

SOARING ACCOMPLISHMENTS PROGRAM of THE LEAGUE OF SILENT FLIGHT

Section I - INTRODUCTION

The LSF Soaring Accomplishments Program consists of sequential performance tests or “Levels,” as they shall be referred to hereafter, for flying radio controlled (R/C) model sailplanes which meet current FAI specifications.

Section 2 - LEVEL I (PRIMARY)

The performance tasks pursuant to Level I are presented in the Soaring Accomplishments Program, Requirements Summary, Section 12. Upon completion and documentation of the Level I tasks, the Aspirant must submit the performance documentation voucher to the LSF Executive Board for membership enrollment. After acceptance of the voucher, the LSF Executive Board will award the Member their LSF number and remit a Level II performance documentation voucher. The Member may then display a red I centered immediately below a Soaring Accomplishments Program insignia, and their LSF number.

Section 3 - LEVELS II THROUGH IV (INTERMEDIATE)

As in the previous Level, the vouchers are submitted, accepted, and a voucher for the next Level is returned. As earned, the red II will be displayed to the immediate left of the Soaring Accomplishments Program insignia, the III to the right, and the IV centered immediately above the insignia.

Section 4 - LEVEL V (ADVANCED)

Level V is formulated to recognize advanced knowledge, skill and determination in R/C model soaring. Skill in slope soaring is mandatory, as Level V is intended to delineate extensive experience in all facets of R/C model soaring. The earned silver V will be displayed immediately above the red IV.

Section 5 - WITNESSES

Verification of each task of each Level requires the signature of qualified witnesses.

The approved witnesses for non-competitive requirements shall be:

- (a) Level I: One witness, over 21 years of age, who is not related to the pilot, or one witness, holding Level I status or higher, who is not related to the pilot.
- (b) Level II: Same as for Level I.
- (c) Level III: Two witnesses, as in Level I.
- (d) Level IV: Same as for Level III.
- (e) Level V: Two witnesses, each holding Level II status or higher, who are not related to the pilot.

The approved witness for competitive requirements shall be either the Contest Director or the Official Scorer.

Section 6 - PROCEDURES

The tasks required at all Levels must be performed with the following restrictions:

- (a) All work done at Level I must commence after the voucher is received.
- (b) Requirements for subsequent Levels may be achieved any time after the previous Level form has been postmarked. However, these said requirements will be nullified if the postmarked form sent is returned due to errors or incompleteness;
- (c) A single performance may be used for only one Level.

Section 7 - THERMAL DURATION FLIGHT

A thermal duration flight commences at the time of release from the end of a towline. The distance from the extreme end of towline, at the winch, hi-start hold-down, tow man, vehicle, or towline return device to the attach point at the model shall be no more than 300 meters (984.3 feet). Tow men and vehicles shall be limited to a maximum of sixty (60) seconds from launch to towline release. Towing by means of aircraft or other airborne devices is expressly forbidden.

The flight shall be deemed a thermal duration flight if, in the opinion of the pilot and witnesses, the lift being used to remain aloft is primarily attributable to thermal activity. Termination must be with a landing within 200 meters (656.2 feet) of the launch point, which is the point at which the model first becomes airborne.

Section 8 - SLOPE DURATION FLIGHT

A slope duration flight commences with either a simple hand-launch or a launch from the end of a towline, as defined in Section 7. The flight shall be deemed a slope duration flight if, in the opinion of the pilot and witnesses, the lift being used to remain aloft is primarily attributable to wave-action or winds blowing upslope on a ridge, hill, cliff, wall, etc. Termination must be with a landing within 200 meters (656.2 feet) of the launch point.

Section 9 - PRECISION SPOT LANDING

A precision spot landing is accomplished by landing the sailplane so that the extreme forward tip of the nose or forward most point of the longitudinal centerline, at rest, is within the required distance from the center of a designated spot on the ground. All precision spot landing flights must commence with a launch meeting the specifications for towline length and methods outlined in section 7, except that the towline less than 75 meters (246.1 feet) in length. The landing shall be voided if the model jettisons or loses parts, comes to rest in an inverted position, or touches any person or object while landing. However, contact with a spot - marker which does not noticeably impede the flight or landing of the model is permissible.

Section 10 - GOAL AND RETURN FLIGHT

A goal and return flight is a thermal duration flight which commences with a launch as specified in Section 7. After towline release, the sailplane must be flown over the launch point and then to a pre - designated goal a minimum straight line distance away, as specified in the Soaring Accomplishments Program, Requirements Summary, Section 12, and back to the launch point. Termination must be with a landing within 200 meters (656.2 feet) of the launch point.

Section 11 - COMPETITION

Competition requirements specified in the Soaring Accomplishments Program, Requirements Summary, Section 12, may be fulfilled only in LSF recognized contests which are defined to be those meeting the following specifications:

A - Size

All contestants must compete at the same location on the same date.

- (1) Level II - Five (5) or more participants
- (2) Level III - Ten (10) or more participants
- (3) Level IV - Fifteen (15) or more participants
- (4) Level V - Twenty (20) or more participants

B - Rounds

There must be three (3) or more opportunities to score.

C - Events

Fifty percent (50%) or more of the contest events must adhere to at least one of the following guidelines:

- (1) Thermal Event Guideline - Extended thermal duration, distance, or speed; precision aerobatics, or altitude.
- (2) Slope Events Guideline - Duration, distance, speed, precision aerobatics, or altitude.

Two alternative methods of scoring may be used to meet competition requirements. Either the Place System, where a place is recognized to be first (1st), second (2nd), or third (3rd) in the final standings of a contest; or the Competition Points System, where a minimum total of competition points from any six (6) contests may be used. Competition points are computed by first dividing the participants score by the winners score and multiplying by 100; then, multiplying the resultant value by one (1) plus the number of lower standing contestants. A minimum of six (6) contests must be flown no matter which scoring method is used.

Example:

- (a) Winner earns score of 531
- (b) Participant earns a score of 312
- (c) Participant beats 5 other contestants
- (d) Participant's competition points are:
 $312 \div 531 \times 100 \times (1 + 5) = 352$.

D - FAI World Records

The establishment of a world record - recognized by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale - shall constitute the requirements for a contest win. However, six contests or records or a combination of six contests and records must be recorded on all performance vouchers from level II through level V. The 12,000 point requirement must also be fulfilled for level V.

Section 12 – SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Primary		Intermediate		Advanced
Level	I	II	III	IV	V
Thermal Duration	5 minutes	15 minutes	30 Minutes	1 hour	2 Hours
Slope Duration	15 minutes *	1 hour *	2 hours *	4 hours *	8 hours
Precision Spot Landings	5 landings 3m (9.84 ft) or less	10 landings 1.5 m (4.92 ft) or less	None	None	None
Goal and Return	None	None	1 km (0.62 mi)	2 km (1.24 mi)	10 km (6.2 mi)
Competition	None	6 contests ** with 1 place or 3,000 points	6 contests ** with 2 places or 4500 points	6 contests ** with 2 places and 1 win or 6,000 points	6 contests ** with 12,000 points including 3 wins

* A second thermal flight which meets the basic Thermal Duration requirement for this Level may be flown in lieu of the Slope Duration requirement. However, the second thermal flight may not be flown on the same day as the first.

** See Section 11 – D (FAI World Records)