

RULES REGULATIONS TASK

The Federal Aviation Administration Flight Standards Office maintains control of all balloon operations. Competition is scheduled at sunrise for about two hours and two hours prior to sun set on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning.

The event will consist of single and multiple tasks as called by the Director after consultation with other approved competition officials, as appropriate, considering the conditions at hand and forecast to develop during the anticipated flight times.

The tasks will include:

1) Judge Declared Goal

Each pilot flies from the designated launch area and attempts to drop a marker as close as possible to a goal set by the officials. The result is the distance from the declared goal to the observed mark. The shortest distance wins. The landing after dropping the marker cannot be less than 1,500 feet from the declared goal.

2) Multiple Judge Declared Goal

Each pilot flies from the launch area and chooses one of a number of goals set by the officials. The pilot attempts to drop a marker near the goal chosen. The result is the distance from the observed mark to the nearest goal. The shortest distance wins. The landing after dropping the marker cannot be less than 1,500 feet from the selected goal.

3) Hare and Hound

A hare balloon will fly from the launch area and each pilot will attempt to fly near the final landing place of the hare and drop the marker. In the West, this may be referred to as the "Road Runner Race." The lead balloon, "the hare," takes off several minutes before the rest of the balloons and drops a marker at a designated point. The hare balloon deflates and is removed from the landing area. The marker dropped by the hare balloon becomes the target for the later balloons, "the hounds." The hounds try to drop markers as close as possible to the hare balloon's target. After dropping the marker from the hound balloon, landing is at the pilot's discretion but cannot be less than 1,500 feet from the target.

4) Fly In Task

Pilots find their own launch areas and attempt to reach a set goal or target.

5) Fly On Task

A task where a pilot declares a goal to which he flies, after dropping his marker in another task.

6) Gordon Bennett Memorial

The competitors will maneuver their balloons a prescribed distance from a target on the ground (scoring area). They will then attempt to maneuver back to the scoring area and drop markers on the target.

7) Max Distance/Minimum Distance

Pilots will attempt to drop their markers in the Scoring Area a maximum or minimum distance from the launch point as specified on the task sheet.

8) Convergent Navigational Task (CNT)

Officials establish a goal, but pilots find their own launch areas for the attempt to reach the goal. The boundary of the launch area declared by the pilot is the physical boundary of a field or a circle with a 300-foot radius from the inflation point, whichever is less. The officials place a target at the goal 30 minutes before the launch period. The pilot launches from a selected site, attempts to navigate to the target, and drops a marker. The result is the distance from the target to the marker. The shortest distance wins. The landing after dropping the marker is at the pilot's discretion but cannot be less than 1,500 feet from the target.

9) Watership Down

This is a two-part task. Pilots find their own launch sites and fly to a target established by the officials. At a specified time before the launch, a hare balloon takes off adjacent to the target and drops a marker at a designated point. This marker becomes the second target. The hare balloon deflates, and the envelope remains flattened on the ground to serve as a guide to the second target area. Each competing pilot drops a marker as close as possible to the first target, which was the launch site of the hare balloon. Pilots then fly-on to drop a second marker as close as possible to the target marker placed by the hare balloon.

10) Key Grab or Ring the Pole

This event usually has a target (generally a tall pole) in a centralized location. The balloonist must depart a predetermined distance from the target. The object is to maneuver the balloons, one by one, over the target so the pilot can attempt to grab the keys affixed to the pole or ring the pole with an 12 inch circle.