

Official Observers (OO) and Certification:

- 1) **NATIONAL AIRSPORT CONTROL:** Aero Club of India (ACI) being the National Airsport Control (NAC) for India has administrative responsibility for a nation's sport aviation activities, such as issuing Sporting Licences. The ACI carries out the verification of national records and other responsibilities.
 - a) **ORGANISING NAC:** The pilot's nationality or residency determines the NAC responsible for issuing them a Sporting Licence. This NAC, the organising NAC, also certifies the pilot's achievement and, in the case of an International record, the record claim dossier going to the FAI, regardless of where the record attempt took place.
 - b) **CONTROLLING NAC:** When a record or badge flight originates in a country other than that of the organising NAC, the NAC of the host country shall control the flight and may appoint OOs of the organizing NAC to act on its behalf if it so chooses. If allowed by the controlling NAC, the OO may forward the completed claim directly to the organizing NAC.

2) OO REQUIREMENTS:

- a) **Appointment and jurisdiction:** OOs are appointed by the ACI on behalf of the FAI. Directors of competitions sanctioned by FAI or a ACI may act as OOs for badge or record flights undertaken during a contest. OOs serve within the jurisdiction of the ACI and may control flights made by glider pilots of any nationality if the controlling NAC so permits.
- b) **Duties:** As representatives of the FAI, OOs oversee FAI badge and record attempts, and other soaring performances a NAC may define within its authority. In case of violation of duty by an OO, the appointment of the OO shall be withdrawn. In addition, negligent certifications or wilful misrepresentations are grounds for disciplinary action by the NAC concerned.

3) Competence:

- a) OOs must be familiar with the Code and pertinent air regulations, and have the integrity, skill, and competence necessary to control and certify them. An OO should be given training appropriate to the duties of an OO prior to being approved by a NAC.

SC3C-1.3 gives recommended practices for NAC administration of OOs.

- b) The OO shall be familiar with the operation and limitations of all evidence recording equipment used on the flight. See also SC3C-10.8 and SC3C Appendix 5-1.3.

- c) The OO must be approved, in writing, by the OO's NAC to certify and/or verify a World or Continental record. Previous satisfactory experience as an OO for badges or national records should be a prerequisite.
- 4) **Conflict of interest:** All persons involved in data verification and claim approval must conform to the FAI Code of Ethics, evaluating the claim objectively according to the rules and procedures of the Code. As such, no one involved in ratifying a World or Continental record claim may have a special personal interest in the outcome of that claim, and OOs may not act for any record or badge attempt in which they have any financial interest or in which they are the pilot or passenger.

Note: Ownership of the glider shall not be considered "financial interest". In essence, monetary or other substantial gain shall not depend on the successful certification of the claim by the OO or other individuals concerned.

- 5) **FLIGHT CONTROL and VERIFICATION** Refers to OO actions taken to ensure the integrity of evidence supporting a badge or record claim, and the required evidence gathering and evaluation functions performed in relation to the flight.
- a) Pre-flight control actions: For each FR or PR, an OO must perform the actions required by 2.5.3a for badge flights or 3.5.5a for records and, if used:
 - i) A written declaration for a badge flight is certified by adding the date and time and signing it (2.3.1b refers),
 - ii) For motor glider flights, verify the means used to detect MoP use (see 2.5.4 for badges or 3.5.4 for records).
 - b) Post-flight control actions: For each FR or PR, an OO must perform the actions required by 2.5.3c for badge flights or 3.5.5c for record flights. Complete FAI Claim Forms (see 3.6) for a record flight or NAC equivalents for a badge flight.
 - c) Verification: The OO certifying the claim shall verify the aircraft flown, crew name(s), and the times and locations of take-off and landing based on personal observation, supplemented if necessary by the written flight logs maintained at the take-off and landing site(s). In the latter case, the OO shall attach to the claim form legible photocopies of the pertinent flight logs. If any required detail is not verified as above, the appropriate verification certificate given in 4.4.2 is required.
- 6) **CERTIFICATES:** A certificate is a written statement signed by a person who has first-hand knowledge that the statement is true. Whether part of a pre-printed claim form or provided as an attachment, any required certificate must clearly relate to the flight, contain the information required, and be signed by the appropriate person(s). Calibration certificates excepted, any person signing a certificate shall also provide his or her name, address and, if possible, contact phone number or e-mail address.
- a) **Certification by OO:** More than one OO may be involved in a flight claim. Individual certificates pertaining to portions of flight evidence shall be verified by the OO involved. A "certifying OO" shall gather the requisite certificate(s) from all OOs

involved in the claim and complete and verify the information in the applicable FAI record claim form(s) or NAC-specified badge claim form(s). At a minimum, the certifying OO shall:

- i) review the pre-flight declaration.
- ii) verify the physical evidence of the claim per 4.3.4.
- iii) evaluate the flight data on the .igc file.
- iv) confirm that all applicable OO control actions in 4.3 were performed.
- v) obtain required certificates listed in 4.4.2 and countersign those that are complete and consistent with the claim.

b) Certificates required

i) PILOT CERTIFICATE OF REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

For all claims the pilot must certify that the flight was conducted in accordance with the Code, was flown in compliance with all the glider manufacturer's and national operating limitations, and in accordance with national flight regulations (airspace use, night flight, etc.).

For records, this certification is on the IGC Record Forms A, B, and C.

ii) OO CERTIFICATE

For all claims, this certificate shall list applicable control actions and, for each one, the date it was performed and the signature and OO number of the OO who performed it. Certificates may originate from more than one OO in a given claim.

iii) CORRECTION CERTIFICATE

This certificate shall identify the glider and the pilot when the data entered or stored in an FR/PR is incorrect. The certificate must be signed by an OO.

iv) TAKE-OFF

This certificate shall list the time and location of take-off.

v) LANDING

This certificate shall list the time and location of landing. It may be signed by an air traffic controller who witnessed the landing. If no one witnessed the landing, two witnesses or an OO shall certify the precise location of the glider and the time and date of that observation.

vi) CALIBRATION CERTIFICATE

Instrument error at intervals throughout the FR or PR range shall be listed on a current calibration certificate that includes the laboratory's logo or name.

7) Awards Officer:

The Awards Officer shall oversee and review, the claims submitted to ACI for FAI Gliding Badges, Diplomas and Records. The Awards Officer shall be assisted in responsibilities by Senior Official Observer(s).

8) Senior Official Observer:

The Senior Official Observer shall train, certify and recommend appointment of Official Observers. He shall also carry out all functions of OO. If the Awards Officer is unavailable the Senior Official Observer may also review the claims submitted to the ACI.

9) Official Observers:

ACI would encourage appointment of adequate number of OO to control the flight, verify, and certify the claims for Certificates, Badges, Diplomas and Records. An applicant shall be trained, tested and recommended for appointment to the Secretary General of ACI, by the Senior Official Observer.

- i) The applicants may download the application for appointment as OO and send it to the Secretary General.
- ii) The ACI shall organise a course of training and test for the applicants on need basis
- iii) After successful completion of the course and passing the test the Senior OO may recommend the applicant to Sec General for appointment as OO.