

Thermal Soaring Protocol

A pilot who complies with the procedures in this Protocol will be predictable and enhance safety for himself and the pilots around him. Divergence from the procedures in this Protocol will increase the risk of collision and make the pilot responsible for the consequences.

Joining the Thermal

- Gliders established in the thermal have right of way.**
- Do not pull up into a thermal unless absolutely sure that there is no other glider above or in front which could possibly be a collision risk.**
- All pilots must circle in the same direction as any glider already established in the lift.**
- If there are gliders already thermalling in opposite directions, the joining glider must turn in the same direction as the one nearest/with least vertical separation.**
- The entry to the turn should be planned to enable visual contact to be maintained with all gliders at or near the pilot's entry level.**
- The entry should be flown at a tangent to the circle so that no glider already turning will be required to take avoiding action.**
- When a contest is in progress all gliders (including non-contestants) within a 6 mile radius of the field or within a 1 mile radius of a contest turn-point must thermal to the left.**

Sharing the Thermal

- Pilots should adhere to the principle of '*see, be seen and avoid*'.**
- When at a similar level, never turn inside, point at, or ahead of another glider unless able to overtake with certain safe separation.**
- Leave the thermal if uncertain of maintaining safe separation.**
- Maintain lookout for other gliders joining the thermal, or converging in height.**

Leaving a Thermal

- Look outside the turn before straightening out.**
- Do not maneuver abruptly unless clear of all other gliders.**