

Year One Proposal,
Loss of Height

From Tor Johannessen (via the Sporting Code Committee).

The proposal is: At some future date IGC will discontinue the allowed altitude loss of 1000m for speed and distance records. That means that the finish altitude shall be the same or higher than the start altitude.

Discussion:

- The very old "altitude loss rule" of 1000m was established because there was no easy way to correlate altitude and position. With our flight recorders this problem has disappeared.
- The selection of 1000m was totally arbitrary, a nice round figure.
- Records in all sports are supposed to be done at a "level" field: No tailwind, no downhill. The "downhill" effect in soaring records has turned the 100km triangle record into a redline flying exercise.
- Looking at the matter the other way makes it perhaps clearer: If we had started with our record rules today no good argument for an altitude loss of 1000m could be forwarded. The only reason for keeping it is conservatism.

Comment

Although noted as a year one proposal, it is intended that, should the proposal be accepted for further exploration, it should be put as a year 2 proposal, not in 2008, as normal, but somewhat later, say 2010 for speed records and 2015 for distance flights. - A suitable transfer procedure must be established before implementation.

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(for Tor Johannessen)