. Around a triangular course of which the shortest side must measure at least 28% of the total distance. The turning points must be previously declared.

(c) Height—A gain in height of at least 1,000 meters (3,281 ft.).

##### 8.2.2 GOLD BADGE.

(a) Duration—A flight of at least 5 hours.

(b) Distance—A flight of at least 300 km. (186.4 mi.) made either:

1. In a straight line, or,  
2. Around a triangular course of which the shortest side must measure at least 28% of the total distance; the turning points must be previously declared; or,

3. In a broken line of not more than three legs of which none shall be less than 80 km. (49.7 mi.); the turning points must be previously declared.

(c) Height—A gain in height of at least 3,000 meters (9,824 ft.).

##### 8.2.3 GOLD BADGE WITH DIAMONDS.

The accomplishment of each of the following three performances shall give to the holder of a Gold badge the right to add one diamond to the badge:

(a) Distance — A distance flight of at least 500 km. (310.7 mi.) made either:

1. In a straight line, or,  
2. Around a triangular course of which the shortest side must measure at least 28% of the total distance; the turning points must be previously declared; or,

3. In a broken line of not more than three legs of which none shall be less than 80 km. (49.7 mi.); the turning points must be previously declared.

(b) Goal—A goal flight of at least 300 km. (186.4 mi.) made either:

1. In a straight line, or,  
2. Around a triangular course

of which the shortest side must measure at least 28% of the total distance; the turning points must be previously declared; or,

3. In a broken line of not more than 3 legs of which none shall be less than 80 km. (49.7 mi.); the turning points must be previously declared.

(c) Height—A gain in height of at least 5,000 meters (16,404 ft.).

The diamonds are usually mounted in the gold wreath of the badge, equally spaced about the perimeter. Looking at the badge the top center diamond will be for the distance leg, the diamond on the left for the goal leg and the diamond on the right for the altitude leg.

##### 8.2.4 REGISTER OF GOLD BADGES WITH DIAMONDS.

The F.A.I. shall keep a register of pilots of all nations who are holders of Gold badges with three diamonds. The entries shall be numbered starting with 1 for the first holder; the entries shall be dated with the date when the third diamond was gained. This list shall be published in the F.A.I. Bulletins.

#### 8.3 GENERAL CONDITIONS.

8.3.1 Three tests are laid down for obtaining each of these badges.

8.3.2 Not more than two tests for any one badge may be attempted during any one flight, except in the case of the Gold badge with diamonds, for which all the tests may be made in one flight.

8.3.3 A test may count for all three badges provided it satisfies the regulations relating to each.

8.3.4 The pilot must be alone in the aircraft.

8.3.5 In all tests a sealed barograph must be carried; it must be sealed and opened by an official observer recognized by the National Aero Club. However, if the test for duration has been observed continually during the flight by an observer, the barograph need not be carried.

8.3.6 The National Aero Club must enter in a register, the names of those of its members who have received the Silver, Gold and Diamond Badges.

The National Aero Clubs undertake to control the tests for other National Aero Clubs on a reciprocal basis, and to transmit