

From: Scarlett Saunders
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 2:45 PM
To: drgaz@yahoo.com
Cc: Northam BallooningEvents
Subject: Competitor #5 - complaint task 8

Dear Event Director,

Complaint from competitor #5, Scarlett Saunders

I wish for my result for task 8 HWZ, to be reconsidered. A technical fault occurred in the logger iPad, in which water had fallen on the screen and a phantom touch registered, dropping the first mark which was armed on the screen from passing several goals approximately 10 minutes before. As soon as I realised that the mark had registered, a call was made to the director informing him of the situation and that the initial mark drop was a genuine error. I then continued to fly towards the intended goal and dropped mark 2 where I originally intended.

Some points to aid your reconsideration:

- The initial marker drop was a genuine error, caused by a technical fault outside of my control,
- The director was informed immediately after I noticed that mark 1 had been dropped in error,
- The altitude of the mark 1 drop was 3847ft, far above the separation altitude,
- The drop occurred while flying away from the closest goals, with the next nearest goal 5km in front,
- A second marker was dropped next to the intended goal (114) below the separation altitude.

The competition operations handbook (rule 6.9) states "If it can be seen to be an obvious mistake (e.g. in logger mark 2 when close to logger goal 1 and then a second mark is made in logger mark 2 when near logger goal 2) then the pilot should be given the benefit of doubt and a warning in first instance, then 100CP."

I believe that the mistake from a fault causing the dropping of mark 1 can logically be seen as an 'obvious mistake', and as such my score for task 8 should be score to my second mark drop from that flight.

I look forward to your response,

Scarlett Saunders, Pilot #5