

## **GENERAL RULES**

1. Only registered pilots may fly in the event. Only alternate pilots who have submitted their paperwork and been approved to fly in the event are allowed.
2. All registered pilots must attend the morning preflight briefings.
3. A Launch Director must launch all on-field balloons. The Launch Director will collect the flight crewmember waiver card(s) and validate the pilot's launch just before lift-off. Pilots launching without validation will not be covered by the waiver and will be penalized.
4. Unless otherwise directed by officials, balloons may launch only from their assigned launch site.
5. Launch Directors will launch only those balloons that are at equilibrium and ready for immediate take-off. Therefore, after the pilot's launch is validated, you will have a reasonable amount of time to launch. If you do not get off the ground within the allowed time, your launch will be invalidated, and you will be asked to deflate.
6. Any balloon boxing back to the field, must maintain a height of no less than 200 ft AGL while balloons are still in launch mode on the field. A penalty will be assessed for balloons flying below 200 ft over the launch field before all balloons are launched.
7. All balloons must not exceed 300 feet per minute ascent or descent rate in any area of flight congestion.
8. Pilots are required to carry a minimum of one and one-half hours of fuel on board for each flight. Low fuel will not be accepted as grounds for a declaration of an emergency and landing in any of the sensitive or prohibited zones.
9. Lower and downwind balloons have the right of way.
10. All balloons are to be down by 10:30 a.m. local time daily.
11. All aircraft must be equipped with an operational aircraft radio.
12. If the event is canceled after the launch has begun, a recall notice will be issued on the aircraft radio (123.75) and the public-address system.
13. Due to congestion on the field, and in the interest of safety, all balloons must be tied off during inflation.
15. Rules are subject to change or alteration by the Officials due to changes in flight conditions, weather conditions, and other considerations. Any changes will be announced at the pilot briefing.
16. All participating pilots will be provided one refueling per day. Dawn patrol pilots will be allowed additional refueling.
17. There will be no venting of raw propane on the launch field at any time.
19. No Smoking permitted on the launch field or refueling area.
20. Reckless flying will result in penalties or possible removal from the event.
21. Only official markers may be dropped, none from higher than 500 feet AGL. Streamers must be completely unfurled. Any marker found to be altered, knotted, or in any conditions other than when it was presented to the pilot at the initial briefing may be declared damaged or unusable. If in the opinion of the Chief Scoring Officer, the marker was changed to give an unfair advantage, it will not be scored.
22. Do not touch or move markers. Only race officials may do so.
23. No landing or ground contact within 200 ft. of the target. Ground contact includes anything on or attached to the ground.
24. Intermediate landings to exchange passengers and/or change out fuel tanks are allowed. However, pilots who move their balloon during an intermediate landing, or sit on the ground to improve their position or otherwise gain a competitive advantage will receive no score.