

AERONAUTICA MILITARE BALLOON CUP 2026 - PIACENZA

SECTION I - EVENT DETAILS

I. 1 TITLE

The Event shall be known as:
Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup 2026 – 3th edition

I. 2 SANCTION

The event is an approved FAI Category 2 Sporting Event sanctioned by the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA). (S1 An 3 2) and the Aeroclub d' Italia.

I. 3 ORGANIZATION

The Event is organised by:

Difesa Servizi SPA with the collaboration of the Italian Air Force.

The organizer in charge of the competition part is Aeroclub Pavullo (which operates with the approval of Aeroclub d' Italia) with the technical partnership of Aeronord Aerostati SAS.

I. 4 CORRESPONDENCE

All entries and official correspondence should be addressed to:

Aeronord Aerostati

Sara Passoni

Via Mazzini 33, 20099 Sesto San Giovanni

Info@aeronord.it

I. 5 PERSONNEL

Event Director :	Jonas Maes
Deputy Director :	Pat Alliët
Safety Officer:	Lindsay Muir
Chief Scoring:	Zuz Bryant
Jury President	Marc André

I. 6 PLACE

The Event will be held at:

Aeroporto Di Piacenza – San Damiano and it surroundings.

I. 7 DATES

The Event will run on 15th until 18th of October 2026.

General briefing will be on Thursday 15th of October. The first flight will be 16th of October in the morning. The last flight will be 18th of October in the morning. unless the minimum tasks and flights under rule 1.2 have not been achieved, in which case the last flight will be 18th of October in the evening.

I. 8 PROTEST FEE

THE AMOUNT OF THE PROTEST FEE TO ACCOMPANY A PROTEST SHALL BE EUR 100.

IN CASE OF A JOINT PROTEST, EVERY PROTESTING PERSON MUST PAY THE PROTEST FEE. (S1 An3 8.3)

I. 9 LANGUAGE)

I. 9.1 THE RULES AND INFORMATION CIRCULATED TO NACS AND COMPETITORS OR ISSUED DURING THE EVENT SHALL BE IN ENGLISH AND, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ORGANISER, THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOST COUNTRY. IN ALL INTERPRETATIONS THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION SHALL PREVAIL. (GS 4.5.4)

I. 9.2 Printed material (e.g. Task Data, Meteorological information etc) shall be in English. The language used verbally during briefings shall be English.

I. 9.3 In the rules the masculine form is used as a standard. Wherever you find the masculine form, it is implied that the feminine form is included.

I. 10 CLOSING ENTRY DATE

The closing entry date for the Event is:
15/10/2026 prior to the closing of the General Briefing.

I. 11 RISK

The balloon and other property of a competitor shall be at the risk of the competitor at all times. By entering an Event a competitor agrees to waive all claim for injury to himself or loss or damage to his property.

I. 12 INSURANCE

Each balloon shall be insured against all claims by third parties to a minimum of the current EU (European Union) regulations.

The competitor shall produce documentary evidence of this insurance valid for the period of the Event covering any balloon which he may fly.

SECTION II - COMPETITION DETAILS

II. 1 CONTEST AREA (7.1)

A prepared map will be available to each competitor. The official competition map is the Digital Map distributed among the pilots.

If there will be any changes, it will be published at the electronic notice board.

scales 1/50.000

Mapdatum: WGS 84

UTM grid system

Magnetic Declination: +3.46° East.

The contest area is bounded by a circle with centerpoint on coordinates 5710/7355 and a radius of 10 nautical miles (18,52km), and in the South of the map by the Northing 6100 (Whichever is closer to the centerpoint).

II. 2 OUT OF BOUNDS (7.2)

- Outside the Contest Area

- All red and blue PZ' s are considered 'out of bound – airspaces'.

Ground contact and other penalties are still be applied.

II. 3 PZ LIST (7.3)

PZ Nr.	Colour	Description	Coordinate / Area	Radius in m	Altitude in ft AMSL
PZ0	Blue	Altitude Limit outside contest area	See Section II.1		Recomended 2500 ft
PZ1	Blue	Altitude Limit inside contest area	See Section II.1	18520 (10 NM)	5500 ft
PZ2	Red	City Center of Piacenza	Trackfiles	See track	1500 ft
PZ3	Red	Prison	5721/8595	925	1500 ft
PZ4	Red	Prison	8347/9812	925	1500 ft
PZ5	Red	Nuclear power plant	6866/9134	1850	2000 ft
PZ6	Red	Heliport	4076/7335	925	2000 ft
PZ7	Red	Heliport	8558/6787	925	1500 ft
PZ8	Red	Rivers	Trackfiles	250	1000 ft
PZ9	Red	Road A1	Trackfiles	250	1500 ft
PZ10	Red	Road A21	Trackfiles	250	1500 ft
PZ11	Red	Road A1-21	Trackfiles	250	1500 ft
PZ12	Red	Railroads	Trackfiles	250	1500 ft

note: make sure you compare your maps with the official competition map, in case of doubts, the official competition map shall always prevail!

II. 4 COMMON LAUNCH AREA(S) (9.1.1)

CLA 1: Military Airport San Damiano

II. 5 COMMON LAUNCH POINT(S) (9.1.2)

5665/7374 – 480ft MSL

II. 6 LANDOWNER'S PERMISSION (9.2.2)

Competitors must ensure permission has been obtained from the landowner or occupiers before driving into, or launching from, any land which is enclosed or cultivated or apparently private or used for agricultural purposes. Penalty for infringement is up to 250 task points.

When competitors put their basket - during inflation or recovering - on the road or on the border of a land, laying out the envelope into the field, without making any damage AND without disturbing traffic AND making sure that there aren't any cattle near the balloon less than 500m, landowner's permission will not be necessary, however it will still be recommended.

II. 7 LIVESTOCK AND CROP (10.6)

Balloons shall not fly closer than 500ft from livestock or buildings containing livestock.

II. 8 DRIVING LAW (10.11)

Italian driving rules:

- built-up area - 50 km/h
- outside built-up area - 90 km/h
- dual carriageway - 110 km/h
- motorway - 130 km/h

Or as indicated by road signage.

II. 9 AIR LAW (10.14)

See the official competition map at the electronic notice board and the PZ-list.

II. 10 RECALL PROCEDURE (10.15)

WhatsApp will be used to cancel briefings, tasks and flights.

Minor changes to tasks may be given by WhatsApp when necessary.

II. 11 VERTICAL SPEED (10.2)

All logger tracks will be checked using the Balloon Safety Analyzer. Competitors exceeding the limits of vertical speed below will be penalized:

Limit	3D Proximity	Relative Vertical Speed
Limit 1	25 m	3 m/s
Limit 2	50 m	5 m/s
Limit 3	75 m	8 m/s

Limit 4: Exceeding the absolute vertical ascent speed of 8 m/s will be penalized.

Penalty points under this rule will also be used for calculating the RFS.

II. 12 GOALS SELECTED BY A COMPETITOR (12.2), GOAL CENTER (12.1)

To identify a goal on the competition map, the competitor must declare it by coordinates to be written in 4/4 format (First four digits west/east and the second four digits south/north, Easting then Northing) or one of the formats as defined in II.23.

It will not be required that the goal selected by a competitor is the intersection of two roads unless otherwise set in the task data.

- II. 13 LOCATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD (5.3.3)**
<https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=ambc2026&v=enb>
- II. 14 COMMUNICATION TIMES (5.1.5+5.2.5)**
 Replies to general inquiries or notification of replies to complaints will be posted immediately as available on the ONB.
 An electronic notification may be made using a text messaging system. Timing requirements of 5.1.5+5.2.5 will start at the time of the ONB posting.
- II. 15 PUBLICATION TIMES ON THE LAST FLYING DAY (5.1.6+5.2.6)**
 All scores, complaints, responses to complaints, protests and jury reports will be posted immediately as available. Electronic notification of postings to the ONB may be made simultaneously using a text messaging system.
- II. 16 DETAILS FOR TIME LIMITS (rest hours) (5.1.5+5.2.5)**
 The hours between 22.00hr and 04.00hr local time and 12.00hr and 14.00hr local time will be disregarded for the purpose of the time limits of complaints and protests.
- II. 17 FLIGHT CREW (2.2.2)**
 Rule 2.2.2 is not applicable. Pilots may fly their crew or other passengers unless otherwise set in the task data.
- II. 18 DETAILS FOR THE USE OF GPS LOGGERS (6)**
- a) Logger:**
 The Logger used in this Event is the FAI “Balloon Live” app with a connected Balloon Live sensor. The app is available for iOS and Android and must be installed by each competitor beforehand on his own recording device (smartphone or tablet).
 Details and instructions on how to purchase and use can be found on balloonlive.org
- b) Change the operation mode:**
 Start the app “Balloon Live” > Menu > Change mode
 Select Application Mode
Training mode
 To test the app in training flights, the mode “TRAINING” must be used to familiarise with the use of the app. In this mode, no competition data (tracks, declarations and marker drops) is stored. Press the red button at the bottom to start a new flight.
Competition Mode
 Select the profile icon at the top right to log in with your credentials from watchmefly.net. Then select the event from the available competitions. You will then be in competition mode and the latest competition data is retrieved from the server. The device must be online to do this. It is recommended to load the competition data during flight preparation. The connection of a Balloon Live sensor is mandatory for all flights.
 To start the flight, the latest flight data must also be loaded from the server. This flight data is valid for 5 hours only. Therefore it is recommended to be online within the last 5 hours before the start of the recording, or just before start, to load the flight data. Press the red button to start a new flight and transmit the track data to the server.
- c) Preconfigured setup for this competition:**
- Competition name: Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup 3rd Edition
 - Logging interval (seconds): 1
 - UTC offset (seconds): 7200
 - Allow multiple marker drops: inactive
 - Allow multiple goal declarations: active
 - Declaration format: 4/4
 - Altitude mode: Barometric Feet
 - Geodetic system: UTM WGS84
- Multiple recording devices may record the flight at the same time. The first started

recording will be considered as the primary recording and will be used for scoring.

d) Handling by competitor:

- Throughout the event the competitor is responsible for storing, charging, handling as well as the proper functioning of the devices used (phone, tablet, sensor...).
 - The Balloon Live app must be started 10-5 min before the intended take-off to allow proper GPS initialization. The recording must also be started at the same time by pulling down the red label.
 - The competitor is considered entering the competition flight according to the selected TDS with the start of the track recording and the take off.
 - During flight the recording device must remain attached to the basket (uprights or basket edge) to ensure optimum GPS reception.
 - Declarations must be made in 4/4 format unless otherwise stated in the TDS.
 - Altitudes do not need to be declared unless otherwise stated in the TDS. Altitudes must be indicated with the minimum needed digits.
 - Goal declarations are registered at the time when the DECLARE button is pushed.
 - Electronic marker drops are registered at the time when the DROP button is pushed.
 - 5-10 minutes after landing and safe balloon handling the track recording should be stopped by selecting "stop flight" under the actions menu at the top right in the Balloon Live app.
- For the transfer of the data, please see under point f) below.

e) Scoring:

- Unless otherwise stated in the TDS, an electronic mark is mandatory for each task where no valid mark has been achieved by physical marker.
- In case the same logger-goal is declared more than once the last valid declaration will be used.
- If an electronic mark is used more than once, the first mark will be used.

f) Track data:

The track data is transferred to the server automatically if a data connection is available during flight or when made available after the flight. To resume the data transfer later after the flight, reopen the app and the transmission will start within a minute. Make sure all track points are sent before closing the app or disconnecting the internet connection of the device.

A red upload icon at the top left indicates that a large number of track points still need to be uploaded. If the icon is yellow, the upload is finalizing.

Once it is green, the entire track has been transferred to the server and the app can be closed.

The track must be transferred to the server latest 6 hours after the flight has been started. For tracks that are transferred later, the competitor will be penalised by 10 competition points per minute (or part) late in the last task.

The track data remains the property of the competitor but may be made available to the public for live tracking. Tracks where competitors have given explicit permission will be published.

The publication will have a minimum of 10 min delay. No publication of a track should be made before the end of the launch period.

Anonymized tracks may be used by CIA for analysis.

g) Recommendations:

- Only use recording devices in online mode as the accuracy of the recording is increased and the data transferred immediately.
- Use a powerbank to avoid problems with the battery capacity of your device.

Failure to follow the instructions 'Details for the use of GPS Loggers' may be penalized without warning.

II. 19 **BALLOON SIZE** (3.3)

Rule 3.3 is applied with exception on request before the start of the event.

II. 20 **ALTITUDE** (14.6.4)

All altitudes in this event are described in feet AMSL.

The logger's measured Barometric altitude will be used for scoring.

II. 21 **2D/3D SCORING METHODS** (12.18)

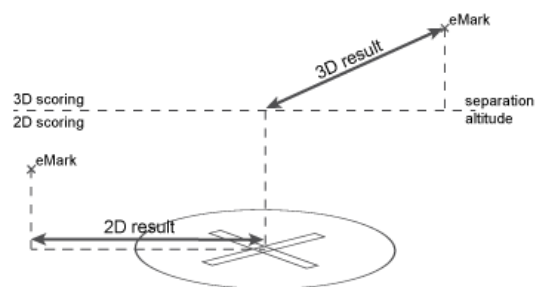
The separation altitude between 2D and 3D scoring in this event is 700ft MSL unless otherwise stated on the TDS. TDS always prevail.

When goals or targets on the ground are used, results based on electronic marks will be the:

- 3D-distance to the point at the separation altitude above the goal/target if the electronic mark is above the separation altitude

or

- 2D-distance to the goal/target if the electronic mark is at or below the separation altitude.



When goals/targets above the ground are used, results based on electronic marks will be the 3D-distance.

II. 22 **COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

The competition will be conducted using markers in MMA and logger-scoring by Balloon Live App and Balloon Live Sensor only.

II. 23 **MAP COORDINATES** (7.8)

The basic map coordinate of a UTM map with WGS84 datum is:

32K (Zone reference, where 32=zone and K=latitude band)

458565 (6 digit Easting)

5552261 (7 digit Northing)

To identify a point on the competition map, the coordinates must be written in one of the following formats:

6-7 format: this complies with the standard UTM grid format. First six digits easting and second, seven digits northing. (e.g. 458565-5552261 alternatively 0458565-5552261)

4-4 format: this format uses one time five-digits and one time 4 digits. First five digits easting and the second four digits northing. (e.g. 4585-5226), leaving out the 1m digit.

Coordinates may be written in one of the following formats:

Easting's may be separated from Northing's by: a carriage return (= new line), by the minus character or the slash character. In all cases the parts of the coordinates shall be clearly separated and with Easting's first.

II. 24 AXMER VERSION

AXMER 2026

Extra information:

Emergency & retrieve number: 0032 477 16 02 73 (Jonas Maes, Event Director)

Extension of time: 0032 477 16 02 73 (Jonas Maes, Event Director)

Logger or scoring: 0044 787 63 43 994 (Zuz Bryant, Chief Scorer)

Sunrise: 07.40hrs LT – Sunset 18.30hrs LT -- Obligated Frequency: 122.255 MHz