

# Eastern Soaring league Constitution (Proposed)

## **ARTICLE I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the **EASTERN SOARING LEAGUE** (ESL).

## **ARTICLE II: Overview**

R/C soaring competitors are interested in attending many competitions, but are challenged regarding which contests to invest their time and money to attend given the potentially large variability. The spirit of competitions allows competitors to track their performance compared to other pilots in the region.

The creators of the ESL wanted to establish a set of guidelines to ensure that ESL sanctioned events were consistently of very high quality and worth the expense of attending, track performance and present awards to the top scoring members.

The predominant philosophy guiding decisions regarding ESL contests is to show-up and fly!

## **ARTICLE III: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

1. GOAL OF THE EASTERN SOARING LEAGUE is to enhance the sport of radio controlled (R/C) thermal soaring through the establishment and maintenance of reasonable standards of contest operations.
2. The ESL will sanction contests organized by AMA Contest Directors within the ESL's geographic boundaries.
3. The ESL will promote, and encourage the efficient and safe use of radio controlled sailplanes, locally, nationally and internationally; to cooperate with all branches of the model radio controlled (RC) aircraft movements, and to collect and disseminate information relative to RC model aircraft in general and RC sailplanes in particular.

## **ARTICLE IV:**

1. The ESL does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof.

## **ARTICLE V: Board of Directors**

1. The governing body of the ESL shall be a Board of Directors constituted as the by-laws may provide. Directors shall be elected from among the members of the ESL eligible to vote in league affairs.
2. The Directors of this league shall be a President, Vice President/TD Contest Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer, Safety Officer/Quartermaster, Chief of Maintenance, Score Keeper, WEB Master, and Publicity Manager (PR/Video/Pictures).

3. Each Director shall take office after the meeting following his election. A Director shall hold office for a period of two years, unless he resigns before the end of his term .
4. Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring before the expiration of a normal term of office shall be filled temporary by appointment of a voting member by the Board of Directors as an interim Director. The office shall be filled at the next annual meeting by election of a Director for the unexpired portion of the regular term of office.
5. Except as herein otherwise provided, the Board of Directors shall conduct all business of the league, control all offices and committees, and discharge all corporate responsibilities of the league. Decisions of the Board shall be recorded in writing and distributed as will be provided in the by-laws. Decisions of the Board shall be binding upon the membership unless revoked or amended as provided in the by-laws.
6. Due to the geographic nature of the ESL the majority of business conducted by the Board of Directors shall be conducted electronically or at special meetings; such as preceding or after a scheduled ESL sanctioned contest. Approval of any motion before the Board of Directors requires the favorable vote of a simple majority of the entire Board of Directors.
7. The Electric Sailplane Division Contest Coordinator and Hand Launch Sailplane Division Contest Coordinator are provisional and at this time do not have voting rights on the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VI:**

1. The business address of the ESL shall be the mailing address of the league Secretary/Treasure.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Membership**

1. A current Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership is mandatory for voting members of the ESL.
2. Voting members shall be persons that have contested a minimum of 3 ESL sanctioned contest days during the current plus preceding contest seasons.
3. Due to the large geographic nature of the ESL most business is conducted electronically and any person interested in the operation of the ESL should join the ESL web site forum (<http://www.flyesl.org/>) and be on the ESL's mailing list ([groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl](http://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl)).
4. Individuals that are members of the ESL WEB site or the ESL mailing list will be considered Social Members until the requirements of sections 1 and 2 are met.
5. Social Members are those individuals who want to be associated with the league but without rights to vote or use ESL facilities and equipment. Non flying members are not required to have a current AMA membership.
6. Resignation: The resignation of any member from this league shall be in writing (addressed to the President or to the Secretary) and shall be accepted by the Board of

Directors, provided that all indebtedness of said member to the league has been paid.

7. Termination For Other Causes. The membership of any member may be terminated by the Board of Directors for a reason which the Board may deem to be sufficient by the vote of not less than two thirds of the Board members thereof at a meeting called for that purpose. In such case, the member shall be given at least ten days written notice of such pending action and an opportunity to submit to the Board of Directors a written answer. They shall also have the privilege of appearing before the Board to state their case. Service of such notice shall be made by registered letter to the members last known address and via e-mail. In case of a decision to terminate membership, the secretary shall, within seven days after the date of the Board's decision, notify the member in writing of the decision of the Board. Such member may within fourteen days after the date of such notice give written notice to the secretary of his intention either to appeal to the ESL or to acquiesce. Silence is considered acquiescence. In the event he appeals, the Board shall set a date for the hearing of the appeal at regular meeting of the league to be held within thirty days after the receipt of said notice of appeal. At least five days notice of such league meeting and its special business shall be given in writing via <http://www.flyesl.org/forums/> AND [groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl) to every member of the league, and only voting members of the league shall be permitted to be present when such appeal is considered at such meeting. The action of the Board of Directors shall be final if no appeal to the league is made. If an appeal is made, the action of the league shall be final.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

1. The ESL shall have one (1) Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the ESL shall be held on the Saturday of the "ESL Unlimited TD End of Season " (EOS) held October of each year at such time as the Board of Directors shall direct.
2. The annual meeting shall be the meeting at which the election of members of the Board of Directors to serve for the term open shall take place.
3. Additional meetings may be called by the Board of Directors if there are significant events that require input from voting members and can not be resolved electronically.
4. If the EOS contest is canceled the annual meeting will be scheduled during the next ESL sponsored contest.

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS**

1. The Constitution and By-laws of the ESL may be amended by the approval of 51 percent of the voting membership or three quarters (75%) of the voting members present at the EOS meeting.
2. Any proposed amendment to this constitution or to the By-Laws shall be delivered in written form (preferably in electronic form) to the Board of Directors. The Board shall deliberate on the provisions of the amendment and give their recommendations.

3. Any proposed amendment to this constitution or to the By-Laws shall be delivered to all voting members in advance via the ESL WEB site forums (<http://www.flyesl.org/forums/>) and the ESL mailing list ([groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl)) at least 30 days before a vote is called.
4. Notice of the intention to vote on amendment(s) must be given to all voting members in advance via the ESL WEB site forums (<http://www.flyesl.org/forums/>) and the ESL mailing list, ([groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl)) at least 10 days before a vote is called.

## **ARTICLE X: Voting**

1. Each person on BOD shall have one vote. Filling more than 1 position does not allow more than 1 vote.
2. The Board of Directors with a simple majority may call for an electronic vote from the voting membership on matters deemed necessary.
3. The call for electronic vote will be sent via the ESL mailing list ([groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/talk-flyesl)).
4. The BOD will appoint a vote collector.
5. The period of electronic voting will be determined by the BOD and will not be less than 3 days.
6. Voting members will electronically submit (E-Mail) their vote to the vote collector.
7. At the end of the voting period the vote collector will report the results to the BOD and post to the ESL mailing list .
8. Proxy votes for matters at the EOS meeting can be presented to any voting member attending the meeting. The proxy vote must be in writing or printed form and not verbal.

## **Article XI: Fiscal Year and Contest Season**

1. The fiscal year for ESL will run from January 1 through the following December 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. The ESL contest season starts in April and ends no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October.

## Eastern Soaring league

### By-Laws of the Constitution (Proposed)

#### **ARTICLE I: Duties of Office**

1. President:
  - a) The President shall be the executive officer of the league and shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, and call special meetings as may be deemed necessary, and shall be ex-official member of all committees.
  - b) The President shall be the spokesperson for the ESL.
2. Vice President/TD Contest Coordinator:
  - a) In the absence of the President the Vice President will perform the duties of the President.
  - b) Send a request for sanction to clubs and CDs that have previously hosted ESL sanctioned contests.
  - c) Collect sanction requests from clubs.
  - d) Develop a draft contest schedule for the up-coming season.
  - e) Work with Unlimited TD contest CDs to address potential schedule conflicts.
  - f) Work with Unlimited TD contest CDs and the ESL WEB Master to establish contest information and registration on the league web site.
  - g) The ESL contest schedule for all divisions shall be finalized for review by the Board of Directors and published no later than 30 days prior to the start of the ESL competition season.
  - h) A review of the contests for the season will be given by the ESL Contest Coordinator at the annual ESL Unlimited TD End of Season meeting.
3. Secretary/Treasurer:
  - a) As Secretary shall keep permanent record of the Minutes of the meetings, maintain membership rolls, and be responsible for all correspondence and league notices.
  - b) The Secretary shall maintain the constitution and by-laws.
  - c) The Secretary will post the minutes of the ESL meetings to the ESL WEB site and should post any other significant documents.
  - d) As Treasurer shall collect fees and maintain records of the league financial transactions, disburse league monies in payment of league obligations as provided by the Board of Directors.
  - e) Maintain the ESL bank and PayPal accounts.
  - f) The Treasure of the league may be authorized by the Board of Directors to receive

contributions or specially obtained funds from individuals or institutions to be applied to the general funds of the ESL.

- g) The Treasure will electronically send a financial status report to each of the Board of Directors in January, July and before the EOS meeting or when requested by a Board member.
- h) At the EOS meeting a financial summary will be presented to the general membership.

#### 4. Safety Officer/Quartermaster:

- a) The Safety Officer shall promote safety awareness on the part of members.
- b) The Safety Officer shall at least annually conduct a safety audit of ESL facilities, equipment, and grounds to ensure they are in good working order.
- c) The QM will be the point of contact for contest organizers to coordinate the transportation of the ESL owned winches and equipment to/from their contest.
- d) The QM will assist CDs in the proper setup, use, and care of the ESL equipment.
- e) The QM will work with the Chief of Maintenance to insure the ESL equipment is in good repair.
- f) The QM is responsible for choosing the type and supplier of winch line to be used by the ESL.
- g) The QM will order and keep a supply of winch line and insure that spare winch line is available at each sanctioned contest where the ESL winches are used.
- h) Track the use and condition of winch line and inform CDs when replacement is recommended.
- i) Maintain a kit that travels with the ESL. The kit includes:
  - i.i) Hammer
  - i.ii) adjustable wrench
  - i.iii) plastic sheet to cover winches (overnight and foul weather)
  - i.iv) Knife
  - i.v) hold-down spikes/bolts
  - i.vi) Landing tapes

#### 5. Chief of Maintenance:

- a) At each contest, check the winches before each day's contest to insure they are fully operational.
- b) Maintain a small kit of spare parts that travels with the ESL winches. The kit includes compressed air, spare nuts, bolts, washer, etc.
- c) In the off-season, pick up the winches and do a full breakdown of each winch. This includes cleaning/repainting the motors and frames, swapping of armatures,

replacing brushes, reassembly, testing of motors and solenoids, inspection/replacement of any wiring, replacement of the brake belts. Check the winch mounting boards and micro-adjusters.

- d) After the mid-season contest, go through each winch inspecting for damage, replacing brushes, replace armature (if necessary), and test before returning to service.
- e) For each contest bring along a basic winch tool kit in case there are issues with the winches.

6. Score Keeper:

- a) Coordinate with contest CD and/or Scorekeeper to receive contest results in a timely basis.
- b) Review contest results received from contest officials for accuracy and consistency with ESL rules.
- c) Post contest results to ESL website, review posting and approve for publication.
- d) Post Contest report cards to the ESL website/Forums.
- e) Calculate and publish the final ESL standings immediately after the End of Season Contests so Championship trophies can be awarded.
- f) Track advancement points and promote Sportsman pilots as required.
- g) Enforce all ESL scoring rules.
- h) Investigate and respond to all pilot inquiries regarding scoring.
- i) Support clubs with scoring training and other scoring related issues.
- j) Maintain records of past seasons.

7. WEB Master:

- a) Maintain the league web site
- b) Assist members in password / log in issues.
- c) Assist contest coordinators in listing contests on the league web site.

8. Publicity Manager:

- a) Manages the ESL's You Tube Channel account and other accounts that the ESL may wish to participate in like Facebook, Twitter, and Skype, etc.
- b) Takes photographs and videos of ESL events and operations for use on the ESL's social media sites.
- c) Collects photographs and videos of ESL events taken by ESL members, or guests, and with their permission post those to the ESL's social media sites.
- d) General promotion of the ESL through other electronic media

9. Electric Sailplane Division Contest Coordinator:
  - a) Work with electric sailplane contest CDs to address potential schedule conflicts.
  - b) Send a request for sanction to clubs and CDs that have previously hosted ESL Electric sanctioned contests.
  - c) Work with electric sailplane contest CDs to and the ESL WEB Master to establish contest information and registration on the league web site.
10. Hand Launch Division Contest Coordinator:
  - a) Work with hand launch sailplane contest CDs to address potential schedule conflicts.
  - b) Send a request for sanction to clubs and CDs that have previously hosted ESL Hand launch sanctioned contests.
  - c) Work with hand launch sailplane contest CDs to and the ESL WEB Master to establish contest information and registration on the league web site.

## **Article II: Geographic Region**

1. The ESL encourages clubs to participate in and host ESL events. The ESL greatly appreciates all the clubs that currently participate in the league and it is recognized that without good strong participation and support from the region's clubs we would not have an ESL.
2. All clubs in the following states may request an ESL sanction for a soaring contest: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts , Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire for Electric Only.

## **Article III: Dues and Fees:**

1. The ESL does not directly collect dues from individuals to become a member.
2. Each Contest Director hosting an ESL Unlimited TD sanctioned contest shall remit \$2.00 per contestant per contest day within 2 weeks following the event.
3. The exception is that if host club does not collect entry fees for Novice and AMA Junior pilots there will be no ESL fee for those pilots.
4. Owed sanctioning fees must be paid before a contest will be given consideration to be placed on the following year's schedule.
5. There are no fees for an Electric Sailplane sanction.
6. There are no fees for a Hand Launch Sailplane sanction.
7. The \$2 fee per contestant (Article III, 2. above) has been suspended for the 2016 season



#### **Article IV: Dissolution of The ESL**

1. The duration of the ESL shall be perpetual. The ESL may be dissolved with the approval of two thirds vote of the membership.

#### **Article V: Division and Skill Groups**

1. Unlimited TD Division:
  - a) Expert
  - b) Sportsman
2. Hand Launch Division
  - a) Expert
  - b) Sportsman
3. Electric Sailplane Division
  - a) Expert
  - b) Sportsman

#### **Article VI: Awards and Performance tracking**

1. Scores are calculated to determine pilots' overall performance for the End of Season Championship.
2. To promote participation in the ESL will keep a current standing list on the ESL WEB allowing pilots to track their contest performance.
3. Immediately following the EOS contest recognition awards will be presented as follows:
  - a) For the Unlimited Soaring Expert class there will be a maximum of 10 Awards and a minimum of 20% of the total number of Expert pilots that have flown 2 contest days prior to the EOS contest.
  - b) For the Unlimited Soaring Sportsman class there will be a maximum of 10 Awards and a minimum of 30% of the total number of Sportsman pilots that have flown 2 contest days prior to the EOS contest.
4. The type and cost of all ESL awards will be determined by the Board of Directors.
5. The ESL will not supply awards for the Hand Launch and Electric Sailplane Divisions.
6. At the EOS presentation the Board of Directors may elect to present awards to individuals that have provided outstanding benefit to the ESL during the season.

#### **Article VII: ESL Scoring**

1. The scores for all ESL sanctioned contest days will be normalized and posted to the ESL Web shortly after the Score Keeper receives the data.
2. Scores will be tracked by division and skill group.

3. Points are not to be used for ESL ranking unless the pertinent contest has at least three rounds.
4. Advancement
  - a) Advancement points are given according to the overall finishing position in a contest. The first place winner will be awarded 10 advancement points, second place 9, and so on down to the 10th place, who will be awarded 1 point. For the purposes of advancement points, all contestants are ranked regardless of skill group .
  - b) The ESL scorekeeper will keep track of advancement points for all members. If a sportsman accumulates 24 or more lifetime advancement points, the sportsman will be advanced to expert class at the beginning of the following season.
  - c) Any sportsman may elect to advance to expert at the beginning of a contest season. He may register as an expert at his first contest of the season and at each subsequent contest.
  - d) Advancement points will be displayed on the ESL Web Site.
5. The season standings will be based on the each competitors top six (6) contest results. Ties to broken by the considering the next highest contest results, as necessary.
6. Demotion
  - a) Any Expert may request to be demoted, The application will be sent (Email is acceptable) to a BOD member stating the reason for the demotion. The full BOD will then decide to grant or reject the status change. The most common reasons are advanced age, physical handicaps or absent from the hobby for a long period.

#### **Article VIII: Contest Winches and Batteries and other ESL equipment**

1. ESL winches and batteries are available for use by any CD holding an ESL sanctioned contest. Arrangements should be made with the CD of the previous contest and/or the ESL Quartermaster for transportation of the winches and batteries. Winch line will be furnished by ESL and replaced as necessary.
2. Any equipment problems should be noted and electronically sent to the Quartermaster and Chief of Maintenance. Arrangements will be made to correct any problems before the next contest.
3. The ESL plane tracking equipment, line pole and any other misc. equipment shall also be the CD's responsibility for transportation.
4. While not required it is highly recommended that the host club provide a practice/pop-off winch and battery for the contest.

#### **Article IX: Contest Scheduling and Sanctions**

1. Club contests can be sanctioned by sending a request to the appropriate ESL Contest Coordinator.

2. Initial input for the ESL schedule for the upcoming contest season is acquired by the Contest Coordinators throughout the current season. A draft ESL preliminary schedule shall be available for open distribution and comments before the EOS meeting. Additions, deletions, and corrections may be requested electronically by contacting the ESL Contest Coordinator.
3. The sanction request should include:
  - a) Club name and location of the contest.
  - b) Requested dates and possible alternate dates.
  - c) CDs name or point of contact. It is recommended that the Contest Director (CD) has flown 3 ESL contest days in the previous year or has been a previous ESL contest CD.
  - d) A description of the tasks.
  - e) Description of unique field rules/restrictions such as no-fly zones and enforcement procedure.
  - f) Anything else which could significantly affect the competition.
4. ESL sanctioned competitions must have been listed 14 days prior to the scheduled contest date in the ESL Competition Calendar at [www.flyesl.org](http://www.flyesl.org). Having an AMA sanction is highly recommended but not required.
5. ESL sanctioned contests from the previous year will be given priority during the scheduling process and the ESL Contest Coordinators have authority to grant those sanctions.
6. The ESL is allowed to host contests.
7. If the proposed site and/or operational rules are not considered adequate, the ESL Contest Coordinator will send a written description of the contest to the ESL BOD documenting reasons for his findings. The ESL BOD shall discuss and vote on the proposed contest. If it is determined by the ESL BOD that the contest is considered adequate, a date will then be provided on the ESL calendar. Contests that are proposed to be added and/or potentially dropped from the ESL calendar should be discussed at the ESL Annual meeting.
8. The ESL draft schedule for the upcoming contest season is discussed at the annual ESL meeting.
9. No two ESL Unlimited Sailplane contests will be scheduled on consecutive weekends, unless approved by the BOD 14 days in advance. A contest that needs to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances can be scheduled as seen fit by the BOD.
10. The Board of Directors will be the final authority for sanctions and the Unlimited TD contest schedule; however input from the competitors will be a driving factor.
11. No more than two (2) scheduled one (1) day contests on consecutive days constitute ESL contests. IE If there are 3 consecutive contest days only 2 will count toward ESL standings.

## **Article X: Contest Conduct**

1. Under no circumstances will a host club assume that ESL will take care of setting up or running their sanctioned contest.
2. Clubs will post a contest announcement for sanctioned contests that should include:
  - a) Directions to the flying field.
  - b) Dates with Start and stop times, to include lunch break and provisions if any.
  - c) Any unique field rules/restrictions (such as no Fly Zones).
  - d) Flight Tasks
  - e) Landing option.
  - f) Scoring Method; Man-on-Man, by round scoring, Seeded Flight groups, etc.
3. In the absence of the ESL Safety Officer/Quartermaster and Chief of Maintenance the CD should review their task list and insure that ESL equipment is in contest condition.
4. Pilots Meeting: The CD shall conduct a pilots meeting and brief the competitors on the procedures for the day. At a minimum, this briefing should include:
  - a) Safety Issues
  - b) Finish time and breaks.
  - c) Deviations from the AMA competition code (e.g.: timers may provide the last 10 seconds of the countdown).
  - d) Any unique field rules/restrictions (such as no Fly Zones).
  - e) Landing and flight boundaries.
  - f) Flight Tasks
  - g) Landing option.
  - h) Scoring Method: Man-on-Man or by round scoring.
  - i) Times to be rounded to the nearest second (eg 9:49:49 becomes 9:49 and 9:49:50 becomes 9:50) or truncated (eg 9:49:99 becomes 9:49).
  - j) Seeded or random flight order.
5. The CD will forward complete contest results to the ESL Scorekeeper and the ESL Editor/Webmaster within two weeks.

## **Attachments:**

ESL owned equipment Inventory:

Quantity	Description
5	Matched Winches equipped with "Real Balls"
6	Turnarounds
4	Batteries

6	Winch pedals
1	Lineman's Pole.
1	Walston receiver used to find downed aircraft.
6	Battery chargers.
6	Spot landing tapes
1	Heavy duty Winch charger power cord.
3	Power extension cords.
1	Winch repair Field Kit