



State of Origin 2024

Event Information for Pilots

Objectives

1. To improve the cross-country flying skills of low airtime pilots.
2. To encourage experienced pilots to mentor newer pilots.
3. To battle it out with those folks across the border.
4. Above all, this competition is about fun, sportsmanship and the joy of flying.

Dates

Friday 29 March to Sunday 31 March 2024 inclusive.

Where

Mt. Borah is the competition site with 4 launches, North, South, East & West. Godfrey's Clubhouse at the farm is SoO Competition HQ.

Task Format

Pilots fly cross-country each day and upload their IGC file to Xcontest. Re-flies are allowed but it helps the Scorer if you only upload your longest flight of that day.

SAFA Sanction

This is a SAFA "C GRADE" Sanctioned event with up to 184 ladder points per day.

Volunteer Organisers

Peter Beamish	Competition Director	0416 031 793
Rob Couper	Registration	paraglidingstateoforigin@gmail.com
Rob Couper	Launch Director & Scorer	0404 008 518
James Thompson	Weather Guru	0418 686 199
Dan McKenna	Comms Facebook etc	0432 215 533
SoO 2024	Report back number	0488 744 497

Entry Requirements

The Competition is open to pilots who meet **ALL** the following criteria:

1. Current member of SAFA with the appropriate rating.
2. Current member of Manilla Sky Sailors for Easter 2024.
3. Fly an EN certified glider in the manufacturers stated weight range.
4. Minimum **10** hours “inland flying”. Coastal soaring doesn’t count.
5. Fly with a working UHF radio.
6. Have a reserve parachute mounted on their flying harness.
7. Have completed the “Online Registration” form.
8. In a 5-Pilot Crew, i.e. a Crew Chief and 4 pilots.
9. Fly a glider that meets Manilla Sky Sailors requirements for pilot hours

[Manilla Sky Sailors Pilot/Gilder requirements](#)

Registration

Online Registration opens 9am AEDT Tuesday 13th of February 2024. When the competition is full, newly registered pilots will be added to a wait list.

[State of Origin 2024 Registration – Newcastle Paragliding club](#)

Entry Fee

The Competition Fee is \$45. Pilots who pay before 16/3/2024 pay \$35.

The competition fee **DOES NOT** cover MSS membership, basher rides, retrieves, meals or camping fees. Sorry no refunds for cancellations after Sunday 17 March 2024.

The Manilla Sky Sailors club requires all SoO2024 pilots to be MSS members before 6pm Tuesday 26th March 2024. Not a member = zero score.

[Manilla Sky Sailors membership page](#)

The Competition Director reserves the right to decline any registration.

Communication – Telegram App

Our Telegram Broadcast group is called “SoO 2024” posting essential information about the event. Please scan the “**SoO 2024**” QR code at HQ to add yourself to this group.

This is a “**Broadcast**” group from the organisers to all Pilots. It does not allow messages between pilots.

Fly Manilla administer two “Whatsapp Chat” groups. Scan their QR codes at HQ for the “**Manilla XC Retrieve**” and “**Borah Basher**” Chat groups.

5 Pilot Crews

The Crew is created by a Crew Chief, who is an experienced inland pilot. They will mentor 4 other pilots, 2 of them could be in FUN class. If you have a question, ask your Crew chief. They are your primary source of advice.

After a crew has been confirmed the Crew Chief may substitute any of their crew with another registered pilot. The State Captains can assist the Crew Chiefs in creating and modifying the crews from their State.

State of Origin Teams

The SoO is a friendly Team based competition between the “**NSW Cockroaches**”, “**QLD Cane Toads**” and the “**World Barbarians Bugs**”.

Your ‘**State of Origin**’ is your residential address at the time you gained your PG2 rating, either NSW or QLD. – **Not** where you live now. If you were a resident of another state or country when you gained PG2 then you are automatically in the “**World Barbarians**” team.

Handicap System

The handicap system is designed to encourage low air time pilots to fly with and learn from experienced pilots. Your handicap is determined by your PG rating, your glider’s EN class and your “inland flying hours”.

FUN Class: PG2 or PG3 Pilot **AND** flying EN A or “low B” gliders **AND** have less than 75 inland hours **AND** registered to a 5-pilot crew get **3** times their distance. *See appendix 2 for a list of “low B” gliders.*

SPORTS Class: Pilots flying EN A or B gliders **AND** have between 75 and 150 inland hours **AND** registered to a 5-pilot crew get **2** times their distance.

ACE Class: Pilots flying EN-C, D or CCC gliders **OR** pilots with more than 150 inland hours **AND** registered to a 5-pilot crew gets their distance only.

Tandem Class: Pilot in Command gets 2 times their distance providing they are in a crew with 4 other Pilots, tandem or solo. Only PIC needs to be registered in SoO 2024.

Crew Chief: An Ace pilot mentoring a crew of 4 other pilots. The Crew Chief gets 1.25 times their distance providing all their team scores. They also get 1 free beer at the Prize Giving.

Your handicap is at the discretion of the Competition Director.

XC Distance

To register a distance in SoO 2024 you submit a valid IGC file to the XContest website. It calculates your longest distance in Kms over 3 points.

GPS enabled flying instruments and mobile phones with a dedicated 'App' can record your flight in IGC format.

Scoring as a 5 Pilot Crew

If all pilots in your Crew submit a valid IGC file or declare DNF then the Scorer will apply your Handicap Uplift and calculate your day score.

If you landed anywhere within a 4km radius of take-off and upload your IGC file. The Scorer will award you 4km distance then uplift by your handicap. The farm is about 3km from launch.

If you Did Not Fly (**DNF**) for "safety reasons" please text the Scorer before 7pm each day. The Scorer will award you 4kms distance plus your handicap.

It's the pilot responsibility to upload their IGC file before Scoring closes at 8.00PM. Day Scores are published on the SoO Broadcast Group about 9pm. Pilots can query any score up until 8am the next day by texting the Scorer.

Scoring a State Team

Each pilots' day score (kms x handicap) is also assigned to their State of Origin. A State Team needs a minimum of 15 scoring pilots each day. If there are 30 or less scoring pilots on a day the state score is the average of all scoring pilots. If there are more than 30 scoring pilots the State score is calculated by the average of the top 50% of scoring pilots that day.

Prizes

- **5-Pilot Crews** first, second & third
- **Overall winner** on handicap
- **First Woman** on handicap
- **First Fun Class**
- **First Sports Class**
- **First Ace Class**
- **First State Team**
- James Thompson Malayan Award – Best up and coming pilot
- 1 free beer to all Crew Chiefs at Sunday night Prize Giving

Task, Safety and Protest Committees

This is an open distance competition so there is no task committee. Crew Chiefs will act as the “Safety Committee” for their Crew.

Pilot Safety

The 5-Pilot Crew is the primary safety device and so all pilots must be part of a crew. The Crew Chief is there to advise you but they are not your Instructor. They can suggest you do not launch or land as soon as possible. You are the pilot in command, so you decide if you can fly safely taking into account your skill, currency, glider, other air traffic and the weather. **FUN CLASS pilots must discuss their flight plan with their Crew Chief or other senior pilot within 15 minutes of launching.**

Pilot Tracking for Safety

GPS satellite tracking is mandatory in most competitions with Spot and Garmin InReach the default devices. SoO organisers strongly encourage all pilots to use these devices and share their track with the “High Cloud” web page. Talk to your Crew Chief about this.

A low-cost option is to use a dedicated flying app on your phone to transmit your GPS location. Skylines.Aero is recommended as it will share with HighCloud. However, your phone needs signal to send your location and may run out of battery before you land.

A third option is to use the **Whatsapp Chat** app and join **Manilla XC Retrieve** group. Sharing your “live location” will assist others in retrieving you or finding you if you are injured. Phone signal and battery life are again the major limitations.

Pilot Report Back – 7pm Critical Safety Check

ALL pilots must confirm before 7pm they have landed safely by texting their name & SAFA number to the Report Back Number 0488 744 497. If a pilot does not report back by 7pm they will lose 50% of their day score.

The Crew Chief is responsible for their crew and should check they have all reported back. If a Crew Chief has not accounted for all their pilots by 7pm they should assume that their pilot is injured and immediately call **000** to start Emergency Procedures. Then call the SoO Number 0488 744 497.

Airspace Restrictions

There are airspace restrictions around Mt Borah and it is the pilots' responsibility to be familiar with all of them. Airspace maps will be posted at HQ. Another source is <http://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php> If in doubt, talk with your Crew Chief. Any Airspace infringement will be dealt with in accordance with SAFA competitions manual.

VHF Exemption

Each year SoO applies to CASA for a temporary exemption to the VHF carriage and use requirement. In return CASA excludes all our competition pilots from entering any Compulsory VHF CTAFs. Tamworth, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Narrabri and Armidale the ones closest to Mt Borah. Therefore, any pilot submitting an IGC file with one or more track points inside a CTAF will only be scored to the outer edge of the CTAF.

UHF Radios Comms

The competition organisers will use UHF channel 26 Open to make safety and other announcements to pilots.

Crew Chiefs should select another UHF channel for their communication. Please email paraglidingstateoforigin@gmail.com to reserve your chosen Frequency and Tone Squelch before 26 March. One of your crew must monitor Ch26 Open in case there is a "Stopped Task" or another incident.

Ian Ladyman of NPC has created 2 helpful videos on setting up Icom radios.

[Icom 41PRO Setting tone squelch & scan 2 channels](#)

[Icom 41S Setting tone squelch](#)

Emergency Procedures on the Hill

Launch may be closed if a helicopter is flying in to evacuate an injured pilot. This will be broadcast on Ch26 open and pilots flying within a 4Km radius of launch must land immediately. If you are more than 4Km from launch please fly further away or land.

If a task is cancelled it will be broadcast on Ch26 Open. Pulling 'big-ears' is the way to alert others that the task is cancelled.

Hill etiquette

There is no “ordered launch” at State of Origin but you should call “**Launching**” just before you pull your wing up. Nearby pilots will then give you the courtesy to launch unhindered.

To avoid UV damage to your glider and launching errors by other pilots please keep your glider bunched up and clear of launch until you are ready to fly.

As in other competitions, pilots must wear a helmet and be securely connected to their harness before kiting or ground handling on launch. Non-compliance requires a \$20 donation to the SES.

Thermaling etiquette

Within 4km of Mt Borah all pilots must thermal in the same direction. On even numbered **dates** all pilots must turn right. On odd **dates** all pilots must turn left.

The **FIRST** and **ONLY** rule of thermaling is “never, ever, ever, ever” crash into another pilot even when they are in the wrong”

Thermal etiquette recommends giving way to those below. If in doubt see rule one. Thermal etiquette also suggests the first pilot in the thermal (outside 4km radius) establishes the turn direction. If in doubt see rule one.

Thermal etiquette recommends that you fly a J Curve as you approach another pilot circling in a thermal then drop behind them as you enter a thermal. – ask your crew chief.

Aggressive or Dangerous Flying

A pilot observed flying aggressively or dangerously will lose their day score. Testimony from 2 or more pilots will be considered by the competition director. If you witness an incident, please report it to a Competition Official ASAP by calling 0488 744 497.

Cloud Flying

Cloud flying is illegal under VFR/VMC Civil Aviation Regulations. If there are wisps of cloud below you, it’s considered cloud flying and you will lose your day score. Testimony from 2 or more pilots will be considered by the competition director. If you witness an incident, please report it to a Competition Official ASAP by calling 0488 744 497

Always follow the “**45° rule**” when coming up under a cloud, – ask your crew chief.

If you are accidentally drawn into cloud then maintain your original heading with 'big-ears' until you exit the cloud. After exiting the cloud, turn 90° from your original course line and lose height until well below cloud-base. You need to prove you have not gained a height or distance advantage. Spiral dives or B line stalls in the cloud are strongly discouraged due to the potential danger to pilots below.

Emergencies on Course

When you land out, bunch your glider and walk a small distance to pack up. Pilots overhead will then see that you are OK.

If you think a pilot below is injured, make a radio call giving location and relevant information. Decide if it's safe for you to land and assist. You may lose radio and mobile signal on the ground so it's essential to get a message out before you land.

A pilot who lands to assist will be given the days' average distance or personal average, whichever is the greater.

Landing Paddock Etiquette

Our sport relies on the goodwill of property owners. If you see the farmer introduce yourself, explain why you are there and thank them.

Do not land in crops and avoid landing near or flying low over livestock. If you do land near animals and they are agitated, STOP and wait until they are calm, then walk away from them. If they become agitated again, STOP and wait. The size or noise of your glider is scaring them, so be patient.

There is a high fire risk so don't take vehicles into paddocks, walk to the road. If you are seen smoking on a farmers' property you will be disqualified from SoO 2024.

Gates control livestock so leave gates as you find them. If you open a gate, it's your responsibility to close it. Don't ask someone else to close it later. Do not climb over wire fences, use the gate. If the gate is locked, climb over at the hinges so you don't damage the gate or stretch the wires.

If you cause any damage or upset animals notify the landowner and apologise then also advise the Competition Director.

Accommodation Options

Godfrey's:

Camp at the farm: coffee, food, beer. Cabins too. (02) 6785 6545

River Gums Caravan Park Manilla:

Nice shady trees and great facilities. (02) 6785 1166

Royal Hotel Manilla:

Rooms, breakfast and wonderful hosts. (02) 6785 1017

Ambleside B & B:

A bit more luxury and run by a top sailplane pilot. 0455 268 802

From your Competition Team:

Peter, Rob, James, and Dan

Have an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Daily Schedule – Appendix 1

THURSDAY

Go online to watch James Thompson, legendary competition pilot on the “**The Tao of the SoO**”. A must hear talk for all Pilots new to Manilla or competition flying.

[James Thompson. "Tao of the State of Origin"](#)

FRIDAY

- 08:30 Pilot Briefing at SoO HQ, Godfrey’s Clubhouse, at the farm.
- 09:30 State Captains brief their State Teams members.
- 09:50 Crew Chiefs brief the 4 other pilots in their crew.

- 10.30 approx. Meet on the hill for second Pilot Briefing including safety announcements, latest weather info, suggested flight routes and other helpful tips. Get high, fly far

- 19.00 All pilots must report in by text before 19.00.
19.05 Search & Rescue will be notified of missing pilots.

- 20.00 Scoring upload closed and results published.

SATURDAY

- 09.00 Pilot Briefing at SoO HQ, Godfrey’s Clubhouse, at the farm.
- 09:30 State Captains brief their State Teams members.
- 09:50 Crew Chiefs brief the 4 other pilots in their crew.

- 10.30 approx. Meet on the hill for second Pilot Briefing including safety announcements, latest weather info, suggested flight routes, and other helpful tips. Get high, fly far

- 19.00 All pilots must report in by text before 19.00.
19.05 Search & Rescue will be notified of missing pilots.

- 20.00 Scoring upload closed and results published.

SUNDAY

- 09.00 Pilot Briefing at SoO HQ, Godfrey's Clubhouse, at the farm.
09:30 State Captains brief their State Teams members.
09:50 Crew Chiefs brief the 4 other pilots in their crew.
- 10.30 approx. Meet on the hill for second Pilot Briefing including safety announcements, latest weather info, suggested flight routes, and other helpful tips. Get high, fly far
- 18.00 All pilots must report in by text before 18.00.
18.05 Search & Rescue will be notified of missing pilots.
- 19.00 Scoring upload closed and results published.
- 20.30 Results announced and prizes at SoO HQ.

MONDAY

- 09.00 It's all over so have a coffee and chill out.
- 10.00 Go fly or go home

”Low B” Gliders – Appendix 2

As determined by Manilla Sky Sailors Club

Glider	Flat_Aspect_Ratio
Advance Epsilon	5.14
Air Design Vivo	5.38
BGD Epic	5.20
Flow Cosmos	5.17
Gin Atlas	5.21
Gin Calypso	5.05
Gin Yeti	4.55
Niviuk Hook	5.30
Nova Ion	5.19
Nova Phantom	5.19
Ozone Buzz	5.16
Phi Tenor	5.14
Sky Kudos	5.05
Skywalk Arriba	5.29
Skywalk Tequila	5.29
Supair Leaf	5.30
Swing Miura	5.15
UP Makalu	5.30

Emergency Contact Numbers – Appendix 3

Ambulance	000	Request Ambulance, give location, type of accident, generic injury type, numbers injured, your name & contact number
Manilla VRA	1300 872 777 02 6785 1100	Give location, type of incident, numbers involved, your name & contact number
SES Rescue	02 6785 1322 132 500	Give location, type of incident, numbers involved, your name & contact number
Manilla Police	02 6785 1039	For non-urgent matters
Essential Energy	132 080	Power line accidents. If earth fault detected circuits will restart 3 times each for 2 second then line may shut down
Godfrey Wenness	02 6785 6545	Keep him informed of any incident. He may alert Westpac Rescue Helicopter to be on standby
Manilla Hospital	02 6785 4000	To check on patient location / condition
Tamworth Hospital	02 6767 7700	To check on patient location / condition