



Updated US Team Selection Process v1.2.3

By US Team Committee

Overview

US Team Committee discussions concerning the current US Team pilot selection process have raised a number of issues, including the following:

- An uncharacteristically bad National contest result (e.g. due to illness) may cause a highly qualified pilot to miss the US Team.
- Pilot skills and how they match conditions expected at WGC contest sites should be considered (e.g. a pilot with predominately flatland skills should not necessarily be selected for a contest that will emphasize mountain flying).
- Pilot personality and the way it fits with the full team can be an important factor.
- For a pilot who has competed in past FAI Category 1 contests, performance in those events should be considered.
- Because success at Category 1 contests typically requires some experience in competition at that level, a pilot's age and likely commitment to future US Team participation should be considered.
- The proliferation of IGC classes raises the possibility that a pilot who has achieved excellent results in one class might be a strong US Team member in another.

The fundamental point is that the goal of every US Team should be to obtain the best results possible at any World Gliding Championships (WGC), and the current team selection process does not appear to be consistently achieving that goal. Accordingly, the US Team Committee is proposing significant changes to the process by which US Team pilots are selected.

Updated US Team Selection Process

The process adds 2 additional steps beyond the current US Team Selection Process as defined in current US Team Selection Policy document (v3.3.3 Dec 2014).

Step #1: Pilot Eligibility

Pilots eligible to be selected to compete in a WGC event are designated as members of the US Team Squad. To be eligible for the US Team Squad a pilot must be a US Citizen or Resident Alien and meet all applicable IGC pilot eligibility requirements.

For all such pilots, a US Team Selection Score (USTSS) is calculated, by competition class. Pilots are considered a member of the US Team Squad when their USTSS is not less than the smaller of:

- 90% of the highest USTSS in the class
- The fifth highest USTSS in the class

US Team Selection Score (USTSS) Calculation

In reviewing scores calculated for pilots who participated in IGC Category 1 contests, it became apparent that the original formulas were not what was intended. Investigation showed that this was due to a misplaced set of parentheses. Our intent was to give a 10% points bonus to WGC results, however the miss written formula had the effect of doing this, plus an additional 10 percentage points to the final result.

Original Formula:

$CFS = (\text{Pilot's final score}) / (\text{Contest winner's final score})$

CS = Competition Score

$CS = 110 * (CFS + 1) / 2$ which mathematically is equivalent to $CS = (110 * CFS + 110) / 2$

Updated Formulas:

For pre-WGC events (scored under IGC SC3A rules): $CS = (105 * CFS + 100) / 2$

For Continental Gliding Championship and WGC events: $CS = (110 * CFS + 100) / 2$

Calculations using the intended formula show scores that the US Team Committee views as much more sensible. In proceeding with pilot's selection we thus intend to be guided by these scores.

$USTSS = (\text{Best 2 values of CS achieved in the past 3 years}) / 2$

Those who are actually selected and who agree to participate are designated US Team Pilots. To identify members of the US Team Squad, the procedures defined in the current US Team Selection Policy document would be used, with the following changes:

- Make the most recent 3 years of U.S. Nationals and FAI Category 1 Contest results eligible for use in team selection, selecting the best two results.
- Eligibility for early selection as a US Team Pilot by virtue of attending a pre-WGC contest would require an invitation by the US Team Committee.

In addition to eligibility achieved by contest results, a pilot can be declared a member of the US Team Squad by a vote of US Team Committee members. This provision is intended to be used in unusual circumstances that cause an obviously well-qualified pilot not to be eligible based on contest results. (An example might be a pilot who was flying well but was forced to withdraw from a National contest for reasons outside his control - such as illness or a family emergency).

Step #2: Preferential Voting By Qualified Pilots

An important part of the updated team selection process is the opportunity for qualified pilots to vote by preferential ballot for members of the US Team Squad they believe are most likely to place well at upcoming WGC events.

A pilot becomes qualified to vote in one of two ways:

- By achieving a pilot ranking score of 85 or higher in a US National contest in the previous 3 years
- By participating as a Pilot, Captain or Coach on a US Team at a WGC event in the previous 3 years

Voting is class-specific and confidential beyond the US Team Committee. Ballots would list eligible US Team Squad Members within a competition class scheduled for an upcoming WGC event. The voting process would be online using the current SSA web-based voting system (as supported by Aland Adams and used for

the US Rules Committee and US Team Committee elections). All voters who have eligibility in a class would be given access to the online voting system. Voters would rank candidates based on their view of which are most likely to achieve good scores and placings at the upcoming WGC event.

Step #3: Final Team Pilot Selection by the US Team Committee

Final selection of US Team Pilots is done by the US Team Committee, with close regard to pilot selection scores, performance in specific contests and team training events, and to the results obtained by evaluating the preferential ballots and associated comments. Committee members who may themselves be eligible for selection would not participate.

The final team selections by the US Team Committee will be published including comments, as appropriate, on how team selection decision were made.