Flying rules

Free airspace

- Head-on course: Both aircraft alter course to the right.
- Converging course: The aircraft that has the other on its right must give way.
- Overtaking: Overtake to the right at a safe distance. Overtake to the left only if right is not possible. The glider being overtaken has right of way.

Soaring

- Ridge soaring: The glider with the ridge on his or her left should give way.
- Soaring above the ridge: The glider with the Lee to the left should give way to the right.

Basic rule

- Basic rule: Do not intentionally fly close to other aircraft so as to cause a risk of a collision.

Launch

- Launch: Only take off if the airspace is clear and there is no risk of a collision.

Landing

- Landing: Observe the prescribed landing pattern. When landing, the rule is give way to the lower aircraft. Do not cut in front of another aircraft on its final approach.

Thermal

- Thermalling: Gliders circling in a thermal should be avoided. Note: On a slope or ridge, the ridge flying rules have priority.
- Thermalling: The first glider in the thermal establishes the turn direction for everyone.

Flying rules

In Europe there are currently no legally binding rules specific to thermal flying and ridge soaring for paragliders and hang-gliders. The European Hang Gliding and Paragliding Union (EHPU) has therefore summarised the most important common rules which are valid in all countries. It should be noted however, that in some countries the rules for thermal flying and ridge soaring can only be regarded as a recommendation of the national federation, not as a legal requirement. In general, the EHPU recommends that when flying abroad, you should consult the websites of the national pilot federations for information on the flight rules.