

# Rules of the Northern Illinois Soaring Championships

Sponsored by the Chicagoland Glider Council

Updated: August 25, 2025

## Northern Illinois Soaring Championship Rule Changes as of August 2025

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northern Illinois Soaring Championship is:

1. To promote and encourage all types of soaring, whether it be local flights or long cross-country flights.
2. To foster a community of glider pilots within the Chicagoland area through the ease of sharing and comparing flights on WeGlide.
3. To foster and encourage friendly competition among all glider pilots in the Chicagoland area.
4. To provide a platform for experienced competition pilots to compete with others on a regular basis and hone their skills.
5. To promote and mentor new and potential cross country and competition pilots.

### SCORING

1. The contest will be scored via WeGlide. Thus, all participants **MUST** have an active WeGlide account. For flights to be scored, an IGC file must be uploaded to WeGlide no later than 1200 local time two days after the day of the flight landing. **DO NOT** email flight tracks to the contest director. DAeC glider handicaps will be used, per WeGlide scoring rules.
2. Only flights starting from one of the three Chicago area clubs (Chicago Glider Club, Windy City Soaring, and Sky Soaring) will be scored.
3. Flights will be scored in two different categories:
  - WeGlide Free
    - This category will be scored exclusively on WeGlide via the WeGlide scoring system. The Free scoring methodology can be read in detail [here](#), or in Appendix A to this document.
  - Tasks
    - At the end of each scoring period, the contest organizer will use the “Task” filter in WeGlide and download the scoring data for all corresponding flights. The resulting downloaded data will be sorted in a spreadsheet and rankings will be based on average task speed. In the event where a pilot has flown more than one task in one scoring period, his/her highest scoring flight from that scoring period will be used in the ranking.

- For tasks to be scored, the pilot must either:
    - a) declare the task on his/her flight recorder, or
    - b) declare the task on WeGlide.
  - If the pilot declares a task on WeGlide, but a different task on his/her flight recorder, upon upload of the pilot's flight, WeGlide will override the declaration on the flight recorder and score the flight as if the pilot flew the task declared on WeGlide.
  - It is highly encouraged to host task days at your respective club. When more than one pilot plans on flying the same task on a given day, a "local competition" should be hosted by one pilot on WeGlide for that day. Once a pilot flies the task and uploads it to WeGlide, WeGlide will recognize that the task was flown and will automatically score it accordingly. When other pilots upload their traces, each pilot will automatically be ranked for that task on WeGlide. *\*WeGlide Premium subscription is required to use this feature.\**
4. Scores for each category will be tallied monthly. There will be a monthly winner each month, April through October.
  5. Scores will also be maintained on a cumulative basis for the year and the pilot with the best score for the year will be recognized at the end of the season. Only the top five flights for each pilot will be used in scoring for the cumulative season. The contest will start on October 1 and end on September 30 of the following calendar year.
  6. Pilots must submit the flight log to WeGlide in a format that can be read by WeGlide. Takeoff weight is not required to be submitted on WeGlide, but it is highly encouraged as this will allow for a more detailed analysis of the flight. Submittal of the takeoff weight does not affect the WeGlide Free score.
  7. Pilots may carry water ballast in NISC contest flights. All pilots who take off with water will be scored as if all the water on board at takeoff was carried throughout the flight. If a pilot takes off with water ballast, he/she MUST enter the takeoff weight when uploading the flight to WeGlide.

## CONTEST PERSONNEL

1. Competition Director: Jon Stehlik, or someone he appoints in his absence. Unlike SSA contests, the contest director will not oversee daily contest flights or otherwise act as CD unless an issue is presented to him that requires action.
2. The competition director reserves the right to change rules as necessary. An email will be sent to all pilots on the NISC mailing list when there are rules changes, and this document will be updated and posted on the NISC website.
3. Any questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to:
  - Jon Stehlik
    - [j.stehlik@comcast.net](mailto:j.stehlik@comcast.net)
    - (630)-870-9760

## **PERIOD OF CONTEST**

1. The cumulative score contest runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following calendar year, per WeGlide scoring rules.
2. Monthly rankings will only be calculated April through October.

## **AWARDS**

1. The overall season winner will be recognized at an appropriate Chicagoland Glider Council meeting. There may be a trophy/plaque in the future.
2. Additional recognition may be provided as well, for best new/youth pilot, most improved, etc.
3. The top three pilots each month will also be recognized via a mass email after each scoring month has concluded.

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

1. By participating in the contest, each contestant agrees to be bound by these rules. Each contest participant recognizes that glider flying and glider races can be an inherently dangerous activity involving risk of loss of life or serious injury. In consideration of the contestant being afforded an opportunity to participate in flight or ground activities as part of the Northern Illinois Soaring Championship, each contestant agrees, for him or herself, his or her heirs, executors, administrator and assigns, to release and forever discharge the Chicago Glider Council, the contest organizers and personnel, its and their members, directors, instructors, tow pilots, agents, employees, participating volunteers and representatives from any and all claims, demands, losses or injuries, incurred or sustained as a result of ground or flight activities or engaging in any activity as part of the Northern Illinois Soaring Championship. This release is intended to be a general release and to have the maximum effect permitted by law.

## APPENDIX A

The following is an unedited excerpt from WeGlide's scoring rules [website](#).

### **1. General Rules**

#### **1.1 Objective**

Promotion of cross-country soaring and soaring in general.

#### **1.2 Organizer**

WeGlide UG (haftungsbeschränkt).

#### **1.3. Time and Location**

The flight is scored in the country and region to which the takeoff airport belongs.

Last scoring day is the 30th of September. The following season starts on the 1st of October. The contest is carried out decentralized.

#### **1.4 Participants**

Every glider pilot worldwide is entitled to participate. Participants are individual pilots, or two-pilot teams for two-seaters. By registering with WeGlide participants agree to the competition rules. By uploading the flight the participant agrees to the publication of his flight data and files by WeGlide. The [User Agreement](#) applies for all uploaded data.

#### **1.5 Validity of Score**

The scoring of a flight becomes final 14 days after its registration if no protests against the flight have been lodged. Participants are required to keep the IGC files until one month after the end of the current scoring period.

#### **1.6 Registration**

Participants must register with the provided sign up form. With their registration the participants declare their acceptance of the conditions of participation.

### **2 Scoring**

The winner in each scoring year is the participant who scores the most points with up to his/her five best flights.

All gliders, including those with a retractable engine or front electrical engine are scored in one class. Each participant can register any number of flights for evaluation.

For flights with two-seaters, only the pilot counts as a participant. All flights are scored according to the currently valid index of the used aircraft on the [DAeC index list](#).

#### **2.1 Individual**

Even though all gliders are scored in one class, each flight belongs to the scoring class in which the flown aircraft is classified by the DAeC index list.

Filters can be applied to determine the winner in the following classes:

- Open
- 18m
- 15m
- Standard
- Club
- Two-Seater

### **2.1.1 Junior Scoring**

A flight is also scored in the junior ranking, if the 25th birthday of the pilot and potentially the copilot lies in the applicable calendar year or he is younger. If only the name of a copilot is entered, the flight is not scored in the junior ranking.

### **2.1.2 Women Scoring**

A flight is also scored in the women ranking, if the pilot and potentially the copilot are female. If only the name of a copilot is entered, the flight is not scored in the women ranking.

### **2.2 Club Scoring**

All scoring points of all participants of each club are summed up. The winner is the club with the highest number of points.

### **2.3 Airport Scoring**

All scoring points of all participants of each airport are summed up. The winner is the airport with the highest number of points.

## **3 Flight Documentation and Entry**

### **3.1 Documentation**

The documentation of the flights is exclusively possible with approved approved GNSS flight recorders. Flight recorders can either be

- IGC approved
- WeGlide approved

The list of approved flight recorders can be found [here](#).

For the documentation of flights for league and speed scoring, IGC approved flight recorders are required. The IGC file must have a valid signature (G record).

## 3.2 Errors

The [error codes](#) apply. Gaps in logging intervals must not exceed 120 seconds. Flights which are performed with motorized gliders, have to be documented with one of the sensors specified here. For front electric sustainer (FES), the engine run must be recorded by a sensor specified here.

## 3.3 Flight entry

Each flight must be entered online not later than noon 12:00 PM local time two days after the day of the flight landing. If no landing was recorded, this applies to the last recorded fix. With the flight entry, the pilot confirms the correctness of the details given.

## 4 Scoring

### 4.1 General

WeGlide combines multiple scoring systems in the WeGlide Free contest. The free score is a combination of the free distance score and the area bonus. For the area bonus, the scoring program determines the largest FAI triangle and the largest Out & Return distance that can be fitted into the flight route.

### 4.2 Definitions

- Scoring start: Time at which the powerless flight begins
- Scoring end: Time at which the powerless flight ends
- Start point: Recorded GPS position marking the start of the scored route
- Finish point: Recorded GPS position marking the end of the scored route
- Turn point: Recorded GPS position after the start point and before the finish point
- Start altitude: Altitude at the start point
- Finish altitude: Altitude at the finish point
- FAI distance: Sum of the lengths of the legs between the FAI turn points

### 4.3 Scoring

#### 4.3.1 WeGlide Distance

A start point, five turn points and a finish point are chosen from the flight path such that

- the distance from the start point around the turn points to the finish point is maximized
- the start altitude is no more than 1000m above the finish altitude

### **4.3.2 WeGlide FAI**

Three turn points are chosen from inside the closed flight path such that they define the greatest possible FAI triangle such that

- the shortest leg is at least 28% of the FAI distance
- if the FAI distance is 500 km or more, the shortest leg is at least 25% and the longest leg at most 45% of the FAI distance.

The start point can be between two turn points of the triangle. The flight path is considered to be closed if the finish point is within 1 km of the start point, and the start altitude is not more than 1000 m above the finish altitude.

### **4.3.3 WeGlide Out & Return**

A start point, one turn point and a finish point are chosen from the flight path such that

- the finish point is within 1 km of the start point
- the distance between the start point and the turn point is maximized
- the start altitude is no more than 1000 m above the finish altitude

The distance of the Out & Return score is twice the distance between the start point and the turn point.

### **4.4 WeGlide Free**

The WeGlide free distance is scored with 1.0 raw points per km. The WeGlide FAI distance is scored with 0.3 raw points per km. The WeGlide Out & Return distance is scored with 0.2 raw points per km. The maximum of either the FAI points or the Out & Return Points constitutes the WeGlide Area bonus.

The raw points of the WeGlide Free score are obtained by adding the WeGlide Area bonus to the WeGlide distance raw points. To compensate for the differences in glider performance, the raw point score is multiplied by 100 and divided by the DMSt index for the corresponding aircraft. The result is rounded to two digits and is the final score for the flight. The minimum score for a flight is 50 points.

## **5 Conditions of Participation**

Participants of contests organized by WeGlide must not violate any aviation regulations with their flights. Appropriate airspace clearances must be obtained from the competent authority where required. If WeGlide becomes aware that the above terms were violated, WeGlide reserves the right to nullify the results of a flight.