IGC 2025 Plenary Meeting
Agenda Item 10.2.3

Annex D Committee
Reno Filla, Chairman

Report to IGC Plenary 2025
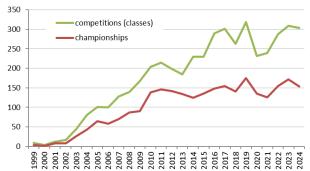21 February 2025

Annex D Committee Report to IGC Plenary 2025

STATISTICS

In the RL season 2024 we saw a slight decrease in the otherwise good recovery after the COVID'19 pandemic:
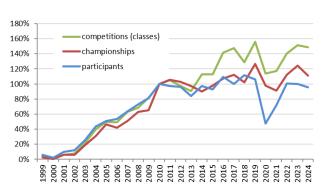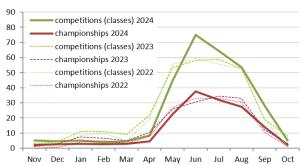

Normalizing to the 2010 values, as usual, we see that while we have more championships with even more competitions (classes) the total number of participants is stagnating.

The distribution of championships and competitions over the year 2024 shows an odd concentration of events in June, while the normal situation would be a spread-out between May and August.

Note: the new RL website [1] has a statistics page [2] which is continuously and automatically updated.

Naturally, how many championships/competitions are ranked impacts the RL income. In order give the IGC Bureau the chance to monitor the situation the RL team sents monthly-ish income reports to the Treasurer. This also helps FAI to correctly attribute PayPal income from the Ranking List to IGC.
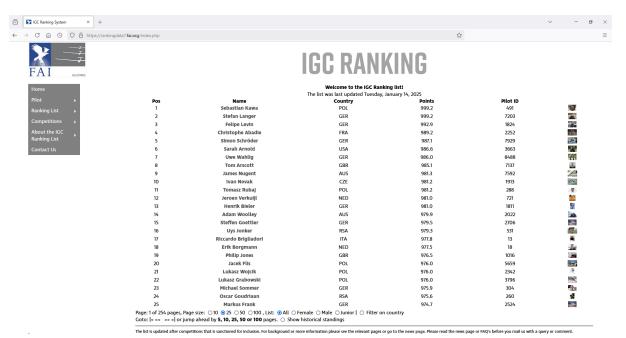

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[1] https://rankingdata7.fai.org

[2] https://rankingdata7.fai.org/statistics.php

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS

For several years now we have announced upcoming changes, including integration of the new RL website [3] with the FAI Application Management System (AMS). Once the switch is made AMS will be used to register and pay for events. The old page is still available at the well-known address http://igcrankings.fai.org but will during this year be redirected to the new RL website.

SUBMITTING COMPETITION RESULTS

In previous years a major source of additional workload for the Ranking List staff and frustration for the pilots have been late or wrong result datasets. The 2019 IGC Plenary approved clear deadlines and since then the situation has improved significantly.

Although, also this year we had some incidents leading to discussions about the various deadlines. We therefore take the opportunity to again include the table of important dates (source: Annex D to the Sporting Code 3D [4])

Another classic source of delay also having occurred in 2024 is that sometimes competition officials have to be reminded that it is their responsibility to send the results to the RL team (that also covers the go-ahead to download from SoaringSpot).

Late submission of championship results prevents the RL from being up to date, which in turn means the

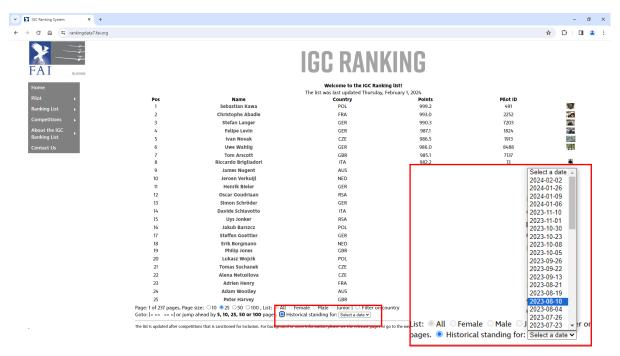| Date	Description	Explanation
1 October, year "Y-1" 00:00 UTC	RL season year "Y" starts	All championships that end between these two dates belong to the RL season of year "Y".
30 September, year "Y" 24:00 UTC	RL season year "Y" ends	
24 October, year "Y" 24:00 UTC	Registration period for events of year "Y" ends	All championships that are to be ranked in the RL season of year "Y" must be registered at the IGC RL website latest by that date and time. *Later registrations are invalid, any fee for a late registration will be forfeit.*
31 October, year "Y" 24:00 UTC	Results submission period for events of year "Y" ends	All results for an event registered for RL season year "Y" must have been submitted in an acceptable form to the RL team at the latest by that date and time. *Later submissions are invalid, any registration fee already paid will be forfeit.*
8 November, year "Y" 00:00 UTC	Preliminary ranking for RL season of year "Y" published	At the latest by this date and time the RL team publishes the preliminary rankings for RL season of year "Y". *Depending on the backlog this might also happen earlier, beginning on 1 November, year "Y" 00:00 UTC.*
31 December, year "Y" 24:00 UTC	Request for adjustment period for RL season of year "Y" ends	Any request for adjustment of the preliminary results for RL season of year "Y" must have been made by that date and time in order to be considered in the final ranking. *Later submissions will still be processed and will affect the rankings in future RL seasons, but the final rankings of RL season year "Y" will not be re-calculated, unless ordered by the IGC Bureau or FAI.*
8 January, year "Y+1" 00:00 UTC	Final ranking for RL season of year "Y" published	At the latest by this date and time the RL team publishes the final rankings for RL season of year "Y". *Depending on the backlog this might also happen earlier, beginning on 1 January, year "Y+1" 00:00 UTC.*

Note: A Ranking List season is typically described by a year "Y", but should for clarity's sake be designated "Y-1/Y". For example, RL season 2022 ran from October 1ˢᵗ, 2021 to September 30ᵗʰ, 2022 – and should be called "RL season 2021/2022". Nevertheless, in most communication, as in this document and on most pages of the RL website a season is referred to with one year only.

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current rankings are not really current. This becomes more than a vanity problem in case of Two Seater competitions where only the pilot with the higher ranking <u>at the start of the competition</u> (then to be set as Pilot in Command, "P1" in the scoring software) is eligible for the ranking points generated from that contest. If competitions prior to the Two Seater contest are late with their results then it might well be the case that the wrong pilot is pointed out as P1!

In order to record and document historical standings the Ranking List features a way to go back in time and check pilot score and rank for any previous day of the season [5]. On our new website [6] this feature can be found on the bottom of the ranking page:

Please note that Pilot Ratings change all the time due to new results being added and old ones getting devalued. To reflect this in full the IGC Ranking List should be automatically recalculated each day – which is impractical at the moment. Therefore the results as published at a certain date are to be regarded as the official results for that date, even though some changes might occur in case of a recalculation.

Another classic: In each year's report we ask for help with improving the RL by reporting double pilot profiles. These doublets are created whenever contest scorers don't follow the instructions [7] and skip referring to a pilot's Ranking List id, either through negligence or to minimise their own workload. During upload the system then creates a new id for the pilot in question and assigns the ranking score to this doublet instead of the pre-existing profile.

Usually pilots first recognise this when they fail to qualify for their respective National Team and realise that results are missing from their Ranking List profile. The RL staff then needs to edit the results in the database manually and re-calculate the ranks for the season concerned. Thankfully, also in 2024 a number of NACs worked with their respective pilot lists and reported issues.

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[5] https://rankingdata.fai.org/SnapshotRLstandings/ShowSnapShotRL.html

[6] https://rankingdata7.fai.org

[7] http://sailplanegp.aero/igcrankings/competitions/instructions-for-scorers.aspx

Unfortunately, new such double profiles are created all the time, also during the 2024 season. However, previously the largest source of such double profiles have been when whole championships have been submitted without referencing pilot IDs, thus automatically creating many new double profiles at once. Such result data sets without pilot IDs referenced are now ruled incomplete and thus not legible for inclusion into the RL until corrected by the Competition Organizer.

The elephant memory-equipped reader will by this time have a clear sense of déjà vu which necessitates the confession that, yes, most of the text above is copied from last year's report. Anyone who actually reads this can contact the author of this report and, time and funding permitting, might be rewarded with a refreshment from a near-by bar.

The following text is new, though.

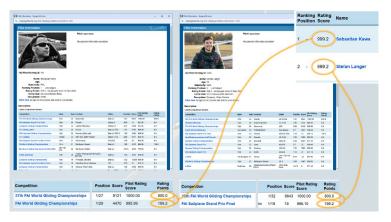## PILOT RANKING: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Annex D committee proposes two changes to the way Pilot Ranking is computed:

- 6.2.17 "Consistency of rounding of intermediate and final results" [8]
- 6.2.18 "Method of breaking ties" [9]

The reason for both is the following:

In the final ranking for 2024 pilots #1 and #2 in the RL had the same Pilot Rating. Accord ing to Annex D section 5.8 Pilot Ranking: "Ties are initially broken by the highest single Pilot Rating Score (PRS). If a tie still exists the pilot with the highest Pilot Ranking on the 30th September of the preceding year will take precedence." However, this procedure, approved by the IGC Plenary 2014, is ineffective as the highest single PRS is likely always to be 1000 points. So also in the current case.

Furthermore, the second-highest PRS differed with pilot #2 actually having more points than pilot #1 (996.10 vs. 995.99). If one just takes the sum of both PRS as an indication of who should win it is undeniably the case that pilot #2 has the higher figure. However, the calculation is more involved than that, as described and exemplified in Annex D v2024a section 5.7 Pilot Ration Calculation. According to the procedure the Rating Points calculated are to be rounded to one decimal. In the case of 2024 this made the Pilot Rating of pilot

#2 been rounded down to the same number as for pilot #1, who also was the top pilot in 2023. Thus pilot #1 won despite "actually" having a lesser rating before rounding, according to 5.8 Pilot Ranking: "If a tie still exists the pilot with the highest Pilot Ranking on the 30th September of the preceding year will take precedence."

The difference in the rounding of Pilot Rating Score vs. Pilot Rating is arbitrary and in this case created an unfair outcome. There is no rational argument for why Pilot Rating should be rounded to only one decimal, which increases the likelihood of ties throughout the whole Ranking List. Rounding the Pilot Rating to two decimals, just like the Pilot Rating Scores obtained from Competition Score, is less arbitrary than the present rule.

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[8] https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/6.2.17_2025_y1_sc3d_5.8_igc_-_consistency_of_rounding_of_intermediate_and_final_results.pdf

[9] https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/6.2.18_2025_y1_sc3d_5.7_igc_-_method_of_breaking_ties.pdf

If this proposal passes we will ask the delegates to put it into effect immediately so that the RL season 2024/25 can benefit from it. Please note that we will not recalculate the finalized results for the 2023/24 season – pilot #1 stays #1 in the archived results.

As for tie-breaking : the first step of the present procedure is ineffective and did not prevent an outcome that feels unfair. The new tie-breaking procedure is to be developed in 2025 and presented together with the Year 2 proposal in 2026. It could be as simple as to base the tie-breaking on the nth-highest score in increasing order of n starting with n=1, or to always reward the pilot that has the lower ranking in the previous year, or something more elaborate based on a calculation. If approved, we will in 2026 ask the delegates to put it into effect immediately so that the RL season 2025/26 can benefit from it.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

During 2024 the Annex D committee consisted of Brian Spreckley, Keith Nicholson, Lars Rune Bjørnevik and Reno Filla (chairman). Reno Filla has been the RL Manager since 2016 (solo since 2017) and since 2018 Lars Rune Bjørnevik is the RL Administrator. The work split between us is as follows:

RL Admin (Lars Rune Bjørnevik)
- Pilot support (pilot profile/account management)
- Contest support (contest registration, results upload + calculation)
- System admin / main developer (including support for external developers)

RL Manager (Reno Filla)
- Pilot support (pilot profile/account management)
- Contest support (contest registration, results upload + calculation)
- System super user / occasional developer
- Commercial point of contact (invoicing, NAC support, bulk rate negotiation)
- Chairman of the Annex D committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IGC Ranking List has become a success thanks to the dedicated work of initiator and long-time RL Manager Brian Spreckley, original developer and RL Administrator Keith Nicholson, as well as developer and administrator Paul Crabb, whose past tremendous efforts as well as their continued willingness to render help in times of need we gratefully acknowledge. Keith in particular still provides valuable and highly appreciated hands-on help with code development in times of great need while Brian can always be depended on giving good advice and support in general matters. Thank you all!

Operating the Ranking List and keeping it a success through constant improvements is a surprisingly labour-intense job and always less publicly visible than what it deserves to be. We are indebted to the Ranking List's Administrator Lars Rune Bjørnevik who also put down a significant amount of time on improving the stability and security of the system even before he officially joined the RL team.

We also would like to acknowledge the good working partnership with the software developers of SeeYou/SoaringSpot and the FAI IT Manager Visa-Matti Leinikki. We do understand that occasionally there might be other, more urgent priorities than the IGC Ranking List and hope for continued collaboration and swift support.

Reno Filla

Manager of the IGC Ranking List and
Chairman of the IGC Annex D Committee