

E.P.I.C. Studios Carolina BalloonFest
Statesville, North Carolina

Operations Manual
Competition Rules

October 16 - 18, 2026

Statesville Regional Airport

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Welcome

Welcome Pilots and Crew:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Flight Operations Team, our dedicated Volunteers, and our generous Sponsors, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who will attend and support the 51st E.P.I.C. Studios Carolina BalloonFest. Your presence and participation helped make this milestone event truly unforgettable.

This historic celebration, which began as a humble “homecoming” for friends and fans of ballooning, has grown into a cherished tradition that continues to bring people together in the spirit of fun, fellowship, and the love of flying. Over the years, while the event has evolved, changing its name and location, its mission has remained steadfast—to honor and enjoy the sport of hot air ballooning and to give back to our community.

We want to particularly thank the pilots and crews for their dedication and enthusiasm. Your skills and passion are at the heart of this event. After a year of meticulous planning, we are pleased to welcome you to Statesville and hope that you find the event to be pilot-friendly, well-organized, and an enjoyable venue for flying. Statesville is proud to host such a vibrant gathering of ballooning enthusiasts.

This event would not be possible without the unwavering support of our sponsors. Your contributions ensure the continued success of this festival, and we encourage everyone to support our sponsors with their patronage and gratitude. The connections made during Friday evening’s sponsor events play a crucial role in sustaining the future of Carolina BalloonFest.

Finally, to our tireless volunteers and the thousands of hours they dedicated to making this event a reality, we cannot thank you enough. Your hard work and passion are the backbone of what makes Carolina BalloonFest such a special experience for all who attend.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this 50th anniversary milestone and for keeping this remarkable tradition alive. Together, we have made memories that will soar high in our hearts for years to come. We look forward to welcoming you back to Statesville for future Carolina BalloonFest celebrations.

Sam Parks	Kevin Reavis	Henry Rosenbaum	Joe Zavada
Executive Director	Flying Events Chair	Balloonmeister	Asst. Balloonmesiter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION

ISSUED TO

Carolina BalloonFest
KEVIN REAVIS

ADDRESS

PO Box 267

Statesville, NC 28687

This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.

OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED

55 hot air balloons are participating in the Carolina BalloonFest. There will be hot air balloon competition that involves flying into and out of the Statesville Regional Airport. The event will be conducted under the terms and conditions outlined in the Carolina BalloonFest Operations Manual/Competition Rules.

LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE

14 CFR Part 91.119(b) and 14 CFR Part 91.119(c)

STANDARD PROVISIONS

1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached to and become a part hereof.
2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.
3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.
4. This certificate is nontransferable.

NOTE.---This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Special Provisions Nos. 1 to 10 inclusive, are set forth on the reverse side hereof. "See Attached" ☒

This certificate is effective from 10/16/2026 1600 (LCL) to 10/18/2026 1900 (LCL), inclusive, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his authorized representative.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

AFG-700-EA-68
(Region)

(Signature)

August 21, 2026
(Date)

Office Manager, CLT FSDO
(Title)

Common Special Provisions

Failure to comply with any standard or special provision is a violation of the terms of this Certificate of Waiver (CoW) or Certificate of Authorization (CoA) and justification for cancellation of this Certificate and constitutes a violation of Title 49 of the United States Code Section (s) 44711 (A) (2) (B) and/or 44711 (A) (5).

1. The FAA has the authority to cancel or delay any or all acts or events if the safety of persons or property on the ground or in the air, are in jeopardy or there is a violation of the terms of the CoW.
2. Kevin Reavis will ensure that notification is made to the Leidos Flight Service Station (AFSS) l-877-487-6867 of the date, time, place, demonstration areas, altitudes, nature of the activity, and duration of the operation and request that a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM D or TFR) be issued.
   a. Such notice shall be accomplished by providing the controlling flight service station (FSS) with a copy of the CoW, at least 48 hours before the event and no more than 72 hours before the event.
   b. A Class D NOTAM is issued for the entire aviation event. Class D NOTAM verification is required.
3. Kevin Reavis, named in Item 2 on FAA Form 7711-2 must ensure that participants are thoroughly briefed on special field rules, the established demonstration area, flying display area, and aerobatic box (other defined areas within the waivered/authorized airspace), manner and order of events, and special provisions of the CoW or CoA, before beginning the activities each day.
   a. No person may participate in any event listed on the CoW unless that person has signed a statement acknowledging receipt of a briefing on the provisions of the CoW.
   b. For team performances, only the team leader is required; however, a delegate may represent the team leader, provided the person is a pilot member of the team. The team leader or delegate must brief each member of the team and will provide the name of each person on the team he/she will brief before the performance.
4. The following facilities shall be provided and readily available in accordance with the submitted emergency response plan at the demonstration site. Fire truck, Ambulance, Crash Rescue Vehicle/ Paramedic, and police vehicles will be provided as included in the emergency response plan.
5. Persons or aircraft not appearing on the CoW application and subsequently added to the CoW or CoA may not participate without specific approval by the IIC. Proof of appropriate qualifications for crewmember(s), and an airworthy aircraft is required before the performance can be conducted at that event site.
6. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Demonstrations are not authorized under this CoW. All UAS operations must be authorized under a separate COW or COA.
7. Rocket Demonstrations are not authorized under this CoW.
8. Section 91.119(b) and (c) are waived to the extent necessary to allow participating balloons to compete in Carolina Balloon Fest under the terms and conditions set forth in the FAA approved procedures section of the Balloon operations Manual.
9. The Balloon Operations Manual October 16-18, 2026, is incorporated into this CoW and becomes a special provision thereof. Any action contrary to the terms, controls, procedures, and conditions pertaining to safety set forth in the FAA approved procedures is grounds for cancellation of this CoW.
10. Kevin Reavis shall ensure that each participating event crewmember has read and understands the FAA approved procedures section of the Balloon Operation Manual Dated October 16-18, 2026, and the special provisions of this CoW.

E.P.I.C. Studios CBF Event Schedule

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16

6:00 AM	Flight Briefing	Mitchell Community College
7:31 AM	**SUNRISE**	
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Propane refueling	Statesville Regional Airport
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Pilot Registration	Sonesta Select Hotel
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Late Pilot Registration	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
4:30 PM	General Briefing	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
4:45 PM	Sponsor Flight Briefing	Meadows Pilot Tent
5:00 PM	Sponsor Flight	Statesville Regional Airport
6:46 PM	**SUNSET**	
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Balloon Glow	Statesville Regional Airport
7:30 PM	Drone Show	Event Grounds @ Airport
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Propane Refueling	Statesville Regional Airport

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

6:30 AM	Flight Briefing	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
7:31 AM	**SUNRISE**	
8:00 AM	Competition Flight #1	Statesville Regional Airport
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Propane refueling	Statesville Regional Airport
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Pilot Meet & Greet	Statesville Regional Airport
4:00 PM	Flight Briefing	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
5:00 PM	Evening Flight	Statesville Regional Airport
6:45 PM	**SUNSET**	
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Balloon Glow	Statesville Regional Airport
7:30 PM	Drone Show	Event Grounds @ Airport
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Propane refueling	Statesville Regional Airport

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18

6:30 AM	Flight Briefing	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
7:32 AM	SUNRISE	
8:00 AM	Competition Flight #2	Statesville Regional Airport
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Propane Refueling	Statesville Regional Airport
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Brunch & Awards	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Pilot Meet & Greet	Statesville Regional Airport
4:00 PM	Flight Briefing	Bill Meadows Pilot Tent
5:00 PM	Evening Flight	Statesville Regional Airport
6:43 PM	SUNSET	
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	Propane Refueling	Statesville Regional Airport

Friday, Saturday, Sunday After each flight launch	RC Balloons static display	Statesville Regional Airport

Event Staff & Key Contacts

Executive Director	Sam Parks	505-503-9091
Flying Events Chair	Kevin Reavis	336-260-2005
Balloonmeister	Henry Rosenbaum	804-971-0704
Asst. Balloonmeister	Joe Zavada	330-608-5766
Chief Safety Officer	Duncan Dunavent	704-928-7882
Chief Weather Officer	Duncan Dunavent	704-928-7882
Chief Scoring Officer	Ken Draughn	336-260-4725
Operations Manager	Rob Mullis	704-968-8727
Asst. Ops Manager	Armando Arreaza	828-800-1573
Wind Reader Team	Jenna Litton	540-325-9212
	Lauren Sawin	919-609-8231
Social Media Manager	Ashley Senk	608-219-8033
Landowner Relations Mgr.	Joanie Ashley	704-677-5773
Propane Manager	Richard Sawin	919-592-8185
RC Balloon Manager	Ryan McKellar	580-736-4637
Event Photographer	Kim McKinney	704-437-1576
Sponsor Coordinator	Mandy McLaughlin	704-880-1370
Volunteer Crew Manager	Barb Mason Van	704-880-3796
Hospitality Manager	Bonnie Dunavent	704-560-0868
Flight Crew Waivers	Nikki Wise	704-880-8422
	Kristi Casale	561-860-7006
Webmaster /CBFpilots.com	Marc Klinger	704-995-3005
Target Team	Chris Shelton, Mgr.	704-299-8150
	Jenny Keener	682-429-0329
	Roy Gillick	864-430-7647
	Sarah Gillick	864-979-0391
	Beth Krask	404-444-4109

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergencies		911
Weather		800-992-7433
Statesville Airport (KSVH) AWOS		704-873-1978
Statesville Regional Airport		704-873-1111
KSVH Airport Frequency		123.075 CTAF
Lost Balloon Number	(Joe Zavada)	330-608-5766
Iredell County Sherriff		704-878-3100
Duke Energy (Power Company)		800-769-3766
Statesville City Power		704-878-3364
Energy United (Power Company)		800-522-3783

Event Information

Host	Carolina BalloonFest / National Balloon Rally Charities
Facility	Statesville Regional Airport 238 Airport Road Statesville, NC 28677 ENTRANCE 116 Lowe's Aviation Drive Statesville, NC 28677
Field Coordinates	N 35.754260 W -80.955904
UTM	17 S 0504056 3956617
Host Hotel	Sonesta Select Hotel 1215 Garner Bagnal Blvd. Statesville, NC 28677 704-878-9697
Airport Traffic Freq.	123.075 CTAF
Local Weather	800-992-7433
AWOS	704-873-1978
AWOS Frequency	119.225
Recall procedure	"WhatsApp" Pilot and Crew Chief cell numbers

Balloon Operations Manual

I. Introduction and Purpose

a. **Purpose:** The Carolina BalloonFest is a hot air balloon festival that will take place at Statesville Regional Airport on October 16-18, 2026. The 51st edition will consist of approximately 55 balloons.

This manual is submitted as a part of an application for a Waiver of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91, §§ 91.119 (b) and (c).

§91.119 (b): Minimum Safe Altitudes over a Congested Area
The Waiver will allow officially registered balloons to operate over any congested area of a city, town or settlement and over any open-air assembly of persons at an altitude of no less than 500 feet AGL above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 500 feet from the balloon within a 15 nautical mile radius of the designated launch field or goal.

Launching a balloon anywhere in, into, or over a congested area, or open-air assembly of persons, shall require the pilot to be in a continuous normal rate of climb, until an altitude of 500 feet AGL is attained.

§91.119 (c): Minimum Safe Altitudes over Other than Congested Areas
The Waiver will allow officially registered balloons to descend to the surface over open water or sparsely populated areas but no closer than 200 feet from any non-participating person, vessel, vehicle or structure.

II. Responsibilities & Procedures

Carolina BalloonFest is a non-profit organization. Carolina BallonFest coordinates field preparation and activities, and collaborates with the flying events team to execute a safe and successful event.

Duties of Flight Operations Personnel:

1. **Flying Events Chair (Kevin Reavis)** is in overall operational charge of the CBF flight operations and is responsible for effective management, efficient and safe running of all flying Events. The Flying Events Chair coordinates all flight activities, coordinates with the FAA concerning flight activity during the event, works directly with CBF's Executive Director and to determine any need for cancellation, prepares the application for Waiver, rules and pilot information for approval by the flight operations team and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Coordinates pilot registration and pilot documentation plus FAA review.

2. **Balloonmeister (Henry Rosenbaum)** is responsible for implementing and carrying out the operational decisions of the Flying Events Chair and Executive Director, coordinates all flight activities, coordinates with the Flying Events Chair and Executive Director during the event; briefs pilots on conditions for the day's flight, including restrictions that may apply; and recommends to close launch field if unfavorable conditions for flight exist. Is responsible for and directs all officials and is the point of contact for pilots and officials regarding problems, safety concerns, or competition related protests.

3. **Assistant Balloonmeister (Joe Zavada)** coordinates with and assists the Balloonmeister on all activities governed by Balloonmeister. Advises the Balloonmeister of all matters pertaining to flight safety.

4. **Chief Safety Official (Duncan Dunavent)** advises Balloonmeister on all matters pertaining to flight safety, monitors flight operations from a safety aspect, works to detect and correct potentially unsafe operations and counsels Pilots who have violated safety and /or CBF procedures. Coordinate with on-field law enforcement and emergency personnel in situations requiring their assistance.

5. **Weather Team (Duncan Dunavent, Jenna Litton, Lauren Sawin)** acquires weather information from the National Weather Service and a variety of other sources; makes on-field weather observations; interprets data as it relates to balloon flight; and advises on weather issues as they relate to flight safety. Provides current continuous weather conditions to pilots and officials prior to, during flights and static displays (Glows). Briefs officials and pilots on current and forecasted weather conditions prior to and throughout each session.

6. **Chief Scoring Officer (Ken Draughn)** is responsible for all measurements and the scoring of competitive events and in concert with the Balloonmeister assess penalties for violations of Carolina BalloonFest Rules and/or FAA Waiver. Selects, trains, and supervises scoring personnel with safety being the prime concern. Task data sheets will be maintained by the Balloonmeister and will be made available to the FAA Monitor upon request. Monitor the target scoring area(s) and maintain the proper distance from target to spectators.

7. **Operations Mgt. Team (Rob Mullis & Armando Arreaza)** oversees field and general operations. Assists officials and pilots during flight operations and acts as safety official.

8. **Measurers (Chris Shelton, Beth Krask, Jenny Kenner, Roy Gillick, Sarah Gillick):** Collect and record results of the official markers, provide crowd control around the target areas as required and help monitor rules infractions. **Chris Shelton** will supervise this group.

9. **Landowner Relations Officer (Joanie Ashley)** will investigate any landowner complaints and provide information regarding any sensitive areas with our flight area.

10. **Balloon Refueling Chief (Richard Sawin)** communicates and coordinates with Propane Supplier and CBF regarding any propane fueling procedures and violations.

III. Flight Operations

a. **Areas of Operation:** The operations will occur at the Statesville Regional Airport in Statesville, North Carolina and the surrounding environs as indicated on the official competition map. Final landings may occur beyond these boundaries. Headquarters for the event will be located at the Statesville Regional Airport. Flight operations will be within 15 nautical miles of the airport.

b. Hours of Operation and Wavier times are as follows:

Friday Oct. 16, 2026	1600 until 1900 EDT
Saturday Oct. 17, 2026	0700 until 1000 and 1600 until 1900 EDT
Sunday Oct. 18, 2026	0700 until 1000 and 1600 until 1900 EDT

c. **Types of Operations:** The event will consist of competitive and non-competitive flights as called by the Balloonmeister Henry Rosenbaum after consultation with other approved competition officials and the FAA monitor (if available) as appropriate considering the current conditions and forecast conditions during the anticipated flight times.

d. **Certification/Airworthiness Procedures:** At registration and throughout the entire event by the Balloonmeister or his/her designee; appropriate FAA personnel will be consulted as necessary.

e. **Sponsor:** Carolina BalloonFest, Sam Parks, Executive Director

f. **Altitudes:** The waiver provides that registered balloons in competitive events will be allowed to make approaches to targets and/or goals within the designated areas. Balloons making these approaches will be permitted to fly over the designated areas at an altitude of not less than seventy-five (75) feet above ground level. The balloons must have attained a state of altitude equilibrium at this 75-foot minimum altitude and not be descending while passing over the designated spectator areas. It is felt that this altitude is sufficient to allow for unusual circumstances with an adequate margin of safety for spectators.

In order to provide the highest possible level of safety for spectators, the Safety Officer Duncan Dunavent will direct scoring/measuring officials to be positioned among the spectators to allow crowds to be shifted as necessary and to provide warning regarding any markers that may be dropped in the spectator areas. Announcements over the public-address systems will also advise spectators of the possibilities of both low flying balloons over the area and of markers being dropped in this area

g. **Spectator Areas:** The primary spectator area is located at Statesville Regional Airport, Statesville, NC. Crowd control during competition is by physical barriers around the launch site controlled by the Event Personnel. Official and balloon recovery vehicles are parked in the restricted areas. Statesville City Police and Event Volunteers control traffic. Use of existing and temporary barriers secures spectators from the briefing area and headquarters and from potential low-level flight areas surrounding goals/targets (see additional remarks under "ALTITUDES"). It should be noted that the flight of the balloon is occurring at sufficiently low speeds that people have ample opportunity of movement away from approaching balloons (ref. FAA order 844.5A para. 179 d (2)).
Competitive goals/targets will be set outside of the primary launch area in remote areas and will attract few, if any, spectators beyond those involved in race operations (officials and crews). Scoring/measuring officials control these areas as determined by conditions, but in general, isolate the area surrounding the goal/target from any unauthorized personnel.

h. **Air Traffic Notification:** The Flight Director (Balloonmeister) will notify the Lockheed Martin Flight Service Station, Flight Data Facility as specified in the attachment to the FAA Waiver of authorization, special provisions for Hot Air Balloon Operations in this manual.

i. **Landowner Relations:** Positive Landowner relations are vital to Carolina BalloonFest. There is an ongoing effort by all involved persons to maintain good landowner relations for the event. Pilots MUST obtain permission for launch from private property; and must minimize disturbance to landowners. Landowners may request that their property be indicated on the competition map as a red zone.

j. **Crew and Passengers:** Balloons operating under the waiver shall be restricted to Pilot-In-Command and those persons who have been designated as Crew. Persons designated as crew shall primarily be responsible to assist the pilot as an observer. The crew will assist by maintaining lookout for other aircraft and other obstacles to safe flight. ALL DESGNATED CREW MEMBERS must sign a "Designated Crew Authorization" form for each flight flown under the conditions of the waiver. Log sheets for this purpose will be provided to pilots at registration. No more than 3 crewmembers can be on any balloon taking part in a competition. (The total of 3 is to include the Pilot).

k. **Weather Requirements:** Duncan Dunavent, chief weather officer, will be in charge of publishing weather information to pilots. Flight operations will be conducted during the period from published Sunrise to Sunset, with Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and weather conditions as specified in FAR 91.155. Maximum surface wind velocity at the launch site and target will be 10 knots.

   All weather reports, forecasts and safety information are given in good faith for the guidance of the event pilots. Each pilot should seek and receive his or her own weather information while making the decision whether to fly or not.

l. **Pilot Briefings:** Pilots are required to attend a briefing held before each competition by the Balloonmeister Henry Rosenbaum. All pilots in competitive events are required to sign a statement that they have read and understand the provisions of the waiver at time of registration. The balloonmeister will ensure that all pilots and crew are thoroughly briefed on the special rules and the provisions of the waiver. All pilots shall be completely familiar with this manual, Event Rules and Task Rules and shall assure that their crew understands all relevant parts. Ignorance of the rules shall not be grounds for protest.

m. **Pilot minimum requirements:** Private pilot certificate and seventy-five (75) hours as pilot in command of a hot air balloon. Only pilots registered to fly in the event are allowed to act as pilot in command, and only aircraft officially registered in the event may be flown during the official flights. Pilots participating in commercial activities (paid rides, tethers, flying banners, special shapes, etc.) shall hold a Commercial Certificate and Second-Class Medical certificate. The pilot in command is responsible for compliance with the Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs). Infringements of the FARs are a matter between the pilot and the FAA, however violations of the waiver shall be grounds for action by the Flying Evnets, balloonmeister, and the holders of the waiver up to and including disqualification from the task or expulsion from the event. The pilot must ensure that his crew, his equipment, and his own skill level are suitable for the conditions. Each pilot is responsible to make sure he has sufficient crew for all balloon operations and the pilot is responsible for the actions of his crew and may be penalized for their conduct.

   The pilot is responsible for ensuring that their aircraft is in compliance with all applicable FARs and is in airworthy condition throughout the event. The FAA event monitor or event officials may inspect any registered aircraft, failure to cooperate with event officials may result in the pilot being disqualified from the event. Any balloon damage must be reported to the event safety officer.

n. **Event Documentation:** All relevant registration files, task data sheets, pilot registration information, etc., will be maintained by the organizer at least sixty (60) days after the event and will be made available to the FAA monitor upon request. Competition maps and task sheets will be made available to the FAA monitor at the pilot briefing.

o. **Tether operations:** A tether operations area will be established on the launch field to provide a safe zone where the public may be offered rides in a tethered hot air balloon. A maximum of two (2) balloons will be allowed to inflate and provide tether rides in this area. Each participating balloon will be secured to a minimum of three parked vehicles (no trailers) with 100-foot ropes and ascend a maximum height of seventy-five (75) feet. Each anchor line will be monitored by ground crew, and ground crew will provide crowd control to allow the public to safely access the tethered balloons. This tether operation will be limited to surface wind speeds less than 10 knots.

p. **Communication requirements:** Pilots shall have an aircraft radio to monitor designated frequencies. Cellular communications will also be used through WhatsApp.

Waiver Provisions

This Certificate of Waiver shall be effective during the following dates and times:

Friday October 16, 2026	1600 until 1900 EDT
Saturday October 17, 2026	0700 until 1000 and 1600 until 1900 EDT
Sunday October 18, 2026	0700 until 1000 and 1600 until 1900 EDT

Kevin Reavis, Flying Events Chair, is the holder of the "Certificate of Waiver"
Henry Rosenbaum is the Balloonmeister
Joe Zavada is the Assistant Balloonmeister
Duncan Dunavent is the Chief Safety Officer
Duncan Dunavent is the Chief Weather Officer
Ken Draughn is the Chief Scoring Officer

1. All balloon flight operations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions contained herein and, in the FAA approved Operations Manual for the Carolina Balloonfest, Statesville, North Carolina, except as noted in these special provisions.
2. This Certificate of Waiver and attached special provisions shall apply regardless of any statements contained on the application received from the waiver holder. Failure to comply with any special provision specified in this section constitutes cancellation of the waiver.
3. The holder of this waiver shall file a Notice to Airman (Notam) with the National Notam Office at 877-487-6867 of the date, time, place, areas, altitudes and the nature and duration of operations. Such notification shall be accomplished at least 48 hours prior to commencement of competition activities. In the event the proposed aviation activity is cancelled, Flight service must be contacted to cancel the NOTAM.
4. Prior to commencing the event the holder of this waiver shall ensure all participants are thoroughly briefed on the provisions of this Certificate of Waiver and special provisions. No person may participate in any event unless that person has read, been briefed, and understands the provisions and has signed a statement to this effect.
5. The Holder of this Waiver is responsible for making provisions for such oral or visual communications as necessary for safe operations and to advise participants when activities have been halted or canceled. This communication capability may be in the form of radio, loudspeakers, pyrotechnic signaling device, piball etc.
6. Target areas must be totally clear of spectators and under control or the event officials. These officials must have adequate manpower to maintain crowd control. A means of communication such as "bull horn" or public-address system shall be employed to control the crowd movements verbally or to direct the balloonists away from the target area in the event of an emergency. The Certificate holder shall establish procedures to ensure the balloonists will abort the scoring attempt when it becomes apparent the balloons' ground tracks will not be within the scoring area or when a realistic chance for scoring is no longer possible.
7. All Activities shall be halted when unauthorized persons, vehicles, or aircraft enter the target area(s), or for any other reason in the interest of safety. Only those persons necessary to support operations shall be authorized in the target areas.

8. Physical barriers and adequate crowd control shall be provided to confine spectators to the designated spectator areas. The designated spectator area shall be maintained at minimum distance of a 200-foot radius from any designated or declared goal/target. This 200-foot minimum target area shall remain sterile except for officially designated Carolina Balloonfest officials and personnel.
9. Balloon Landings shall not be permitted closer than 500 feet from any target or goal. Carolina Balloonfest officials may reduce this distance to not less than 200 feet from any target or goal; however, such a reduction may be made only by event, and then only for safety considerations. All participants must be thoroughly briefed on the reduction prior to the event. Only bona fide chase/recovery crews may be present at the landing site.
10. 14 CFR Part FAR 91.119 (b) is waived, within the geographic area described in this waiver, to permit flight over a congected area of a city, town, or settlement at an altitude of no less than 500 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 500 feet of the balloon.
11. 14 CFR Part FAR 91.119(b) is also waived, to permit flight over, but not less than 75 feet above any open-air assembly of persons (designated spectator areas) under the direct control of Carolina BalloonFest. The balloon must have attained a state of altitude equilibrium at this 75-foot minimum altitude and cannot be descending while crossing over the designated spectator area.
12. FAR 91.119(c) is waived, within the geographic area described in this waiver, to allow flight over open water or sparsely populated areas no closer than 200 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.
13. Only Crewmembers may be carried on board any balloon operating under his waiver. All crew members must be designated by the pilot in command and must have been given appropriate training in the conduct of their duties. No more than 3 crewmembers can be on any balloon taking part in a competition. (The total of 3 is to include the Pilot). These designated crew members must sign on an appropriate form that they have been briefed, so that they understand the limitations of this waiver. The pilot in command of each balloon using additional crewmembers in flight is responsible for obtaining and keeping such statements and shall present them for inspection upon request of FAA or event officials.
14. All operations under this waiver shall be conducted in VFR conditions as specified in 14 CFR Part 91.155. The maximum wind speed for launch and the target zone is 10 knots.
15. The FAA balloon meet monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt activities or cancel this waiver or delete any portion of it when the FAA Official believes the safety of persons or property on the surface or in the air is in jeopardy. Additionally, the monitor may cancel this waiver or delete any portion of it if there is a contravention of terms or conditions of the waiver.

Requirements

I. Pilot Requirements

- **a.** All Pilots who plan to fly must register with Carolina Balloonfest.
- **b.** All Pilots should have a minimum of seventy-five (75) pilot-in-command hours in a hot air balloon.
- **c.** Pilots performing commercial activities (paid rides, tethers, flying banners, special shapes, etc.) shall hold a Commercial Certificate and Second-Class Medical certificate.
- **d.** Pilots are responsible for all equipment, crews and operations comply with FAA regulations.
- **e.** Pilots must present written evidence of insurance with the following minimums of coverage:
  - **i.** $100,000 per passenger, $300,000 combined single limit
- **f.** Pilots are individually responsible for damage or injury to persons and property including other balloons.

II. Aircraft and Equipment Requirements

(Maximum balloon envelope shall be less than 106,000 cubic feet.)

- **a.** Balloons shall have adequate fuel on board for the intended flight.
- **b.** All inflation fans must have an appropriate safety cover.
- **c.** Appropriate safety equipment required by the balloon's operation manual will be in place.
- **d.** The FAA will inspect the required documents and has the authority to inspect the physical condition of any aircraft registered in the event.
- **e.** All pilots will be required to have the following:
  - **i.** US balloons must have a current FAA Standard Airworthiness Certificate or an appropriate Experimental Airworthiness Certificate with letter of restrictions
  - **ii.** Certificate of Registration
  - **iii.** Balloon Flight Manual
  - **iv.** Aircraft Logbook with current annual inspection
  - **v.** Insurance documents
  - **vi.** Private or Commercial pilot's License
  - **vii.** Pilot logbook with evidence of compliance with FAR 61.57
  - **viii.** Aircraft Radio
- **f. Each Pilot MUST have on board for all balloon flights an operable aircraft radio that can send and receive! And it MUST be turned on for ALL flights!**

III. Pilot Briefing Rules

- **a.** All Pilot Briefings are MANDATORY as required by the FAA. Proxy representation by another person is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- **b.** Any pilot missing a Pilot Briefing is required to receive a briefing from the Balloonmeister or designee before flying.

c. Any pilot, who misses a Pilot Briefing and flies without receiving a pilot briefing, shall be grounded IMMEDIATELY and disqualified from the current competition.

d. If a pilot knows that he or she may be late for the scheduled pilot/weather briefing, please call the Chief Safety Officer for notification.

IV. Safety Standards

a. Pilots must not exceed passenger or weight limitations as specified by the Flight Manual or by the conditions of the insurance policy covering the pilot and/or the balloon.

b. Surface winds will be 10 knots or less for all competitions. Officials may announce a lower wind speed limit if local conditions or terrain is considered a safety factor.

c. All flight operations will be conducted within the Ceiling and Visibility restrictions of the FAA Waiver.

d. All pilots shall yield the right of way to the balloons below them.

e. All Pilots shall limit their rate of climb to 200 feet per minute during take-off. Rates of climb and decent shall not at any time during the flight, exceed the limitations of the aircraft as outlined in the aircraft's operation manual. Reckless flying of any kind will not be allowed and may cause the pilot to be disqualified from either the specific flight in question, or the entire event. THERE WILL BE NO FIRST WARNING OF THIS RULE!!! There will be no flying or tethering allowed from the launch area other than scheduled events without advance permission from the Balloonmeister.

f. Only registered pilots may pilot a balloon during the event. Pilots may compete only in the balloon in which they are registered.

g. Do not land in the propane fueling area or on designated prohibited areas. These areas are marked in red on all competitive maps. Penalties will be given to pilots who land in Red areas.

h. Only one chase vehicle per balloon will be allowed on the launch field. Vehicles should clear the field to a less populated area once the balloon has left the field. Multiple vehicles will be allowed on the field for special tether operations to allow for three-point tie-offs.

i. Parachuting or bungee jumping from balloons will not be allowed.

j. No hang gliders or ultralights may be launched from the field or dropped from a balloon.

k. The Pilot makes the final decision whether to fly or not.

l. In the event that a pilot lands in a designated "RED ZONE", that pilot will be grounded until cleared to fly by the Balloonmeister.

m. Dropping leaflets, coupons, or product samples from a balloon is expressly FORBIDDEN at CBF and may be grounds for disqualification from a competitive event.

PROPANE RULES AND REGULATIONS
The propane line will be the check-in point after flights!

1. Pilots are allotted propane for each event.
2. Propane will be dispensed only to those registered pilots with properly ventilated trailers.
3. Fueling will take place only during officially published times at a location to be announced at the Pilot Briefing.
4. No propane tanks other than those properly mounted in the balloon will be taken into the refueling area. The Safety Officer must approve any exceptions in advance.
5. While in and around the fueling area, all instructions from the propane crew of Thompson Energy and safety staff must be heeded.
6. Only two (2) people will be permitted in the fueling area. Individuals must be 18 years old. Student pilots under the age of 18 shall be permitted.
7. Strikers must be removed from the basket before entering the fueling area.
8. No persons will be permitted inside the gondola, basket, or passenger compartment during refueling.
9. All motor vehicle engines and all electrical equipment shall be turned off.
10. Pilot lights in refrigerators and all other sources of ignition in recreational vehicles must be out.
11. There shall be NO SMOKING or ALCOHOL in the fueling area.
12. Pickup trucks and trailers must have the tailgates lowered during fueling and care they are not touching the propane lines.
13. Tanks must be fueled outside of those gondolas that are constructed of solid plastic, fiberglass, or other solid material.
14. Basket covers must be completely removed prior to fueling.
15. No animals/pets will be permitted in the fueling area.
16. Vehicles shall wait at the staging area at least one row away until directed to proceed to a designated filling station by a fueling official.
17. Be courteous to fueling personnel and safety personnel.
18. You must not travel at high rates of speed on the launch field to get to propane. Be patient and watchful of other pilots waiting for propane.
19. Be prepared to start adding fuel to tanks when you back up to the manifold; take the time while waiting in line to make any refueling hose connections. Spend the least amount of time possible at the propane manifold.
20. Gloves MUST be worn while refueling.

Come full, leave full!
If you are going to be delayed for any reason, please contact Richard Sawin(Propane Officer) so he can make appropriate plans with the propane company. Failure to contact Richard Sawin may result in your inability to get propane. We may assume you did not fly and have no need for propane; please help us ensure that you have propane for your next flight. If you decide not to fly a particular flight, please call Chris Shelton.

CBF Glow Assignments

Friday – Fly & Glow

ODD Banner #s

1	Matt	Lidinsky
3	Meredith	Bennett
5	Blair	Beard
7	Mark	Brooks
9	Jonathan	Carter
11	Roger	Clark
13	Jim	Cusick
15	Drew	Egerton
17	Wayne	Fortney
19	Jennifer	Goldbloom
21	Joe	Hamilton
23	Joseph	Hurdt
25	Marc	Klinger
27	Tracy	Leaver
29	Ian	Leonard
31	David	Litton
33	Gilbert	Martin
35	Barbara	McKinley
37	Rob	Mezey
39	Charles	Page
41	Bud	Person
43	Daniel	Sasser
45	Madison	Sharpe
47	Tom	Tomasetti
51	Mary	Makhlouf/Don Cline

	Shapes	Corporate Tethers RCs
48	Tom	Lattin/ Re/Max
49	Will	Randell/ Meineke
	Chris	Jones/ Buster
	Paul	Burrows/Bella
	Dan	Stukas/ Mister Z
	Adam	McClinton/ Tether
	Matt	McClinton/ Tether
	Ryan	McKellar/ RC 1
	Luke	Lattin/RC 2
	Mark	Lattin/ RC 3
	Avery	Colburn/ RC 4
	Lucas	Egerton/ RC 5
	Ben	Drennen/ RC 6

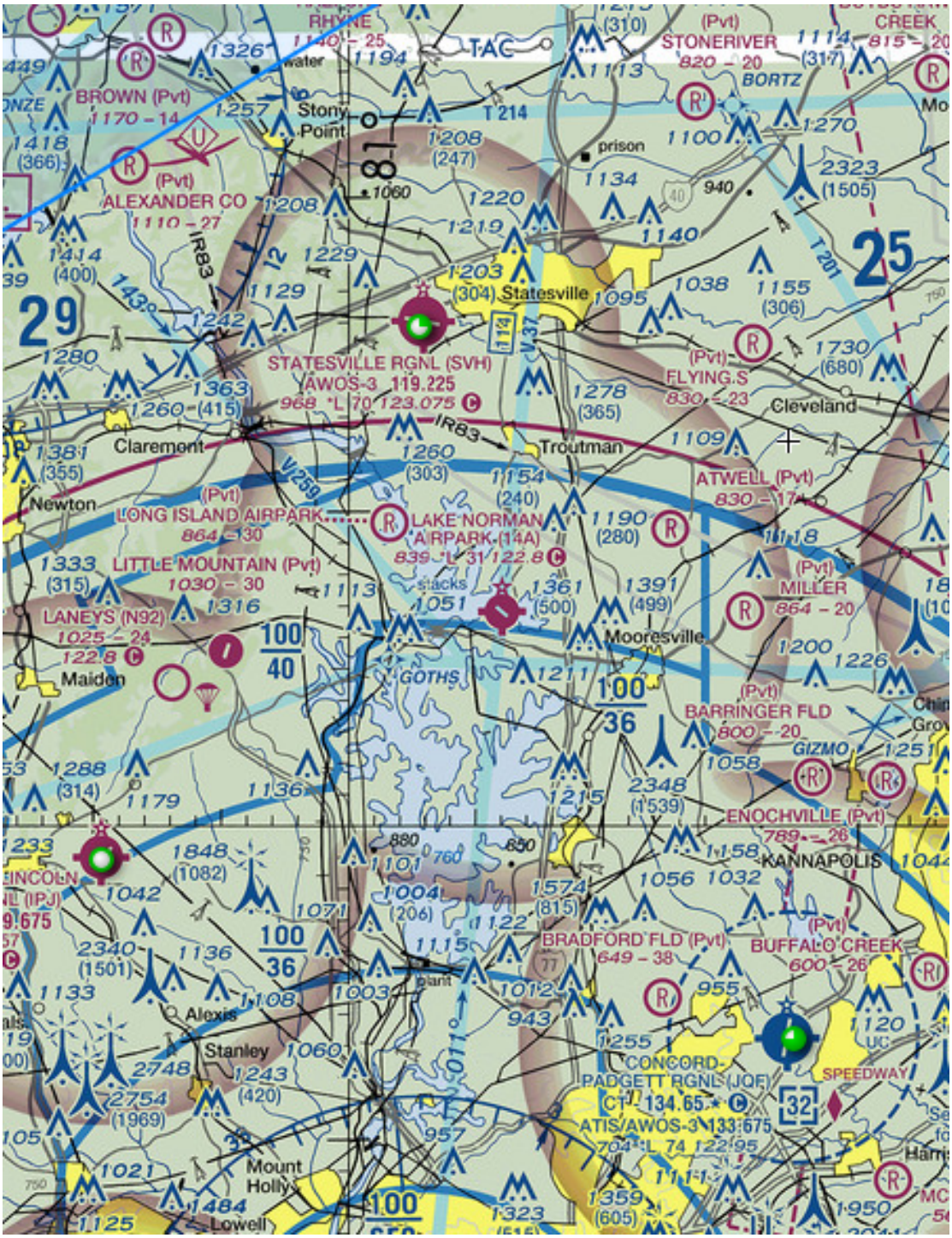
Saturday – Fly & Glow

EVEN Banner #s

2	Sean	Askren
4	Ross	Bauschatz
6	Manning	Bowing
8	Gene	Burnstein
10	Buddy	Carter
12	Tony	Colburn
14	Paul	Dale
16	Rick	Ferral
18	Dan	Gerbus
20	Patrick	Grogan
22	Clarke	Harbold
24	Randy	Kirgiss
26	Marsha	Lambertson
28	Randy	Lee
30	Sally	Lidinsky
32	Mark	MackSkimming
34	Ron	Martin
36	Mark	Meyer
38	Derrick	O'Shields
40	Vinny	Panico
42	Sean	Richardson
44	Anthony	Seeger
46	Britan	Stepanek

48	Tom	Lattin/ Re/Max
49	Will	Randell/ Meineke
	Chris	Jones/ Buster
	Paul	Burrows/ Bella
	Dan	Stukas/ Mister Z
	Adam	McClinton/Tether
	Matt	McClinton/Tether
	Ryan	McKellar/ RC 1
	Luke	Lattin/RC 2
	Mark	Lattin/ RC 3
	Avery	Colburn/ RC 4
	Lucas	Egerton/ RC 5
	Ben	Drennen/ RC 6

Charlotte Sectional



POWERLINE EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Don't approach the balloon! Park Chase vehicles at least 100 feet away!

Look for broken power lines touching the ground and advise the pilot. Stay at least 50 feet away from any down lines.

Inform the pilot and passengers that you are sending for help.

Write down the balloon's location, including the direction from the closest marked intersection, street address, or the number on the power pole closest to the balloon.

Send a crew member to call 911 or the local emergency medical services (EMS) number. Also call the local power company. Describe the accident in detail. Leave first aid kit, drinking water and fire extinguishers at the accident site before moving the chase vehicle.

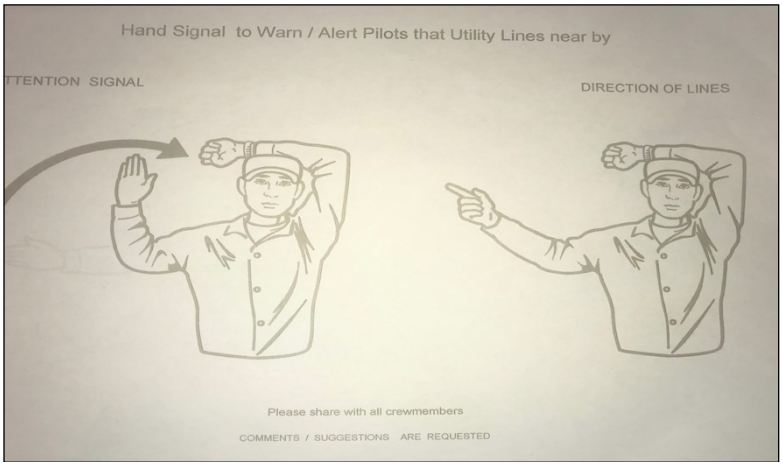
The crew should keep all spectators away from the balloon and the power lines.

Don't help anyone exit the balloon! Helping anyone out of the gondola or attempting to catch them may complete the electrical circuit, putting both your life and theirs in danger.

After the power company has arrived, the crew should assist in passenger and balloon recovery.

Please contact Safety Officers Duncan Dunavent 704-928-7882 or Balloonmeister Henry Rosenbaum 804-971-0704.

All Energy United Power Poles now have an identification number that is GPS located. If contact is made with an Energy United power line, just provide the ID number from the closest pole and EU will know your location.





Sponsor Flight Match up

As a condition of entry, pilots agreed to give two (2) sponsors a balloon ride; if you were assigned a sponsor passenger(s), the ride MUST be given Friday evening weather permitting. Failure to provide the Sponsor ride may result in forfeiture of any prize money. Self-sponsored commercial pilots are not required to carry festival sponsors.

If the Friday Sponsor flight is cancelled due to bad weather, you are not obligated to fly the sponsor over the course of the weekend BUT providing that flight to the sponsor does help Carolina Balloonfest continue the positive relationship with that Sponsor.

All Pilots will be matched up with their Sponsor during the Friday evening Flight briefing in the pilot tent. The liaison for the sponsor match-up is Mandy McLaughlin. She will be in charge of matching up pilots and Sponsors. Please contact her directly if there are any problems with your Sponsors.

Meals Provided

Friday, Saturday & Sunday mornings: Coffee & light breakfast items (pasty/muffins etc)

Saturday @ afternoon pilot briefing: Light snack meal

Friday and Saturday after flight: Glow pilots stop by the Pilot Tent to pick up your Balloon Team Pizzas as you return to the Launch Field for the Balloon Glow. (For Glow Pilots only)

Sunday: Pilot and Crew Farewell Brunch, after the morning flight, located in the Bill Meadows Pilot tent

Volunteer Crew

Please see **Barb Mason Van** if you need Volunteer Crew during the Carolina Balloonfest

2026 Carolina BalloonFest Total Prize Money $8,000.00

Prizes for top three pilots
1st Place $600.00
2nd Place $400.00
3rd Place $325.00

Prize Money for Saturday Morning and Sunday Morning Flights
$1,875.00 each

1. $325.00	9. $75.00
2. $275.00	10. $75.00
3. $225.00	11. $75.00
4. $175.00	12. $50.00
5. $150.00	13. $50.00
6. $100.00	14. $50.00
7. $100.00	15. $50.00
8. $100.00	

*Prize Money for Saturday Evening Flight
$1875.00 (as shown above)

*Prize Money for Sunday Evening Flight
$1050.00

*** TBD depending on the number of pilots and availability of a competitive task.**

If there is more than one task in any flight, the placements will be a cumulative of the scores for all tasks in that flight. In the event we have to cancel a flight, the money from that flight could be rolled over to the next flight, and then we could pay "per task" money for that flight. If all the money from any one flight is not won, that money could roll to Sunday afternoon's flight to possibly pay for more places or increase the payout for pilots that do score. If Sunday afternoon's flight is cancelled, the money for that flight will be divided between the pilots who answer the roll call. In the event no competitive flights are flown during the weekend, NO prize money will be paid out.

Designated Crew Log

These forms are in your document Pilot Pack Folder.

Designated Crew Log must be turned in @ propane refueling after each flight.

These rules are based on the Balloon Federation of America, Hot Air Competition Division's "Simplified Competition" rule book

Carolina Balloonfest Competition rules, regulations, policies and procedures

Title
The event shall be known as: Carolina Balloonfest

Sanction
The event is endorsed by the Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Competition Division. (BFA/HACD)

Organization
The Event is organized by Carolina Balloonfest Statesville, NC

Correspondence
All entries and official correspondence should be addressed to: Carolina Balloonfest Statesville, North Carolina www.CarolinaBalloonfest.com

Place
Statesville Regional Airport

Protest Fee
$100.00 cash

Risk
The balloon and other property of a competitor and control of the same must at all time be the responsibility of the pilot in every respect. Each pilot shall be deemed by entry to agree to hold event officials, the organizer and their respective members, employees and personnel Harmless for any claims for injury to himself or his balloon.

Insurance
A blanket insurance policy will be in effect during this event covering the organizers and affiliates only. Each pilot must carry a minimum of $100,000.00 per passenger and a minimum limit of$1,000,000.00 combined single limit coverage on the operation of their balloon.

Competition details

Contest Area
Maps will be provided in your pilot pack; the contest area will be the entire map area.

PZ list
The details of prohibited zones will be printed and provided as part of your event rules. Changes to this list will be posted at the pilot tent.

Common Launch area
Statesville Regional Airport

Common Launch Point
Common launch point coordinates: 17 S 0504056 / 3956617

Landowner Permission
Landowner's permission must be obtained for each launch/landing and if several balloons launching or landing at the same location each competitor must ask permission. Public areas, such as public parks and schools are considered as places without permission for take-offs or landings. These provisions and instructions are subject to change before or during the event any time by announcements by the Balloonmeister.

Livestock and crops
Any special notes will be made available during the General Briefing and on the notice board.

Driving Law
All participants are requested to follow North Carolina laws and regulations. North Carolina does require seat belts to be used in the front seat of all automobiles. Infants and children who is either or both under the age of four and weigh less than forty pounds must be in an approved properly used child safety seat. Riding in the back of an unenclosed cargo storage area of a truck or trailer traveling over 25 miles per hour is illegal for persons under 16 years old.

Air Law
When flying over congested areas, persons livestock or property, pilots must follow the restrictions issued by the FAA in the Event Waiver. Violation of this rule will result in a penalty. The entire contest area will have 8,000 ft MSL as a maximum altitude (Blue PZ) during the competition flights. This may be subject to change before or during the event by announcements of the Balloonmeister.

Recall Procedure
"WhatsApp" system will be used that will contact both the Pilot and the Crew Chief by cell phone. Cell numbers will be received at Pilot registration.

Location of the official notice board

The official notice board will be in the Pilot/Crew Briefing Tent. A second location will be the lobby of the host hotel

Official Communications
Replies to general inquires and complaints will be posted on the official notice board located at the Pilot Tent

Lost Markers
Pilots will be charged $20.00 for each lost marker. Lost maker fees must be paid prior to the first briefing following the flight in which the marker was lost.

Scoring Formula
The BFA scoring system will be used for the entire event.
Points Formula- Proportional Scoring
Each Competitor will be awarded a number of points according to his performance. The Formula to be used will depend on the competitor's place in the ranking order for the task.
The best result can be awarded up to 1,000 points before deduction of any penalty points.
The superior half of the results will receive a score between 1,000 and approximately 500 points, in proportion to their performance using Formula One.
The inferior half of the results will receive a score between 500 points and 0 points according to their relative position in the ranking order using Formula two.

- Formula one: (Superior half of performances):
  1000-[(1000-SM)/(RM-W)]X(R-W)
- Formula two: (Inferior half of performances):
  1000X (P+1-L)/P
- Formula three (competitors in Group B):
  1000X [(P+1-A)/P]-200
  P = number of competitors entered in the competition
  M = P/2 (rounded to the next higher number) Median Rank)
  R = competitor's result (Meters, etc.) if in the superior Rank)
  RM = result achieved by the median ranking competitor
  L = Competitor's ranking position if in the inferior portion
  W = The winning result of the task
  A = number of competitors in group A
  SM = rounded points score of the median ranking competitor, calculated under Formula two

If fewer than half of the competitors achieve a result in the task, the following changes in definition will apply:
RM = lowest ranking result in Group A
SM = rounded score of the lowest ranking competitor in Group A, calculated under formula two.
M = Lowest ranking competitor in Group A

In tasks where no competitor achieves a result, all competitors in Group B will receive a score of 500 points before any penalty points. Points scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number

Rules

Definition of Champion

Carolina BalloonFest Champion shall be the pilot with the highest aggregate score at the end of the event.

Documentation

The following documents will be inspected when pilots register on arrival at the event.

a) Pilot Ce1tificates (to include Medical) if appropriate
b) Pilot log book
c) Balloon log book
d) Certificate of Airworthiness
e) Certificate of Registration
f) Certificate of insurance

Acceptance of Code of Conduct, Rules and Regulations

All pilots are expected to know, understand and abide by the competition rules and regulations for this event. In addition, the pilots are required to know, understand, accept and abide by the Code of Conduct and, by entering is deemed to accept without reservation.

Code of Conduct:

All Officials, pilots and crew are required to comply with the Code of Conduct. In addition to the excerpts from the competition rules shown below, competitors and crews are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the sport of hot air ballooning.
Entrants and their crews are required to behave in a sportsmanlike manner and comply with the directions of the Event Officials. Inconsiderate behavior, profanity, or unsportsmanlike conduct, or any violation of the FAA waiver will be penalized by the Balloonmeister and may be grounds for expulsion of a pilot.

Behavior:

Competitors are required to fly \with proper consideration for fellow pilots, persons and livestock on the ground and to follow good landowner relations etiquette and the code of conduct. Inconsiderate behavior by pilots or crew members, or endangering the public during flight, may be penalized up to 1000 points.

Serious Infringements, Unsporting behavior

Cheating or unsporting behavior, including deliberate attempts to deceive or mislead officials, willful interference with other competitors, falsification of documents, use of forbidden equipment or prohibited drugs or repeated se1ious infringements of the rules will be penalized up to 1000 points and may be disqualified from the task or event Pilots and crews found to misappropriate propane during the event will be Penalized and or disqualified.
All pilots and their crews will conduct themselves in such ways as their actions will be a credit to and in the best interests of hot air ballooning and the event, its officials, sponsors, etc. with

respect at all times. Pilots will be responsible for operation within both the letter and spirit of event competition rules.

Waiver
A pilot by entering the event, thereby waives any right of action against and holds ham1less the Balloon Federation of America, BFA/HACD, event officials, the Organizer, the owner of any site and their respective members, employees and personnel, for any damages sustained by him in consequence of any act or omission on the part of said bodies, their officials, members or representatives or by other pilots.

Safety
All meteorological reports, forecast, and other safety or navigational information is provided in good faith for the guidance of competitors.

Fuel Supply
Each balloon shall carry an adequate fuel supply to ensure completion of the flight with an adequate reserve. The lack of adequate fuel to complete a task shall not be grounds for protest

Damage
If a balloon during the event, it may be repaired. Damaged components may be replaced or repaired, except that a complete envelope may be replaced only at the discretion of the Balloonmeister. Any damage to a balloon affecting it's airworthiness must be reported to the safety officer before it is entered for further flight, and the balloon may only be flown after appropriate repairs have been made and proper evidence and documentation of such has been provided to the safety officer.

ALLOWABLE DAMAGE on Balloon Envelopes and Baskets

The following is provided only for general guidance to event officials to quickly evaluate the effect of envelope and/or basket damage during a balloon event. In all cases, the manufacturer's manuals for continued airworthiness for each particular aerostat MUST be consulted when evaluating any situation of 'allowable damage. Refer to Rule 3.5 for further guidance.

Manufacturer	Allowable Damage Limitations
ADAMS	No allowable damage is listed
AEROSTAR	For fabric with less than 100 hours and less than 3 years old: • Above 1ST horizontal band below the equator: 1 inch. • Below 1ST horizontal band and above 6 feet above mouth: 2 inches. • Envelope within 6 feet of mouth: 18 inches For fabric with greater than 100 hours and greater than 3 years old: • Above 1ST horizontal band below the equator: 3/8 inch. • Below 1ST horizontal band and above 6 feet above mouth: 1 inch. • Envelope within 6 feet of mouth: 12 inches Envelope skirt or Dipper: no more than 10%.
AVIAN	½" long tear, hole or wear area from equator to top of envelope; 1-1/2" long tear, hole or wear area from 10 feet above mouth to equator; 12" long tear, hole or wear area from mouth to 10 feet up envelope No load tape may be damaged
FIREFLY AND GALAXY	Fabric: holes, tears or areas of damaged fabric of 1 cm (3/8 inch) in maximum dimensions are acceptable above the equator and of 2.5 cm (1 inch) below the equator and a maximum of 30.5 cm (12 inches) in bottom panel no.1 if: 1. They are more than 30.5 cm (12 inches) apart and more than 30.5 cm (12 inches) away from a seam. 2. There are no more than four in any one panel. Basket wicker: Holes up to 25cm (10 inches) may be considered acceptable providing the damage does not endanger passenger safety or fuel system components.
CAMERON	In lowest 10', holes need not be repaired provided load tapes are undamaged; above 10' ≤3/4" in longest dimension. Basket damage – horizontal <3/4" in floor; <1/4" of thickness gone

LINDSTRAND BALLOONS	No damage to envelope fabric which is above the lower two nylon panels may be larger than ¾" in any one direction. No damage is permissible to load tapes, control lines or parachute valve rigging.
	No damage to the basket that exceeds more than five strands of a basket wire broken, more than six broken consecutive strands in the woven floor is permissible. No damage to a plywood floor that is more than 10", visible from both sides, or the floor has separated from the lower stainless-steel frame is permissible.
HEAD	Maximum damage near mouth 12"; more than 72" from bottom of envelope, but below equator, not greater than 1"; above equator not greater than ½".
	No damage listed for basket.
PICCARD	The manual only lists damage above the lower horizontal load tape. This damage must be less than 1". No damage limitations are given below the lower horizontal load tape.
	No broken wicker allowed on basket which might affect passenger safety.
THUNDER & COLT	No damage to envelope may be greater than 1"
	Damage to basket is acceptable if "hand or foot size."
NATIONAL	No damage limitations listed.
ULTRAMAGIC	Damage to the fabric in the lower third of the envelope must be limited to an area affecting no more than 3 panels, though they may be completely damaged, and panels may be adjacent. Holes no greater than 10mm in diameter (e.g. cigarette burn) are permitted elsewhere on the envelope. These holes must not be within 25mm of a load tape, with no more than 5 in any one panel and no closer than 50 mm to each other. No more than 3 panels in the upper two-thirds of the envelope may have these small holes. No damage is permitted to any part of the burner, fuel or load suspension system.
KUBICEK	Any damage of the envelope fabric below the third horizontal load tape is permitted. The maximum size of an unrepaired tear or damage to the envelope fabric above the third horizontal load tape is 5mm (0.2 in).

Retrieve Vehicles: Retrieve vehicles shall not be parked within 300 feet of a goal or target set by the Director, unless specifically authorized in the briefing.

Complaints

The purpose of a complaint is to obtain a correction without the need to make a formal protest. A formal complaint must be submitted in writing and will receive a response in writing.

Protest

If dissatisfied with the Director's decision on a complaint made during the event, a pilot may protest to the Jury. Three (3) attending pilots will be selected at the beginning of the event; they will serve on the Jury with the Safety Officer and the Chief Scoring officer.

Time Limits

A pilot intending to file a protest shall, within one hour of the reply to his complaint, declare his intention to protest to the Balloonmeister. A pilot has four (4) hours to file his protest after receiving response from his complaint. A pilot must submit the protest fee with the written protest. In the event the pilot's protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded. Once any or all complaints and or protest are resolved, or the determined time has lapsed, all scores will become official.

Prohibited Zones (PZ's)

There are three (3) classifications of PZ's: Red, Yellow and Blue A Red PZ is restricted airspace and will include an altitude limit which a pilot shall not fly below.

- Yellow PZ is a restricted area where no take-offs and landings are permitted.
- Blue PZ is a restricted airspace and will include a lower altitude limit which a pilot shall not fly above.

PZ Infringement

A pilot violating a PZ in force may be penalized up to 1000 points, proportionally to the offense.

Tie-offs

Tie-offs are required on ALL launches. No tie-offs to trailers.

Ground Contact

Ground contact #1

After passing over the boundary of any launch area, no part of the balloon or anything attached to it may make contact with the ground or water surface or anything resting on or attached to the ground, until the last task has been completed.

Penalty for each contact is 200 competition points.

Note: Incidental contact with grass or leaves will not be penalized.

Ground contact #2

No Part of the balloon or anything attached to it may make ground contact with the ground or water surface or anything resting on or attached to the ground (marker excepted) within the Marker Measuring Area or within 200 meters of any goal/target set by the Director or selected by a competitor.

Penalty for each contact is 500 competition points.

Note: Incidental contact with grass or leaves will not be penalized.

Lost Markers

A marker, dropped within the scoring area, is considered lost if it is not found and in the possession of the officials within a time period specified. Pilots may inquire with the measuring team at the target if they have doubt that the marker will be found. Pilots and crews will not be allowed to search for markers in the scoring area without the presence of an official. If the marker had earlier been seen by an official on the ground and is estimated within the scoring area, then the official's evidence will be used to determine the pilot's result. Competitors are responsible for returning Markers either not dropped or dropped outside the scoring area.

Task Descriptions

PILOT DECLARED GOAL (PDG)

Each pilot will fly from a launch area and shall attempt to drop a marker or achieve a valid track point close to a goal selected by him and declared according to the briefing data.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Declaration time and place (also see 12.3)
b) Number of goals permitted
c) Minimum and maximum distances of goal from CLP or ILP
d) Goals available for declaration (if applicable)
e) Description of1v1SA or Scoring Area, if applicable

The result is the distance from the mark to the nearest valid declared goal: shortest distance best.

JUDGE DECLARED GOAL (JDG)

Competitors will fly from a launch area and attempt to drop a marker close to a goal or target set by the officials.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Coordinates of goal/target.
b) Period (if any) of display of target
c) Minimum and maximum distances of goal from CLP or TLP, if appropriate. d) Scoring period, if any
e) Description of MSA or Scoring Area, if applicable

Result is distance from observed mark to the target, if displayed. or goal: shortest distance best.

HESITATION WALTZ (HWZ) aka MULTIPLE JUDGE DECLARED GOAL (MJDG)

Competitors will fly and choose one of a number of goals or targets set by the officials during flight and attempt to drop a marker near his choice.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Coordinates of goal/target.
b) Period (if any) of display of target.
c) Minimum and maximum distances of goal from CLP or ILP. if appropriate.
d) Scoring period, if any
e) Description of MSA or Scoring Area, if applicable

Result is distance from observed mark to the target, if displayed, or goal; shortest distance best.

FLY IN TASK (FIT)

Competitors find their own launch areas and attempt to drop a marker close to a set goal or target.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Coordinates of goal/target.
b) Period (if any) of display of target.
c) Minimum and maximum distances of goal from ILP
d) Number of take-offs permitted.
e) Scoring period, if any
f) Description of MSA or Scoring Area, if applicable

The result is the distance from the mark to the target, if displayed, or goal; shortest distance best.

Only one scoring attempt (marker drop, track point, or contest landing) may be made.

FLY ON TASK IN NON-GPS-LOGGER EVENT

Competitors will attempt to drop a marker close to a goal selected and declared by them during flight.

Task data:

a) Minimum and maximum distance between previous mark and declared goal
b) Method of declaration
c) Number of goals permitted
d) Description of Scoring Area, if applicable

The result is the distance from the mark to the nearest valid declared goal. Smallest result is best.

The competitor shall write clearly on the previous marker his declared goal(s) for fly on. If the previous marker is not dropped or no goal is written on it or if more goals are declared than permitted the competitor will not achieve a result

As a precaution, in case the previous marker should be lost, the competitor may personally write a provisional goal on the observer's sheet. He will be scored to this goal if the previous marker is lost. The competitor may make or revise this provisional declaration at any time up to the release of the previous marker. A verbal declaration of a goal to the observer is of no effect and will not be recorded. If the observer is flying in the basket, he should witness and record on the observer sheet the declaration written on the marker before release.

HARE AND HOUND (HNH)

Competitors will follow a hare balloon and attempt to drop a marker close to a target displayed by the hare no more than two meters upwind of the basket after landing.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Description of hare balloon
b) Intended launch time of hare balloon
c) Intended flight duration of hare balloon
d) Launch period related to actual launch of hare balloon.
e) Time limit for display of target
f) Scoring period, if any
g) Description of MSA or Scoring Area if applicable

The result is the distance from the observed mark to the target; shortest result best.
Variation from intended launch time and flight duration of the hare shall not be grounds for complaint or protest. The hare may deflate after landing and may be removed from the landing field. The hare balloon may display a banner hanging below his basket. No competitor shall display any banner hanging below the basket during this task.

WATERSHIP DOWN (WSD)

Competitors will fly to the launch point of a hare balloon, follow the hare, and attempt to drop a marker close to a target displayed by the hare no more than two meters upwind of the basket after landing.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Description of hare balloon
b) Location of the launch point of the hare balloon
c) Set take-off time of the hare balloon
d) Intended flight duration of the hare balloon
e) Description of MSA or Scoring area if applicable

The result is the distance from the mark to the target; smallest distance best.
If the hare balloon does not take off within five (5) minutes after the set time, then this task is considered cancelled. Variation from the intended flight duration of the hare shall not be grounds for complaint or complaint/protest. The hare may deflate after landing and may be removed from the field. The hare may display a banner hanging below his basket. No competitor shall display any banner hanging below the basket during this task.

Gordon Bennett Memorial (GBM)

Competitors will attempt to drop their marker 'Within a scoring area(s) close to a set goal

Task Briefing Data:

a) Position of goal/target
b) Description of scoring area(s)
c) Minimum and Maximum distance of goal from ILP if applicable

The result is the distance from the mark to the target, if displayed, or goal.
Smallest result is best.

MINIMUM DISTANCE DOUBLE DROP (MDD)

Competitors will attempt to drop two markers or achieve two valid track points close together in different scoring areas.

Task Briefing Data:
a) Descriptions of the scoring areas
b) Scoring period, if any

The result is the difference between the marks or track points; shortest distance best. Competitors will not achieve a result unless they have a valid track point or a mark in two scoring area.

Maximum Distance (XDI)

Competitors will attempt to drop a marker or achieve a valid track point far away from the CLP within a set scoring area(s). The Launch point may be within a scoring area(s)

Task Briefing Data:
a) Description and boundaries of the scoring area(s)
b) Scoring Period, if any

The Competitor's result is the distance from the launch point to the observed mark or valid track point; greatest distance best. A competitor who does not achieve a scoring position inside the scoring area(s) will not receive a result.

Maximum Distance Double Drop (XDD)

Competitors will attempt to drop two markers or achieve two valid track points far apart in the scoring area(s).

Task Briefing Data:

a) Description of scoring area(s)
b) Scoring Period, if any

The result is the distance between the marks or farthest valid track points; greatest distance best. A Competitor who drops one or both markers outside the scoring area(s), or whose flight tracks are out the Scoring area(s), will not achieve a result. Competitors will attempt to achieve the greatest distance within a set airspace.

Task Briefing Data:

a) Description of set airspaces(s)
b) Scoring period, if any

Competitor's result is the accumulated horizontal distance measured by valid track points in the set airspace(s); Greatest cumulative distance is best.

Combination tasks:

In the event multiple tasks are scheduled, rules for each individual task will still apply. When multiple tasks are scheduled the Balloonmeister will explain how task results will be combined for prize money.