



22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship. Saga, Japan. 2016

GENERAL BRIEFING Notes

Sunday, 30th October 2016

Locations of Competition Facilities (Kubota 1525-7775):

Briefing Room:

On the Ground Floor of the Kubota Kaizen Centre.
Access to all competitors, crews, officials and observers.

Observer Room:

On the First Floor of the Kubota Health Centre, can be used for observers rest.
Observers and Competitors can use the Briefing Room for finishing the observer report sheet.

Debriefing Room:

At the front of the Kubota Health Centre.
Only Observers and Officials are allowed to enter this room during the Debriefing.

Scoring Room:

At the rear of the Kubota Health Centre.
Only Competition Officials are allowed to enter this room.

Competition Operations Office:

At the rear of the Kubota Health Centre.
All competitors and their crew must get permission to enter.
For complaints and protests: A competitor should go to the Competition Operations Office.

For results posting:

The **Official Notice Board** is located at the entrance to the Briefing Room in the Kubota Kaizen Centre.

Briefing Schedule:

ALL Task Briefings will be held in the Briefing room at Kubota Kaizen Centre (1527-7775). The morning briefings will be held at 05:45, the afternoon briefings will be held at 14:00. Any changes in briefing location or time will be announced by the Event Director.

Wind Information:

All wind data is given in true north not magnetic. Magnetic variation in Saga is 6 degrees and 50 minutes west.

Rule 3.10.1 Retrieve:

NOTE : Concerning the marker which has already been confirmed or certified by an Observer, but has not been measured due to reasons of time or time constraints, it is permitted that crew of the competitor stand guard by the marker, without the presence of an Observer or Official, to prevent a lost or stolen marker.

Rule 3.10.2 Competition Number:

Vehicle banners (numbers) from other events should be removed or covered. If other banners are visible, they will be considered the same as NO banners attached.
Additional vehicles shall also be identified with the competition number.

Rule 3.10.3 Parking:

Retrieve vehicles shall not be parked within 100m of a goal/target set by the Director or selected by the competitor. Vehicles should not obstruct access to private property, or block roads when parking near goals. Complaints by third parties may be penalized under Rule 13.2.

Rule 6.2 Flight with Observers, 10.9.4 Persons on Board:

When a Competitor flies with an Observer, it is mandatory that the Competitor has insurance for the Observer.



Rule 6.10 GPS Logger Handling:

Loggers will be distributed to each competitor at the task briefing. The competitor will turn it on/off as required, and attach /detach it to/from the envelope. The competitor shall return the logger to the Competition Centre for downloading after the flight. Competitors should wait for a successful download confirmation before leaving.

The GPS Loggers used in this event are Garmin eTrex 30. GPS loggers have been set to record at 3 second intervals. The barometric altitude within the loggers is set to 1013.3 hPa. Correction will be made to local QNH during the scoring process.

Rule 7.1: Contest Area:

See Official Map: The contest area is defined on the Official Competition Map of the 22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship, except the areas declared as out of bounds.

Area A: Valid 28th October – 7th November 2016. SR – SS
Area C: Valid 28th October – 7th November 2016. SR – SS
Area D: Valid 28th October – 7th November 2016. SR – SS
Area E: Valid 28th October – 7th November 2016. SR – SS
Area A1 is SFC – 4,000 feet MSL
Area A2 is SFC – 4,000 feet MSL
Area C1 is SFC – 3,000 feet MSL
Area C2 is SFC – 3,000 feet MSL
Area D is SFC – 3,000 feet MSL
Area E is SFC – 3,000 feet MSL

Eastern boundary of Area E is physically defined by the river which runs North / South.
DO NOT CROSS THE RIVER. (Except in area D)

Rule 7.2: Out of Bounds:

See Official Map: ALL RED PZs are out of bounds.
ALL YELLOW PZs are out of bounds.
ALL SA-G Golf Courses are out of bounds.

Competitors achieving a mark or contest landing in the OUT OF BOUNDS area will be scored in group B.

Rule 7.3.2: Prohibited Zones (PZs):

All Circular PZs will use a Cylinder for their definition, and the radius will be in meters.

Rule 7.5: PZ Infringement:

All PZ: Respect all restrictions. Penalties will be calculated as defined in the COH.
Red PZ: - COH Penalty Guideline of Rule 7.5, PZ Infringement.
Blue PZ: - COH Penalty Guideline of Rule 10.14, Air Law.

Rule 8.11 Late Entry:

Late Entry for tasks:
For mass ascensions, late entry may be made to an official at the signals points.
For tasks where competitors select their own launch area, late entry may be made at the competition office, or by phone to the Event Director **xxx xxxx xxxx**.

Rule 9.1.2: & II.5 Common Launch Point:

COMMON LAUNCH POINT (CLP): CLP: 1600 – 8000 13 ft MSL (Kase River)



Rule 9.2.2 Landowner Permission: (II.6):

Competitors must make every effort to obtain permission from the land owner to drive onto property for launching and retrieving. Competitors or crew must NOT drive into fields without permission.

Competitors are expected to look for at least twenty minutes to find the landowner. If the landowner is not found, a competitor is responsible for any problems that arise if he enters the field without landowner's permission. Penalty for infringement is up to 250 task points.

Due to local landowner conditions, including sensitive issues concerning crops, it is required that permission is requested from the landowner, in the presence of the Observer, before retrieving a marker which has landed in crop.

Competitors may enter fields containing beans to measure / retrieve a marker. They must ensure that they walk between the rows and that no damage is done to the crop. If any landowner is seen to be in the vicinity, then contact should be made to ensure that he is happy for you to proceed.

Rule 9.3.2 Launch Procedures:

Quick-release tie-offs MUST be used for balloons launching in a common, or any individual launch area.

Rule 9.4.1 Vehicles:

Please note that NO MORE THAN ONE VEHICLE per balloon may be present in the launch area during the launch period. Extra vehicles must be parked in the parking lot outside the launch field.

Rule 9.6 Signals Point:

Please note that there are two Signal Points in the launch area. Both of these signal points are valid for making competitor declarations.

Rule 9.12 Extension of Time, Rule 9.16 Launching at a Competitors Discretion:

- Launch Masters will NOT be used on Common Launch Areas, unless Task timing is required.
- Each Competitor is responsible for the safe operation of his balloon at all times.
- Any Extension of Time shall be requested from an Official at the Signals Point.

Rule 9.21 Clearing Launch Area:

The launch area is defined by fences to the north, south and east and by the launch field bank of the Kase river to the west.

Rule 10.1 Midair Collision & 10.2 Dangerous Flying:

Rate of climb must not be greater than 300 feet per a minute (300 FPM, 1.5 meter per a second), unless a competitor is completely certain that no higher balloon is in his ascent path. Competitors shall at all times, operate their balloons within the manufacturers certified limits.

Crew on the ground shall watch their balloon in the sky. When they see danger, they shall warn the pilot immediately.

When a pilot has a mid-air-collision, the proportion of any penalty will be determined from the GPS logger data. The penalty will be applied as defined in the COH.

Rule 10.4 Dropping Objects:

Similar lightweight objects are defined as shaving cream, tissue paper, water or corn flakes. Those materials are allowed to use for NAVIGATION PURPOSES.

A competitor must NOT drop anything, including a marker, to the water plants around Kase River.

Rule 10.14 Air Law (Sunrise and Sunset):

Event Sunrise is 06:45 hrs. Event Sunset is 17:20 hrs. Flight after 17:20 hours is prohibited.



Rule 10.15 Recall Procedure:

Recall Procedure:

We will use the mobile phone messaging for the Recall Procedure.

Any recall messages will be in text format, i.e. "Flight cancelled" or other instructions as defined at the flight briefing.

All competitors will be supplied with a mobile phone from the Organisers. If you lose or break the mobile phone and/or charger, the Organiser will require 25,000 to 75,000 JPY payment.

11.2 LANDING AT WILL & 11.3 CONTEST LANDING

Reference Rule 11.2.2 and Rule 11.3.4:

NOTE: In a PDG or FON, etc., the goal described corresponds to the goal chosen by the competitor and does not apply to the goals chosen by other competitors. In a JDG, the goal in this rule corresponds to the common goal or Target. (Competitors may not land within 200 meters of their chosen goal or marker, or goal / target set by the director.)

12.3 DECLARATIONS BY COMPETITORS; Also Ref:12.2 (II.11):

Goal Declarations shall only be made from the valid goal list printed on the competition map. The 3 digit goal number must be used for declarations. All intersection on the list have been previously measured by GPS, so that a competitor does not need to measure it by GPS again.

Rule 12.16.1 Extension of Time Limit Requests:

Permission for extension of the time limit may be granted by the Chief Scorer (Shinya Kohama) **xxx xxxx xxx**, OR Chief Debriefer (Brenda Howard) **xxx xxxx xxx**.

Rule 12.16.2 Lost Marker:

If the marker has earlier been seen on or falling to the ground by an Official or Observer, then the competitor will be given an assessed result based on the least advantageous interpretation of evidence available, provided that the marker was released from lower than **2,000 ft MSL**. Otherwise the competitor will be scored to his nearest marker or landing position, which ever is best.

12.24 Target Officials:

Concerning markers to be measured by the measuring team, when outside the 200m limit–

When the measuring team spots a marker with a survey flag, this means the Measuring Team will measure it.

If a marker has NO survey flag spotting it, then the Observer must measure it.

On PDG and FON intersection:

All of the listed goal intersections have been marked with a red X (10cm x 10cm). All Competitors / Observers shall measure to that point. If the centre point is not marked then Observers should check that they are at the correct intersection.

Altitude Restrictions over Golf Courses:

Golf courses are printed in LIGHT YELLOW and listed as SA-Gxx on the Official Competition Map. The height restriction over all golf courses is 200 ft AGL.

All SA-G golf course altitude limits are defined so as to respect people's property and livelihood. Any inconsiderate flying in a SA-G will be penalised under Rule 10.5, irrespective of any complaint from persons on the ground.

Lost Marker:

Competitors may be required to pay for any marker damaged, not re-usable, lost or not brought back in time.

The charge for "Lost Markers" will be 1,000 JPY, unless independent evidence of it being stolen is available.



Other Notes:

DRONES:

Drones are not permitted to be flown anywhere within the competition area.

Saga City Office in agreement with the Police, have informed the public that Drones are not permitted to be flown within this area. Competitors please respect this decision.

Speed Limit in Kubota:

The speed limit on the road to the Competition Centre is 30KPH. There is a Kindergarten and a Junior High School with access to this road. If we receive driving or speeding complaints about any team from the local people, the competitor will be penalised under rule 10.11 (up to 500 competition points).

There is a “one way system” in operation around the Competition Centre. Please observe the correct direction during the event

Propane Refuelling:

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. If YAMASHIRO Gas co. regulations are not followed, gas cannot be obtained from them. In this case the Organiser will not provide LPG free of charge.

Prize money ☺ :

No tax payment required for ALL competitors.

Vehicle Parking at Kubota Competition Centre:

All participants must park their vehicles in the public parking area to the West of the Competition Centre (1515-7785). No Competitor vehicles shall be parked in the Competition Centre parking area.

Event ID and Entrance to Launch Fields:

All participants must show their Vehicle Pass and event ID tag to the gate attendants, when entering the launch field or when entering the Briefing Room.

CLEAN YOUR SHOES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please clean your shoes before you enter the Kubota Competition Centre. Cleaning facilities are available outside of the Briefing Room.

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- Related Documents:
- 1) General Safety Guidelines
 - 2) GPS Logger Operating Procedure
 - 3) PZ list
 - 4) Observer Handbook
 - 5) Competition Rules
 - 6) Competition Operations Handbook 2016

Les Purfield
Event Director
30th October 2016
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