

BHPA Hang Gliding Competitions Panel

CONSTITUTION

Compiled by the Panel, 1st April 2009
Revised 25th October 2023

1. Purpose and scope of the BHPA Hang Gliding Competitions Panel

National hang gliding competitions: Management of all UK national hang gliding competitions is exercised by the Hang Gliding Competitions Panel (the Panel) on behalf of the Executive Board of the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (the Exec). The Panel is responsible for the fair, effective and impartial administration of UK national hang gliding competitions.

National hang gliding team: The Panel selects teams for international Class 1 competitions and promotes UK representation at other international hang gliding events.

National XC League (NXCL): The Panel is responsible for ensuring the continued operation of the NXCL.

Pilot development: The Panel will promote in its events the development of low airtime pilots and new or improving competition pilots.

Exec oversight: Communications between the Panel and Exec will normally be via the BHPA Competition Director.

Power of delegation: The Panel may delegate the management of specific competitions to other bodies within the BHPA but will retain responsibility for the fair, effective and impartial administration of those competitions.

Club-level competitions: The management of competitions at club level shall remain the responsibility of the BHPA clubs concerned. Support, if any, provided by the Panel, will be at the Panel's discretion and provided by agreement with the primary organiser.

2. Composition of the Panel

The Panel shall consist of the following:

A CHAIR - responsible to the Panel and Exec, elected by the Panel from elected Panel members and subject to approval by Exec.

A VICE CHAIR - appointed by the Panel from elected Panel members.

A SECRETARY - appointed by the Panel from elected Panel members.

A TREASURER - appointed by the Panel from elected Panel members.

OTHER MEMBERS as considered necessary by the Panel.

The Panel should consist of 10 members. Further members may be co-opted onto the panel, with their agreement, for specific jobs.

Eligibility to serve on the Panel

Those eligible to put themselves forward for election to the Panel are pilots and officials who have taken part in the current or most recent year's British Open Hang Gliding Series (BOS) or National Hang Gliding Championship (Nationals). Others may put their names forward at the Panel's invitation.

All Panel members must be members of the BHPA.

Rotation of members

In September each year two members of the Panel shall retire if the Panel is at full strength, and elections will be held for replacements. Retiring Panel members are eligible to stand for re-election. If insufficient Panel members stand down voluntarily the members who have served the longest period since election will be considered to have stood down from the Panel.

The Chair should not serve in office for more than five years, but may thereafter continue to serve on the Panel.

Election of members

Notice of elections to the Panel must be given by the Chair or Secretary on the competitions email list. Those eligible to vote are pilots and officials who have taken part in the current or most recent year's BOS or Nationals. Votes may be cast in person or electronically at the discretion of the Panel. The Secretary shall check voters' eligibility and record votes cast. The candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected to the vacant posts. Ties will be resolved by agreement of the tied parties, or the toss of a coin.

Results will be announced after all candidates have been informed of the outcome. Numbers of votes will not be disclosed.

Vacancies

In the event of vacancies occurring for positions within the Panel the Chair or Secretary will endeavour to find suitable people to cover the responsibilities at the earliest opportunity.

Panel decisions

It is anticipated that most Panel decisions will be arrived at by consensus. When a vote is needed all members shall have an equal vote on Panel decisions. Except where stated elsewhere in these rules a simple majority is required to approve a decision. If there are equal numbers of votes for and against a proposal the Chair's vote shall prevail.

Quorum

Except where specified otherwise in this Constitution more than half of current Panel members shall be present or consulted for Panel decisions to be valid.

Conflicts of interest

A potential conflict of interest is any situation in which a person's judgments or decisions might be influenced by relations that person has with other persons or organisations that might be affected (positively or negatively) by those judgments or decisions. The conflict becomes real if the person fails to reveal the potential for conflict and then expresses an opinion or makes a decision in favour of,

or against, the person or organisation concerned, or accepts any benefit from that person or organisation.

Conflicts of interest may arise as a result of direct personal relations, or indirectly, through the interests of a closely related third person (spouse, partner, dependent etc).

Any person to whom this applies must make full disclosure to the Panel and should not take part in the discussion or decision-making process for the relevant matter.

Additional rules concerning conflicts of interest in team selection may be found in the relevant section of these rules.

3. Responsibilities Of Panel Members

All Panel members have a responsibility to act and make decisions for the benefit of the BHPA and BHPA pilots competing in competitions. Such decisions shall not conflict in principle with the rules and guidelines of the BHPA.

The duties outlined below are not exhaustive.

Chair: The Chair is responsible for convening Panel meetings, direction and overall supervision of Panel members. He or she approves the minutes of Panel meetings.

Vice Chair: The Vice Chair is responsible for deputising for the Chair when necessary.

Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for recording minutes of Panel meetings and publishing these after approval; for general record keeping and administration; for maintaining an actions calendar and bringing these forward to the Panel at the appropriate times; and for managing elections to the Panel.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for managing Panel finances in accordance with decisions made by the Panel; for providing annual reports to the Panel at the annual planning meeting; for providing budgets, accounts and other returns to the BHPA as required; and for preparing and submitting funding requests to the BHPA.

Other panel members: May be allocated specific tasks and responsibilities as required, for example for managing trophies or maintaining the competitions website.

Current Year Appointments: A list of current Panel members and the various committees can be found on the competitions website.

4. Responsibilities of other officers

In addition to those specified above, the Panel currently appoints the following individuals to exercise safe and fair management of national competitions. These may or may not be Panel members:

Competition Organiser: Responsible for the organisation of sites, accommodation, access to meteorological information, provision of waypoints, airspace, administrative arrangements, local requirements, entertainments, communal meals and all other aspects of the advanced planning of a competition. He or she works with the Meet Director and is responsible to and appointed by the Panel. May be appointed on an event-by-event basis, and the job may be divided between more than one person.

Meet Director (MD): Appointed by the Panel for each round of the Nationals and BOS. Responsible for the day-to-day operational management and direction of the competition, in collaboration with the Competition Organiser, the Task Committee and the Safety Committee, and the Scorer. Responsible

for ensuring all necessary accident/incident reports are submitted to the BHPA Office. May be appointed on an event-by-event basis.

Safety Officer: The head of the Safety Committee; appointed by the Meet Director on an event-by-event basis. Advises the MD on task safety before each task is set and reports to the Panel on any adverse trends in competition safety.

Meteorological Officer: Responsible for collating the best available weather forecasts and ensuring this is briefed to competitors before the task is set. This information must also be available to the TC, SC and MD. May be appointed on an event-by-event basis.

Scorer: A suitably experienced person appointed by the Panel to carry out necessary scoring and other organisational tasks in a fair and impartial manner, responsible to the Meet Director and the Panel. May be appointed on an event-by-event basis.

Jury President: Appointed by the Meet Director before the first task of any competition, and should not normally change once a competition has begun. This person is the independent arbiter in any dispute resulting in a formal protest and an automatic party to any decisions taken; charged with selecting two non-competing persons to form a committee and achieve a consensus with them over any dispute.

Team Manager: Appointed by the Panel to manage the National Team at Class 1 competitions. Responsible for (amongst other things) entries, transport to and from the venue, retrieve organisation, finances, accommodation, liaison with competition organisation, protests, team discipline etc.

5. Committees

Safety Committee (SC)

The Safety Committee is responsible to and appointed by the Meet Director at the beginning of an event. It will have 3 members and be headed by the Safety Officer. Other members should be selected to give a broad range of experience in competition flying and local conditions. Temporary members of the SC may be appointed if permanent members are unavailable. No person shall be a member of both the TC and the SC.

Task Committee (TC)

A maximum of 3 pilots selected by the Meet Director from a pool of suitable pilots; every effort should be made to include a knowledgeable local pilot. The TC is responsible for advising the MD on suitable tasks for the day.

6. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The National Championship

The National Championship is intended to:

1. Select British Champions in each FAI class (Class 1, Class 1 Sport and Class 5) when there are a minimum of three pilots wishing to compete in that class.
2. Select the British Women's Champion.
3. Encourage a spirit of sportsmanship among pilots.
4. Provide a safe, fair and fun environment in which UK pilots can develop the skills and gain the experience necessary for successful participation in international competition.

5. Provide a pool of pilots from which teams for international events may be selected.

The British Open Series

The British Open Series has three purposes: to provide a serious cross-country UK-based competition for experienced competition pilots; to provide an introduction to competition flying for intermediate pilots; and to support low airtime pilots in developing into safe members of the hang gliding community.

Rules

Detailed rules for both the Nationals and the BOS are published separately.

Rules will be based upon Section 7A of the FAI Sporting Code

Rules may be varied if local conditions necessitate this but a basic principle shall be that no additional rule or variation will be retroactive.

Some BOS rules may be relaxed in order to help make these competitions less intimidating for pilots new to this level of competition.

7. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION

Aim

The overall aim of the team selection is to select the team with the best chance of getting the best team place and hopefully a team medal. In addition the process should encourage Britain's top pilots to compete in British competitions, in particular the Nationals.

This process will apply for the team selection of the British team for any FAI Category 1 competition where there are more qualified applicants than places available on the team. It will also be used separately for the selection of the female team members where additional team places are available for female pilots, and there are more qualified female applicants than places.

Pilot qualification

Pilots qualify for selection to the national team if they:

- are a member of the BHPA
- hold an FAI sporting licence issued by the BHPA
- agree to comply with the terms of the Code of Conduct.

Process

Half of the initial team size announced by the competition organisers, rounded down, will be selected by the automatic process. Where the team size is increased or reduced after the initial selection this will not affect the number of places that are allocated by the automatic selection. The remaining team places not filled by the automatic selection will be decided by the Panel.

Automatic Selection

The automatic selection process will be based on the WPRS competition scores for the 2 years preceding the selection date without the time devaluation applied. Scores from the British Nationals will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2. Scores from both Category 1 and Category 2 competitions will be used,

Pilots will be ranked according to their best three WPRS scores from the last 2 years. At least one of those scores must be from the most recent year, i.e. the best score from the most recent year and the best 2 remaining scores from any time in the last 2 years.

Selectors

All members of the Panel are automatically members of the Selection Panel. In addition the Panel may invite the team manager and pilots who have already been selected for consultation on remaining selections.

Quorum

The Panel will be quorate for team selection purposes if 2/3 (rounded up) of the Panel is present (virtually or in person) and a simple majority will be required to decide selections. The Panel shall still be considered quorate if some members withdraw for part of the selection process due to conflict of interest (see below). If less than half the Panel remain or if the remaining members of the Panel have insufficient experience of international competitions or knowledge of the potential team members' recent performance then additional suitably experienced individuals without a conflict of interest may be invited to join the selection Panel by the Chair, or vice-Chair if the Chair is a candidate for the team being selected.

Conflict Of Interest

Panel members who are also candidates for the team being selected should withdraw from the selection Panel. If they are selected for the team, or ruled out from the selection, they may then return and take a full part in the selection process; this also applies to any other Panel member with any other conflict of interest as defined elsewhere in this Constitution.

Discretionary Selection

Competition attendance by candidates may affect team selection on the basis that others are unable to compete against absentees. All pilots should endeavour to keep the Panel secretary apprised of their intentions and availability for selection.

The following factors will be considered by the Panel in making their selections. They are listed in approximate order of priority. For all competition and task results the quality of competition will be considered i.e. other competitors, tasks and conditions, and more recent results will be weighted more heavily than older results.

- Overall results in past Cat 1 competitions
- Task results in Cat 1 competitions
- Overall results in British Nationals
- Task results in British Nationals
- Overall results in "Pre" competitions applicable to selection
- Task results in "Pre" competitions applicable to selection
- Results in the British Open Series
- Overall result in Cat 2 competitions
- Task results in Cat 2 competitions
- Performance in similar terrain
- Experience at the competition venue

Additionally

- Acceptance of the team Code of Conduct
- Team Characteristics

- Positive team influence
- Positive outlook even when not flying well
- Support for other team members not performing optimally
- Contribution to team task & tactic discussions
- Positive use of radio
- Ability to contribute and listen
- Balance of consistency and risk in the team

Pilot applications

All pilots putting themselves forward for selection should include in their case for selection a list of the pilots that they would select (excluding themselves) with reasons for their selection. This is to assist the selectors who may have less first hand experience of the pilot's recent international competition performance than the other pilots up for selection.

The BHPA expects its pilots to “play hard but fair”, upholding the good name of British sportsmen and women at all times. Selected pilots must maintain an appropriate level of discipline and moral behaviour as ambassadors of Great Britain, and must agree to comply with the terms of the Code of Conduct.

8. Changes to the Constitution

A 2/3rds (rounded up) majority of Panel members eligible to vote shall be required to approve changes to this Constitution.