

NWSS Contest Directors Guidelines
(Originally written by Jim Pugh, May 1993)
Revised 5/23/2012

(Background: Back in the early 1990's the NWSS Board of Directors thought that it would be a good idea to publish information/data on the care and feeding of RC Soaring Contests. I volunteered to undertake the task and put together the CD Guidelines with the help of a number of active CD's in the NWSS. Since the write-up was put together using a Mac and since my PC won't read the old floppy, here is the new version of the CD Guide as copied from a hard copy of the original, now in Word for the PC's of the world. I believe that most of the original write-up is still applicable to the running of a RC Soaring Contest and it is copied here with a few updates. Inputs for revisions are welcome. Jim Pugh January 10, 2003.)

Revised 5/23/12 s to include information regarding contest safety items and to revise the number of gliders that can be used/day. Areas revised are highlighted Jim Pugh/Doug Coleman

The following is a set of general guidelines that cover a CD's responsibilities and his/her tasks before, during and after a contest. The source of this information comes from the AMA Contest Director Guide, AMA Competition Regulations, NWSS Contest Rules and Procedures and inputs from the NWSS Board of Directors, and CD's throughout the NWSS.

BEFORE THE CONTEST

1. Establish a date and coordinate with the NWSS Contest Schedule Coordinator. This should be done at the end of the current season, such as before the year ending tournament. The following should be part of your planning and should be listed in the contest flyer advertisement.
 - a. Establish the type of contest it will be and the tasks to be run. If you are including tasks that are not in the AMA/MAAC Rules of Competition, describe the specifics of these tasks and how they will be scored in the contest flyer ad. Also list what the "Normal" tasks are. If the tasks to be run are at the CD's discretion, then a "shopping list" of tasks to be expected should be included. The contest flyer should be sent to the NWSS Newsletter Editor for publication at least two months before the contest. Also the flyer should be sent to the NWSS Scorekeeper and NWSS Contest Schedule Coordinator at the same time.
 - b. Establish the number of rounds to be flown. For NWSS contests three rounds/day must be flown to qualify for season point championship. Generally five or more rounds are flown to eliminate the "Luck Factor". (The number of rounds flown beyond three is at the CD's discretion.) Also a round of flying must be completed on the same day; no carry over.
 - c. Establish the type of landing to be used. In NWSS contests there are three types of landings that are more or less the standard. Spot landings, Hunski and landing line.
 - d. List the contest entry fee and the number of awards to be presented for each category (Expert, Competitor, RES, Two Meter, etc.).
 - e. List the type of equipment to be used. For example, 12 volt winches, retrievers and landing line or circle. Also request that additional batteries, winches and any other equipment be brought.
 - f. List the flying site and the availability of nearby hotels and motels. Provide a map in the flyer showing location of the flying field. Obtaining a flying site early in the season is a top priority job. The flying site should be as unobstructed as possible with plenty of space to insure that there is adequate spacing between the landing area, spectators and the winch area. It should have enough space so that the winches can be laid out with the regulation length of winch line. Maximum line length is 984 feet per AMA rules. Shorter lengths due to field or equipment limitations should be listed in the contest flyer.
 - g. List any frequencies that are unsafe at the contest site in the contest flyer.
 - h. List the classes that the contest will cover. For example, expert, competitor and novice.
 - i. If the contest is AMA/MAAC sanctioned refer to the Contest Directors Guide to determine specific requirements. The CD should apply for an AMA sanction five months or more before the contest.
 - j. For insurance purposes it's a good idea to specify that AMA/MAAC membership is required to participate in the contest.
 - k. List the model size and classes. Usually 2 meter (2 metre for the Canadians), standard class, RES and unlimited class will be specified. AMA and MACC rules of competition define the above classes.

BEFORE THE CONTEST (Continued)

2. As early as possible the CD should be making plans for winches, retrievers, batteries, scoring, trophies and any other ground support equipment that may be needed.
3. If you plan on flying flight groups or windows at the contest, this should be covered in the contest flyer.
4. Have a score board or computer printout available to post the scores as the contest rounds progress.
5. A PA system is nice to have when possible.
6. Have a frequency control system and frequency pins.
7. Have 50 foot landing lines and 100 inch measuring sticks, graduated in inches of zero to 100 if landing lines are being used, or have 25 foot landing tapes graduated in inches of zero to 100 if landing circles are being used with every 3 inches counting as one point. Have the equipment to setup the Hunski Landing Zone. (See the NWSS rules of competition for details on the Hunski setup.)
8. Have your contest help lined up before the contest.
9. **Have a first aid kit, fire extinguisher and the flying field address or GPS field coordinates available for the contest.**

PRE-CONTEST

1. Arrive early so that you can supervise winch, retriever, landing line/landing circle setup registration.
2. Setup a flight order or flight groups for the ensuing rounds.
3. Have a prepared list of items that you want to cover at the pilot's meeting.
4. Designate a spectator's area so that they will be away from the flight line.

PILOTS MEETING

Cover the following items.

1. Define the flight line and where no flying is allowed.
2. Explain the right of way rule from the AMA Competition Rules.
3. Cover timers and timing. Consult the AMA Competition Rules and NWSS Rules for specifics. Specify that timers put their names on the score card and that their names are legible.
4. Define the spectator area location, the pit area and where the potty is located.
5. Generally define what constitutes an unflyable glider (after sustaining damage during the contest). However, the CD has the final say on flyability after inspecting the glider.
**AMA rules now allow a contestant to have two gliders/day to fly. DELETE: In addition to the above, the CD should cover whether he will allow the substitution of gliders during the contest. For example, will the contestant be allowed to fly one glider on the first day of the contest and then fly another on the second even though the glider is not damaged?
(Presently, AMA and MACC rules are different covering the substitution of gliders)**
6. Cover the tasks to be flown and the type of landing. In covering the landings, point out what constitutes in the loss of all landing points. E.g. loss of parts, landing upside down, etc.
7. Define what constitutes an out-of-bounds landing. E.g. no flight or landing points given if the landing is off the field. Define the field boundaries.
8. Define the number of pop-offs allowed.
9. Indicated where the score cards are to be turned in.
10. Cover what will be done with the winches if the wind shifts. Note: If the wind has shifted to the point where it appears that it will be blowing consistently from the new direction, you can terminate the round that is in progress and turn the winches around. However, if there is any problem with SAFTY, don't hesitate. NWSS rules allow the pilot that has already flown in the round in which the winches were turned around to keep his/her score or he/she may take a re-flight.
11. Cover what constitutes a re-flight. E.g., a mid air collision, a Zoom Kaboom launch, caught on the retriever line, stop watch malfunction, launch equipment malfunction, etc.
12. Specify to all participants that the **consumption of alcoholic beverages** is not allowed at sanctioned contests. Also alcoholic beverages should not be consumed when flying any model aircraft!
13. Appoint or establish a winch boss and teams to operate the winches and retrievers.
14. Clearly define what constitutes and in or out landing.
15. **Advise the participants where the first aid kit, fire extinguisher and emergency information is located.**

DURING THE CONTEST

1. Keep things going: in short, keep the winches full of people waiting launch. Appoint reliable people to help expedite the contest and someone to act as CD while you fly.
2. Announce the start of a new round and what the task will be.
3. Indicate what or when the last round of the day will be.

END OF THE CONTEST

1. Review the scores with the scorekeeper and present awards.
2. Extend thanks to the various helpers and assistant CD.
3. Make announcements for forthcoming contests at your site or ones coming up in the near future on the NWSS contest schedule.
4. Ask yourself if you were really sane to do this and would do it again.

AFTER THE CONTEST

1. Clean up the flying site and put away all of the equipment.
2. Fill out the contest forms and sent to AMA.
3. Fill out the contest forms and send to the NWSS Scorekeeper.
4. Send in your contest fees to the NWSS Treasurer.
5. Prepare a write-up of the contest results and send to the NWSS Newsletter Editor.