Proposal to change the Loss of Height rule for speed records – Part 1

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Background

1. As well as simplifying the Sporting Code, the committee has a mandate to rationalize it in light of current technology and practise ("why do we still have this rule?").

2. The current Code invalidates a speed record flight having a LOSS OF HEIGHT (LoH) in excess of 1000m, while a distance record allows the claimed distance to be adjusted. The history of this disparity in the rules is not clear. However, given the availability of today's GPS flight data, there is no reason why this difference should continue.

3. This proposal removes *invalidation* from the possible outcomes of a speed record attempt, and provides for an adjustment to the claimed speed for any excess LoH.

Proposal

For speed tasks, a number of seconds equal to (excess Loss of Height divided by 2.5) shall be added to the time on course for the calculation of the claimed speed.

Discussion

For distance flights, excess LoH is "penalized" by reducing the credited distance. For speed flights, excess LoH would now be "penalized" in terms of speed, a penalty which is implemented by adjusting the elapsed time. The proposed adjustment to the time on course is intended to approximate the time (2.5 m/sec) it would take to climb the excess LoH. (This adjustment value is arguably more accurate than the 100 multiplier factor currently used in distance records.)

Note:
This is *Part 1* of a two-part proposal, and it stands on its own. *Part 2* is an extension of *Part 1*, which redefines "excess".