

BGA ACCIDENT/INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION SCHEME: SUMMARY

22-1-19

Introduction

Every accident and incident is classified by the *apparent immediate cause* (collision, winch launch, undershoot, field landing, incomplete rigging, hand on wrong lever, etc). There are 17 such categories, most of them with sub-categories, as listed in the following tables.

The scheme was designed to place an accident in *one* of the 17 categories. In the few cases where this was not achieved there are decision rules for classifying the accident. For example a spin during a winch launch is placed in the winch category not the *stall/spin* category, but is retrievable as a spin by searching for winch with spin.

Category definitions

<i>Category</i>	<i>Criteria for inclusion in category</i>
Collision	Hitting any object in the air except high ground.
Field landing	All except those which mention 'stall' or 'spin'.
Incomplete winch launch	All accidents during a winch launch or immediately after an incomplete winch launch, unless there was a prior cause (eg mis-rigging)
Technical	All technical failures. Something broke in the air or did not work as intended and it would be unreasonable to expect the (potential) failure to be detected during a daily inspection
Stall/spin	All accidents where 'stall' or 'spin' is mentioned except those associated with incomplete winch launches and those where the spin resulted from structural failure, mis-rigging, medical, or another prior cause.
Undershoot/overshoot	All such accidents on the home airfield except those associated with incomplete winch launches.
Landing	All such accidents on the home airfield except those associated with incomplete winch launches or where 'stall' or 'spin' was mentioned.
Hit hill	All
In motor gliders/tugs	All such accidents that do not fit under any other heading.
Aerotow	All except those in which 'stall' or 'spin' was mentioned.
Misuse of controls	All in which the pilot mistakenly used one control to achieve the effect of another. The most common mistake is to use the undercarriage lever as the airbrake.
Wheel up landing	All except those in which the undercarriage lever was being used as the airbrake
Glider integrity	All cases of mis-rigging, other shortcomings in preparing the glider for flight (eg airbrakes unlocked), and canopies opening in flight.
Airfield	All from encountering potholes, hidden obstructions, etc.
Medical	All resulting from pilot incapacitation
Other	Accidents whose report says 'no cause', and other unexplained or unusual accidents.
Ground	All accidents and incidents where there was no intention of flight (e.g damage to a glider being towed by a car, and gliders damaged by wind).

Sub-categories

<i>main category</i>	<i>sub-category</i>
collision	g-glider
	g-tug
	g-tug rope
	g-tmg
	g-light a/c
	g-other
	other
field landing	surface
	undershoot
	overshoot
	groundloop
	inadvertent
	heavy
	crop
	hit cable
	collision
	other
incomplete with launch	wing drop
	ground
	rotation
	power loss <100ft
	power loss >100ft spin
	power loss >100ft circuit
	hit cable
	caught cable
	other
technical	internal structure
	external structure
	controls
	tug metal fatigue
	tug maintenance
	other
stall/spin	approach
	final turn
	circuit
	mountain flying
	other
under/overshoot	undershoot
	overshoot
landing	heavy
	bounced
	groundloop
	collision
	obstruction

	prop strike
	other
hit hill	all
motor glider/tug*	engine
	no fuel
	rope encounter
	prop strike
	cable encounter
	take-off
	other
aerotow	wing drop
	upset
	PIO
	tug engine
	prop strike
	no fuel
	take-off performance
	take-off control
	rope disconnect
	other
misuse of controls	for airbrake
	other
wheel up landing	forgot
	other
glider integrity	rigging
	canopy
	airbrakes open
	other
airfield	all
medical	all
other flying accidents	falling cable
	dive into the ground
	structure overload
	near miss
	suicide
	other
ground	towed glider
	taxi collision
	taxi prop strike
	wind
	winch cable
	ground handling
	rig/derig
	damaged by vehicle
	road traffic accident
	animals
	fall
	fire

	canopy damage
	hail
	prop wash
	other

*Only used for instances which do not fit into the other 16 categories