



Competition Announcement for the **61st International Hotzenwald Gliding Competition from May 23rd to May 30th, 2026**

1. Type of Event

The International Hotzenwald Gliding Competition is a gathering of performance glider pilots. This is not a public event.

2. Purpose

This is a friendship competition in performance gliding, aimed at promoting cross-country soaring and nurturing young talent in competitive gliding. It provides an opportunity for pilots of all nations to exchange experiences, compare performances, and foster friendships and international understanding, especially among young pilots.

3. Organizer and Host

Luftsportgemeinschaft Hotzenwald e.V.

4. Date and Location

The competition will take place at the Hütten/Hotzenwald glider airfield (47° 38' 05"N 7° 56' 31"E) from **May 23rd to May 30th, 2026.**

Registration Deadline	Friday	May 15, 2026; 24:00
Arrival	Starting Friday	May 22, 2026
Training Opportunity (by prior arrangement)	Starting Saturday	May 16, 2026
Document Check/Waiver Declaration*)	Friday	May 22, 2026, from 8:00 PM
Opening Briefing and First Competition Day	Saturday	May 23, 2026, 9:00 AM
Final Competition Day	Saturday	May 30, 2026
Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation	Saturday	May 30, 2026, from 7:00 PM

*) at the latest before the first scored flight

Participation in the opening briefing, the daily briefing, and the awards ceremony is mandatory for all participants!

5. Applicable Rules

- 5.1** All legal regulations and ordinances concerning air traffic that apply to the championship, as well as the statutes of the DAeC and the S.B.O., are valid.
- 5.2** The current edition of the Sporting Code Section 3 of the F.A.I. applies.
- 5.3** The competition rules for sailplane championships of the Federal Commission for Sailplane Flight (SWO) of the DAeC, current edition, in the version applicable to the competition ([link to download the SWO](#)) apply, with the following notes/additions:
- 5.3.1** Each participant is responsible for documenting their competition flights. The departure procedure and the validation of turn points are carried out using a GNSS flight recorder. Only systems that are approved by the IGC until **May 23, 2026**, are allowed. Participants must bring their respective systems to the competition.
- As a backup, only a second IGC GNSS flight recorder is allowed.
- 5.3.2** The start procedure is carried out via a departure line (cf. SWO). The approach procedure is carried out via a finish line (see implementation regulations).
- 5.3.3** The minimum scoring distance is 50% of the stated minimum task length, but no more than 100 km, without applying a handicap factor.
- 5.3.4** In the event that no "Mixed Club and Newcomer Class" (see point 6) or "Mixed Standard Class" is formed, both classes may be combined into a "Mixed Standard Class."
- 5.3.5** Any entry into airspaces that require clearance is prohibited and will be penalized according to SWO Section 10. An exception to this applies to airspace D of "Les Eplatures," provided that before the briefing by the ATC Les Eplatures, it is ensured that the gliders will receive unrestricted clearance for the airspace. In this case, airspace D "Les Eplatures" must be contacted before entering, and formal clearance must be requested. This exception is dependent on the day and will be announced during the briefing.
- 5.3.6** Powered gliders (self-launchers, turbos, jets, FES, and RES) are allowed to participate. They must comply with Sporting Code Section 3, Article 4.8, and be equipped with a data recording of the engine (ENL in the GNSS-FR). For noise protection reasons, the competition organizers waive the general requirement for engine startup before departure but reserve the right to randomly select powered gliders for an engine run verification through a lottery process.
- A restart for powered gliders may take place in the air. To do so, the engine must be started within the designated restart area. Starting the engine outside the restart area is considered an outlanding.
- 5.3.7** Takeoff is only done by aero-tow or self-launch.

- 5.3.8** Any further amendments to the competition rules, based on decisions made by the Federal Commission for Gliding in DAeC, and which are legally effective for this championship, will be announced no later than at the opening briefing.
- 5.4** These event rules, along with any published amendments, shall apply.
- 5.5** The implementation regulations issued by the organizer shall apply.
- 5.6** The decisions made by the competition management during the opening briefing, which apply to the entire championship, as well as the decisions made by the competition management during the daily briefings, shall apply.
- 5.7** The general requirements of the aviation authorities (DFS & Skyguide) apply.
- 5.8** The legal recourse to enforce rule changes or participation is excluded.

6. Competition Class and scoring

- 6.1** Mixed Club and Newcomer Class with Index Rating: Aircraft with DaeC Index <102, or valid DAeC Index if you are a newcomer to the class and fly with an aircraft that has an index of 102 or more.

The Mixed Club and Newcomer Class is designed for aircraft with an index <102, as well as for newcomers. For this competition class, an experienced local XC pilot is available to newcomers to the competition if required and on request, who will support them with coaching tips. In addition, mostly AAT tasks are set in this class, so that each participant can divide up the route depending on the aircraft performance and their own abilities.

- 6.2** Mixed standard class with index rating: aircraft with index 102 -109

- 6.3** Mixed Open Class with Index Rating: Aircraft with Index 110 and above (from DuoDiscus / 18m Class / Open Class)

Special attention is drawn to Point 4.2 of the Competition Rules for Gliding Championships:

'The responsibility for the airworthiness of the aircraft, the presence of the required legal and event-specific documents, and compliance with the class specifications lies with the participant.'

For gliders not listed, but retrofitted with a retractable landing gear (EZ), the index is increased by 2 points. The definition of a modification, in case of doubt, is at the discretion of the competition management."

7. Eligibility Requirements

The participating glider pilots must have the following personal documents:

- A valid, Europe-recognized glider pilot license
- A valid aerotow authorization
- For self-launchers: valid self-launch authorization, if launching by self-launch
- IGC Ranking ID: This can be [created for free via the FAI](#) if not already available.

Pilots under the age of 18 must submit a consent form signed by both parents or a legal guardian.

For the gliders, the following must be provided:

- Valid registration
- Liability insurance for competition flights
- Approved equipment

The responsibility of all participating pilots in accordance with legal requirements remains unaffected by the sporting regulations and the directives of the competition organizers.

8. Registration deadline

Registrations should be submitted as early as possible starting from February 1, 2026, but no later than May 15, 2026, to the competition management. Registration is exclusively through the online registration form on the competition website: <https://www.hotzenwaldwettbewerb.de>. For safety and airfield size reasons, the participant field is limited to 40 aircraft. If more registrations are received than can be accepted, the order of arrival of the registrations will determine acceptance.

9. Registration Fee

The registration fees apply per aircraft and are as follows:

- For seniors: EUR 120
- For juniors: EUR 80 (cut-off date is January 1, 2000)

To confirm participation, the registration fee must be paid in advance.

Cancellations made by May 1st, 2026, will result in a 50% refund of the registration fee.

Cancellations after May 1st, 2026, will not be refunded. This amount will go into the youth fund, which financially supports young competition participants.

In case of cancellation of the competition due to unforeseeable events (e.g., pandemic, global conflicts, or similar), EUR 100 (seniors) or EUR 65 (juniors) will be refunded.

Refunds in justified exceptional cases are at the discretion of the organizer.

If we have not received the registration fee, the starting place will be offered to the next participant on the waiting list one week after a reminder for payment, provided there are substitutes on the waiting list.

Towing and camping fees will be invoiced at the end of the competition and collected via direct debit for domestic bank accounts. If no bank account is available, payment will be in cash.

10. Launching Methods

Launches will be done via aerotow (EUR 55 per tow) or self-launch (EUR 15 per launch). Each aircraft should bring a tow rope for aerotows. Retrieve tows after outlandings will be charged with a transfer fee of EUR 5 per minute and a towing fee of EUR 5.50 per minute. We reserve the right to adjust the tow prices if necessary, according to current fuel prices.

11. Maps and Flight Documentation

The current ICAO map of Stuttgart, as well as the glider flight map of Switzerland, are required.

Flight documentation is carried out using GNSS. The evaluation will be done with SeeYou Competition. For this, a valid IGC file must be provided from the used logger. Pilots must submit their IGC file to the competition organizers by email (hw@hotzenwaldwettbewerb.de) no later than 30 minutes after landing. Alternatively, the IGC file can be submitted on a data carrier (USB stick, memory card, etc.). As a backup, the IGC-FLARM log is accepted. For powered gliders, only a FLARM log will be accepted, provided it records the engine runtime (ENL). The logger identification and backup logger identification must be submitted to the competition organizers before the competition begins.

The current turnpoint file will be made available in all common formats on the website for download in due time.

12. Insurance and Safety Precautions

For flights in Switzerland, the following liability minimum coverage amounts apply:

- Aircraft up to 500 kg MTOW: 750,000 SDR
- Aircraft up to 1,000 kg MTOW: 1,500,000 SDR

The use of FLARM is mandatory! The use of an ACL (e.g., canopy strobe) and warning paint is recommended.

For safety and flight tracking purposes, it is required to register the aircraft in the [OGN database](#) for the duration of the competition. The FLARM ID is required for registration. [Link to instructions how to identify your FLARM ID.](#)

13. Correspondence and Competition Management

Registrations must be submitted exclusively through the [competition homepage](#). The competition management can be contacted as follows:

<p>Competition Director: Lucia Liehr Schmiedmatte 2 6207 Nottwil Schweiz Tel: +41 79 850 0897 E-mail: hw@hotzenwaldwettbewerb.de</p>	<p>Weather & Briefing Marcus Neubronner Freiburger Str. 31 79183 Waldkirch Tel: +49 176 2001 8207 E-mail: marcus.neubronner@gmail.com</p>
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14. Unterkunft

The costs for accommodation and meals are to be borne by the participant. Camping at the airfield is possible. There are camping facilities with electrical connections and sanitary facilities available. Accommodation in nearby establishments is possible; please refer to the directory:

- <https://www.hotzenwald-schwarzwald.de/de/unterkunft/>

A roll service will be offered during the competition week. Unfortunately, the on-site restaurant is not open continuously by the tenants. During opening hours, à la carte dining is available. If interested, please check the daily opening hours, as they vary significantly.

15. Implementation Regulations

The implementation regulations will be made available for download on the competition website in due time.

16. Hygiene measures in case of a pandemic

Any regulations applicable at the time of the competition, any additional regulations set by the organizer, and the resulting hygiene concept must be adhered to. Any changes, restrictions, or deviations from the announcement will be communicated accordingly. In case of competition cancellation, a small portion of the registration fee (EUR 10 for seniors / EUR 5 for juniors) will be retained to cover ongoing costs for competition planning. As of January 2025, no specific regulations apply.

Hütten, January 21st, 2026

gez. Lucia Liehr, Marcus Neubronner

Changes to previous years are marked yellow.