

South West Thermal Gliding Competition 2024 – Rules 1.2 Mar'24

The Aim:

Fun and Friendly competition is still the driving factor for these events so we will continue to maintain a simple set of rules. For more information, please contact Guy at mrp_guy@yahoo.co.uk

The Competition:

Following a timed launch, to glide for as long as possible (target of **10 min** for **Electric**, and **5 min** for **Bungee**), then perform a spot landing. Scores will be awarded for both length of flight and spot landing. Flight scores will be normalised per heat to account for changing weather conditions.

For 2024, and following feedback from previous competitions, we are planning on flying 2m and 4m Electric classes in separate heats.

This will also now allow Pilots to fly in both the 2m and 4m as has also often been requested. HOWEVER, Pilots can only compete in a maximum of 2 of the 3 classes at each event.

Note: Depending on numbers at each event, it may be necessary to restrict entries, and where flying sites allow fly up to 5 pilots per heat.

Those wishing to take part will need to register by 6pm on the Friday before the event day by contacting the C.D via e-mail or the SW Model Gliding Telegram group.

Glider Type and Classes:

There will be Three Classes competing in their own Championships.

- **2m Electric Launch (2m Class)**, up to 2m wingspan
- **4m Electric Launch (4m Class)**, From 2m and up to 4m wingspan
- **Bungee Launch (Bungee Class)**, up to 2m wingspan
- With the '**Keep It Simple**' approach, **any** style and make of glider can be flown within the wingspan ranges above, and that can be hand launched either by the pilot or a helper.
- Any construction method/material is allowed from Foam to Balsa to Carbon Fibre, and there is no restriction on control surfaces so gliders with ailerons, flaps, spoilers, airbrakes, etc can be used.
- Again, to keep costs down and keeping it simple, the decision was taken **not** to use height limiters but balance the launch height to approximately 200m with different motor run times between the 2m & 4m classes for electric gliders, which from the experience of the previous year's events work well.

For Electric Launch Gliders - On Launch the 2m class get a 30 second motor run time and the 4m class get a 20 second motor run time. All motors to cut at the end of the respective motor run time for each class and motors are not to be used again for the remaining flight and landing. If you do start your motor, you will score '0' points for that heat. *(Safety is obviously a concern so if you get in trouble and you need the motor to rescue your model, please do)*

For Bungee Launch Gliders – All gliders launch at the same time. For 2024 we have a set of standardised competition bungees that will be used at each event. For reference the competition bungees are made up of 10m of Silicon Rubber Tube (*8mm OD) with a 50m line. *(If you have questions re bungee type, please contact Guy at mrp_guy@yahoo.co.uk. *Silicon Rubber Tube supplied by Hyperflight.co.uk)*

Scoring:

Each Pilot will fly in 4 *Heats (per class) at each event with the worst scoring heat being dropped. Points will then be combined from your best 3 heats to give the overall score for each pilot for that event. For each heat there is a possible 10pts for flight and 5pts for landing giving a maximum of 15pts available. This leads to a maximum of 45pts for each event after your worst score/heat has been dropped.

**for efficiency of time the scoring system generates all heats with the maximum number of pilots in all. Therefore you will fly in 4 heats but this isn't strictly divided in to 4 clear separate rounds.*

Points For Length of Flight – Flight time for all electric and bungee classes starts at the launch of the Glider at the start of the heat. The Target Flight time is 10min for Electric classes and 5min for the Bungee class. For each heat your score will be normalised against the best flight time from that heat. This is to account for changing weather conditions and gives all pilots a chance to score maximum flight time points in each heat (max 10pts).

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In essence though you score a point for each full minute flown for 2m & 4m Electric classes up to the target flight time of 10 minutes (10pts Max), and a point for each full 30 seconds flown for the Bungee class up to the target flight time of 5 minutes (10pts Max).

A score of '0' for flight time, and in essence the heat, will be recorded for the Pilot if:

- The motor is used after the respective 'Motor Cut' time has been called following the launch phase.
- The model comes to rest outside of the landing boundary specified by the organiser.

Points For Spot Landing – Each pilot will have a designated landing spot as their 'own' landing target. This will also be the spot that you launch from. Points will be scored on the distance from the landing spot with the position being taken from where the glider comes to rest, not where it first touches down, and will be measured from the nose of the glider. Distances will be measured by a 'tape' with the end secured at the centre of the landing target.

No landing aids such as hook or barbs are allowed.

A Distance of 5m from the landing target scores = 5pts

A Distance of between 5m to 15m from the landing target scores = 2pts

A score of '0' landing points will be recorded for the Pilot if:

- The glider during landing hits the pilot or any other persons.
- The nose of the model sticks into the ground and the tail does not come to rest on the ground.
- The model comes to rest more than 15m from the landing target.
- **Pilots who are still flying 1 minute after their classes target flight time has ended.**

The 2024 Championship:

Currently 7 Championship rounds have been agreed, with the best 5 results to count towards the championship. If further events are added it will remain with your 5 best results being counted towards the championships.

April:

Torbay on Saturday 6th April

Reserve date Sat 13th April

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Truro on Saturday 27th April

Reserve date Sat 4th May

May:

Catstor on Saturday 11th May

Reserve date Sat 18th May

June:

Okehampton on Saturday 8th June

Reserve date Sat 15th June

July:

Torbay on Saturday 13th July

Reserve date Sat 20th July

August:

Catstor on Saturday 10th August

Reserve date 17th August

September:

Okehampton on Saturday 14th September

Reserve date Sat 21st September

