Bid for the organisation of the

14th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships

Club, Standard Class

Benalla, Australia

December 2026

GLIDING AUSTRALIA

BENALLA GLIDING CLUB OF VICTORIA Est. 1929

Version 1.2

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World and Continental Gliding Championships

Initial Bid Form

Applicant:

Name: *Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA)*

Date of Application: *29 Dec, 2022*

Organising Gliding Club or other organisation: *Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla*

Name and address of National Aero Club:
Air Sport Australia Confederation
PO Box 3044
Batehaven, NSW
2536
Australia

Proposed Competition Director:
James Nugent
2x JWGC
Competition pilot, Instructor, Coach
Organiser 5x Australian Junior Nationals
Assistant at WGC 2017 Benalla
Former Board Member – Gliding Federation of Australia

Proposed Organisation of the event:

- *Organising Committee established by the GFA.*
- *Financial sponsorship will be sought through various state and federal government agencies/institutes.*
- *The host club has a positive relationship with the local community. The event has the support of the Benalla City Council.*
- *The organisation will commence immediately after awarding of the event.*

Airfield:
Benalla Aerodrome
363315S, 1460033E

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Contact person (for the applicant):

Name: *Matthew Woodhouse*
Email address: *matthew.woodhouse@gmail.com*
Phone: +61 466 415 689

1. Event and Year

1.1 Name of Competition

*14th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships, Club, Standard**

** Classing: The organisers would also be prepared to discuss a world championship with classing of (i) Club & 15m OR (ii) Club & 18m.*

1.2 Year of event

2026 (2027 alternate dates)

2. Site

2.1 Name of the airfield ***Benalla Aerodrome***

2.1.1 Co-ordinates
363315S, 1460033E, ELEV 569

2.1.2 Direction and distance to nearest town, population of this town
270°, 1.2NM to Benalla. Population 15,000.

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2.1.3 Experience of airfield staff in organising championships
The event management group is very experienced in organising numerous State & National & World Gliding events including the JWGC 2015, WGC 2017 and numerous Australian National championships.

2.2 Proposed period for the event

2.2.1 Training Dates *December 1 – 3, 2026*

2.2.2 Competition Dates *December 5 – 19, 2026*

2.2.3 Alternate dates for training *January 6 – 8, 2027*

2.2.4 Alternate dates for competition *January 10 – 24, 2027*

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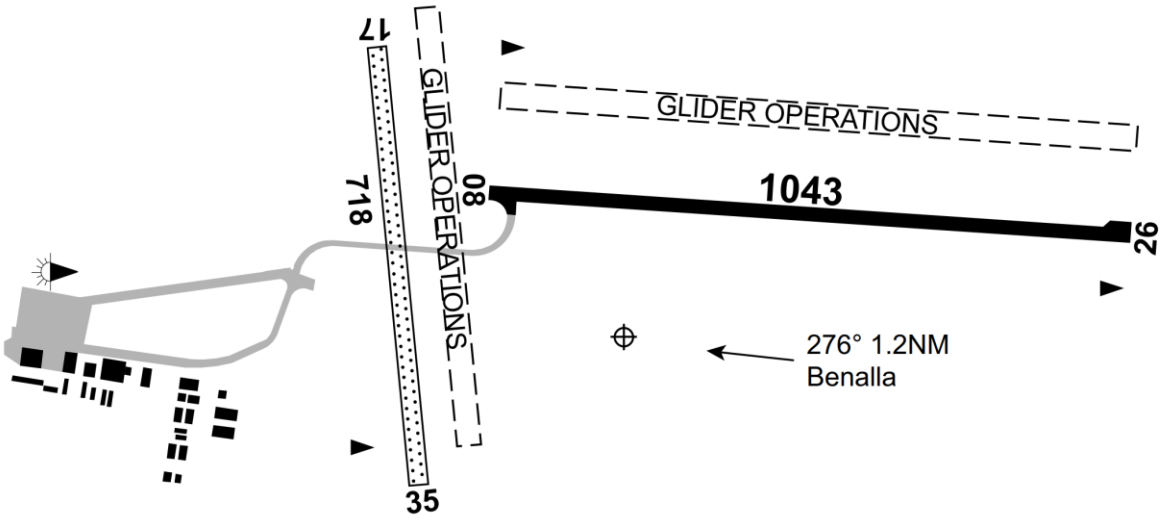
2.3. Airfield operating data

2.3.1 Surface of airfield, number and directions of runways (provide diagram and photograph)
08/26 Sealed
08/26 Grass
17/35 Grass (Power)
17/35 Grass (Glider)



2.3.2 Number of towplanes that will be employed
1 towplane per 8 competitors plus standby
All towplanes adequately powered (>200hp).

2.3.3 Meteorological facilities that will be provided
Online meteorological information.

2.3.4 Parking facilities for gliders
Tie-down facilities for in excess of 100 gliders and trailers.
Ample watering points available (>10).

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2.3.5 Repair facilities for gliders
On-site maintenance organisation.
Multiple 'mobile' maintenance organisations available.

2.3.6 Repair facilities for radios and instruments
As above.

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2.3.7 Oxygen requirements and supply facilities, if required
Oxygen refilling will be provided at a nominal cost.

2.3.8 What plans do you have to implement the FAI Environmental Code of Conduct during your event?
The Gliding Club of Victoria has a positive relationship with the local community and the local Benalla City Council and is committed to maintaining this relationship. The local council will be included on organisational decisions and planning. This is in accordance with the FAI Environmental Commission. Opportunities to maximise sustainability will be actively explored.

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2.4 Airfield Infrastructure

2.4.1 Briefing Room
Existing air-conditioned theatre, per WGC 2017.

2.4.2 Common Room(s) for the competitors
Existing on-site State Gliding Centre, consisting of bar, indoor and outdoor dining, small lounge.

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2.4.3 Meeting Room for the International Jury
Existing upstairs, separate meeting room available.

2.4.4 Press Centre
Existing rooms within the State Gliding Centre will be made available.

2.4.5 Communication and internet equipment
Extensive wireless internet will be provided.

2.4.6 Post and Banking
Available in Benalla township.

2.4.7 Insurance availability
Access to appropriate insurance policies will be explored through the GFA Insurance Broker, and other providers.

2.4.8 Toilets, washrooms and shower rooms
Existing toilets available in the State Gliding Centre.
Existing amenities available in the Aeropark Caravan Park (onsite)

2.4.9 Car parking
Existing (extensive) parking available on sealed surfaces, capable of accommodating well in excess of 100 vehicles.

2.4.10 Emergency (including fire)
Benalla emergency services available within several kilometres of the contest site.
The Gliding Club of Victoria possesses a thorough Emergency Response Plan which will be reviewed and adapted for the purposes of the contest.

2.4.11 Medical and First Aid
There will be basic medical facilities provided on site. The assistance of local volunteer emergency aid groups will be sought.
Benalla medical services available within several kilometres of the contest site.

2.4.12 Conference and office rooms for the OSTIV Congress, if required
N/A. Air-conditioned theatre, per WGC 2017, available for further activities.

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3. Accommodation and food for competitors

3.1 Accommodation facilities available in the local area

On the airfield:
Existing caravan park
Existing bunkhouse with amenities
Existing camping facilities and amenities

In Benalla:
Glider City Motel
Comfort Inn
Executive Hideaway Motel & Apartments
Rose City Motor Inn
Avondel Motor Inn
Top of the Town Motor Inn
Benalla Tourist Park and Motel
Northern Hotel
Benson House & Benson Lodge
Benalla Apartments
Little Farm of Calm
The Royal Hotel
+ numerous AirBnB options
+ numerous private homes.

In the broader area:
Wangaratta township, 25 minutes away, population 30,000

3.2 Camping facilities at the airfield
Existing camping facilities are on-site.

3.3 Catering for competitors at the airfield
Basic catering will be provided in the State Gliding Centre, which is on-site, and will be using existing facilities (the State Gliding Centre is equipped with a commercial kitchen).
There are numerous dining options available in Benalla; including restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels and takeaway, all within walking distance of the airfield.

4. Competition area

4.1 Topography in the contest area
The topography of the contest area is fantastically varied.
Situated in north-eastern Victoria, the contest area encompasses:
- *Widespread cropping farmland (majority of the task area);*
- *Open plains and riverlands;*
- *Small areas of ridges, outcrops and plateaus;*
- *Semi-mountainous and mountainous areas.*

The majority of tasking will be completed over cropping farmland, ensuring maximum competitor safety.
Tasks in to semi-mountainous areas will only be set if the meteorological conditions allow the pilots to manage their flights safely.

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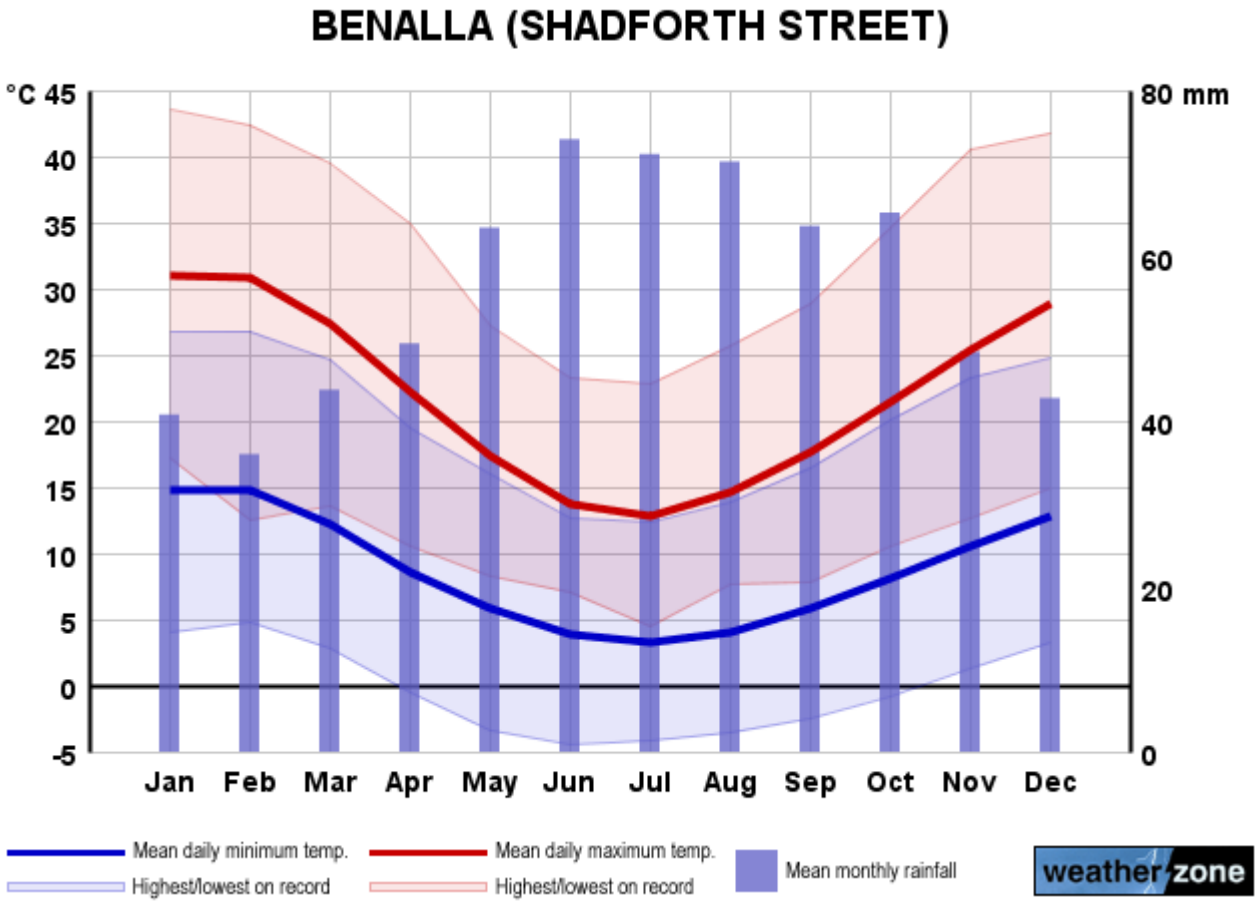
4.2 A comprehensive survey of meteorological conditions

Benalla typically sees strong thermal soaring conditions in December and January, with thermals often reaching in excess of FL100.
For this reason, Benalla has been a full-time soaring centre for several decades, with more than 150 members/international visitors annually.
The mean maximum temperature for December in Benalla is 28.3 degrees C. Given that the proposed dates are in the middle of the Australian summer, temperatures around 40 degrees C are not uncommon.



4.3 Airspace restrictions in the contest area

Albury Class C airspace exists to the north-east of Benalla, with lower levels of 8500' and 5500'. Albury class C has a minor impact on tasking.
Melbourne CTA class C airspace exists overhead Benalla at FL125 and has a negligible impact on tasking.

4.4 Typical tasks to be expected

300-600km, up to 1000km possible.
1000km has been achieved in standard class gliders in the task area in December/January.

4.5 Road and traffic conditions

Benalla is located on a major interstate freeway, making travel to and from Benalla straightforward.
Road traffic is otherwise minimal, and the majority of roads are sealed.

5. Rules

5.1 Indicate the options intended to be used from Annex A for:

5.1.1 Starting procedures
Start line

5.1.2 Tasks
Assigned Area and Fixed Racing

5.1.3 Finish procedures
Finish circle with minimum finish height prescribed.

5.1.4 Scoring
1000-point scoring system with scoring via SoaringSpot.

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5.2 Indicate any particular conditions or possible restrictions that may be applied:

5.2.1 For pilots and crews

- *All pilots must be a member of the Gliding Federation of Australia (one month provided free of charge by GFA);*
- *All pilots must be a member of an Australian Gliding Club (affordable options are available);*
- *All ICAO licenses will be recognised and an Australian license/certificate can be readily provided for pilots flying Australian registered gliders at no additional cost.*

5.2.2 For sailplane and equipment
Gliders operating on an Experimental Certificate of Airworthiness will need to be approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority at a cost of approximately 100 euro.
Gliders operating on a standard Certificate of Airworthiness will be approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority at nil cost.

5.3 Number of competitors:

5.3.1 State the maximum number of competitors that may be entered the competition
90 competitors maximum.

5.3.1.1 Provide explanation for this number
Agreed maximum number of entries specified by the Gliding Club of Victoria. Airfield can readily accommodate more.

5.3.2 Indicate how the classes will be separated for:
5.3.2.1 Starts
Separate start lines will be used for each class.
5.3.2.2 On task
Classes will be tasked to different areas, with Assigned Area Tasking also used.
5.3.2.3 Finishing and landing
Benalla is a large airfield with multiple options available to pilots to maximise separation.

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6. Costs

6.1 Entry fee
850 – 1050 euro

6.1.1 Services included in the entry fee

- *One month GFA and club membership;*
- *Pilot and crew ID tags;*
- *Briefing sheets and information packages;*
- *Contest area maps, turnpoints, airspace;*
- *Assorted welcome gifts and memorabilia;*
- *Wi-Fi access;*
- *Field preparation;*
- *Amenities preparation;*
- *Prizegiving;*
- *Access to facilities (briefing room);*
- *Semi-professional media coverage;*
- *Opening and closing ceremonies.*

6.1.2 Cost of aero tows
*60 euro, subject to an AVGAS price of AUD $2.50-$2.90 per litre**
65 euro, subject to an AVGAS price of AUD $2.90-$3.30 per litre
70 euro, subject to an AVGAS price of AUD $3.30-$3.60 per litre
Fuel prices outside this range will require further analysis/review.

**Reflects the current price at the time of bidding.*

6.2 Price of car fuel per litre/gallon
1.3-1.7 euro per litre

6.3 Rental cars
The majority of teams are expected to travel via Melbourne which is a major capital city with extensive rental car options.
Private car hire may also be available through the Gliding Club of Victoria.

6.4 Accommodation

6.4.1 Hotels
From 60 euro/night

6.4.2 Apartments
From 50 euro/night

6.4.3 Bed and Breakfast
From 40 euro/night

6.4.4 Camping
From 15 euro/person/night

6.5 Catering

6.5.1 Hotels
12-20 euro for a typical meal

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6.5.2 Restaurants
15-23 euro for a typical meal

6.5.3 Airfield
5-10 euro for a light meal

6.6 Provide an indicative example for the expected total costs during the contest period for a pilot with 2 crew members

Table 1: *Estimated costs for one pilot plus* ***two*** *crew members*

Item	***Description***	***Cost***
Entry fee		*950 euro*
Aero tows	*12 contest days*	*720 euro*
Car hire[1]	*1 car for duration*	*600 euro*
Lodging	*Camping, 15 nights*	*675 euro*
Food[2]	*30 euro / person / day (15)*	*1350 euro*
	Total	***4295 euro (approx.)***

[1] Private car hire assumed.
[2] Combination of eating out and self-catering assumed.

7. Glider Hiring

7.1 The availability of local gliders for hire
The availability of club, 15m and 18m gliders for hire is good/excellent.
The availability of standard class gliders for hire is fair.

7.2 The costs of hire
By arrangement. Typical hire rates:
Club class: 450-700 euro per week
Standard class: 600-750 euro per week

7.3 Any restrictions on hire
An Australian glider pilot's certificate, adequate for flying an Australian registered glider in Australia, can be provided.
Most owners will require an insurance deposit which will be refunded when the glider is returned to the owner undamaged. This deposit may be held with the GFA.

8. Glider Import

8.1 Ports or cities of entry
Melbourne – 200km away
Sydney – 650km away

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8.2 Customs requirements
Imported gliders will need to meet all applicable customs regulations for importation into Australia.

8.3 Customs brokers
To be engaged after the awarding of the event.

8.4 Estimated costs and fees, including cost of transport of containers
Will need to be evaluated by each team. There are resources available to assist, as used by many teams for JWGC 2015 and WGC 2017.

9. Training

9.1 Provide details of any proposed training opportunities for teams and individuals prior to the Championships.
The airfield will be open for training prior to the event. Pilots will be able to compete in the "Victorian State Championships" during the month leading up to the event.
Benalla has a semi-commercial operation that will provide launches and general assistance to visitors during the year prior to the event.
A training event will be held in conjunction with the Australian Junior Nationals (JoeyGlide) in the year prior to the event.

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Revision History

Version	Description	Approved
1.2	Initial issue	Committee