

GFA Seeding and Ranking List

Since about 2004 attendance at Nationals has become increasingly popular, to the point where recently the number of pilots wanting to compete has often exceeded the maximum number that the organisers or the infrastructure could reasonably handle. Although this is better than having too few entries, it has led to some problems because there were no uniform rules about who got in and who didn't.

While we would like to let everyone compete who wants to, that isn't practical – and so Sports Committee decided that a seeding list should be created so that we can have the best possible field in our Nationals. This means that if the competition has more entries than it can handle by the time of the cut-off date for normal entries, the pilots who are lowest on the seeding list will miss out. Pilots in this situation will go on a waiting list and will be first in line if there are any dropouts. Late entries will then be taken in order of receipt, if places are available.

This should encourage pilots who aspire to Nationals competition to ensure that they establish some recognised form by attendance at State Comps, so that there will be a place for them in the Nationals field.

We looked at using the IGC ranking list to provide a seeding list, but there are quite a few problems with it from a national perspective – it is complex, subject to a lot of external influences, and the only Australian results in it come from World Comps and Nationals. So, Sports Committee decided to create a National Ranking List that would provide a basis for selection into Nationals if needed, and would also provide a way for pilots in Australia to be ranked – which may lead to some competitiveness as well when pilots see where they are compared to their mates or the local hotshots.

The calculation starts with your percentage of the winner's points in all the World, National or State Competitions that you enter. Each competition is in a certain category (World Comps 1, Nationals 2, State Comps 3, others 4) and there is a weighting which is applied to your percentage based on the category of the competition. Your best three scores are added to give a ranking.

There are a couple of other considerations. The system looks at the last three seasons, and if the score is from a previous season then it is reduced to 2/3 and 1/3 respectively. Also, only one score per category of competition will count, as otherwise the people who can go to heaps of competitions would have an unfair advantage. Of course there is still an advantage in going to more competitions because you could improve your score in that category.

The detailed rules and the current list (based on the last three seasons) are now available on the Competitions page of the GFA website. There are two reports, one in order of ranking position and one alphabetical by pilot name.

This list will be the basis for selection at the Club and Sports Class Nationals at Benalla, if there is a need to limit entries.

As this is the first attempt at such a system, there are bound to be some adjustments needed, but there is really no way to find out how it works without actually trying it. Feedback is welcome – please contact any member of Sports Committee but particularly Mike Maddocks or Tim Shirley, whose contact details can be found through the GFA website.

Note that this List does NOT replace the International Team selection process, which remains the same as before.