

GENERAL RULES

Requirements to attend

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 aircraft must be equipped with an **operational aircraft radio**.
3. 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.
4. **No Smoking is permitted on the launch field or refueling area.**

Pilot Briefings

5. All registered **pilots must attend the morning preflight briefings.**
6. 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.**

Launch Procedures

7. **All balloons must be launched by a Launch Director.** 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.
8. Unless otherwise directed by officials, **balloons may launch only from their assigned launch site.**
9. 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.
10. Due to congestion on the field, and in the interest of safety, **all balloons must be tied off during inflation. No moving balloons** across the field. Balloons must be tied off unless ready to launch or put down.

Flying

11. **All balloons must not exceed 300 feet per minute ascent or descent** rate in any area of flight congestion.
12. 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. **No landing back on the field until all balloons are launched** (Launch Commander will announce over the radio if the field is open to land)
13. **Lower and downwind balloons have the right of way.**
14. All balloons are to be **down by 10:30 a.m.** local time daily.
15. 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.
16. **Reckless flying will result in penalties or possible removal** from the event.
17. **All FARs that are not waived for the event must be observed.** Penalties for breaking these laws will be enforced.

Landings

18. **No moving balloons** across the field. Balloons must be tied off unless ready to launch or put down. (See rule #10)
19. **No landing or ground contact within 200 ft. of the target.** Ground contact includes anything on or attached to the ground.
20. **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.
21. There will be **no venting of raw propane** on the launch field at any time.

Refueling

22. All participating pilots will be provided **one refueling per day**. Dawn patrol pilots will be allowed additional refueling. Glow show pilots must bring adequate fuel to Glow and successfully complete their flight.
23. **Pilots or Crew with a BFA refueling card only** in the propane refueling station. No one is allowed to assist in propane refueling without the proper training.
24. Two people per vehicle in the refueling area. One to drive, one to assist in backing up to the pipe. No one allowed to remain inside the vehicle.
25. Tail gates down, or trailers open with vent door open, or baskets partially removed. Proper ventilation must be obtained.
26. No one inside a basket to refuel.
27. **No Smoking is permitted on the launch field or refueling area.**

Competition

28. **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 OFFICIAL, the marker was changed to give an unfair advantage, it will not be scored.
29. **Do not touch or move markers.** Only race officials may do so.

Glow show, Dawn Patrol, Banner flying

30. Proof of activities will be required for compensation for these activities. These activities will be based on a cost sharing formula.
 - a. Glow show tickets must be collected by a launch director during the glow.
 - b. Dawn Patrol tickets will be issued each morning at the dawn patrol briefing.
 - c. Banner flying, please have a crew member take a picture of your balloon with banner on it and text it to the remind number listed on your badge.