

General Briefing notes RGC 2026

Staff introduction

Schedule (changes)

- Briefing starts at 5.15
- Return of markers before 10.30 at hotel or at propane
- Propane available from 9.00 - 12.00
- Rest period (22.00 – 7.00)
- Shortened time limits

Competitions:

- RGC
- State Championship
- Regional Championship
- NEL

Map

- Map area
- Contest area
- Out of Bounds: inner circle of Class C airspace
- CLA
- Navigation Software

PZ's

- Be aware that it may be different from previous maps / fiesta.
- Changes to PZ
 - PZ 215 was Yellow is “purple” (NO take off – landing allowed)
 - PZ 112 Propane is changed from red to yellow
 - PZ 132 Wildlife refuge red 5400 ft (not 6000 ft)
- Blue PZ: 12,000ft

Airspace

- LOA
- Waiver
- ABQ procedures / communication
- Double Eagle tower phone number 505-352-5595
- CoA form needs to be signed before flight. We will send a message around 4.30

- No change to the area of the map depicted as fly below 6000 ft for sunport airport

Rules:

- Changes (2026 vs 2025):
 - Rules 12.5 and 12.1.2 Target not displayed
 - Rule 12.5 should reference to rule 12.22.3 (not 12.18.3)
 - Change in rule 8.10 supplementary info
- Rule II.11 Vertical speed limits

The limits apply to a certain difference in vertical speed at a 3D-distance between balloons.

 - Limit 1: more than 3m/s at less than 25m
 - Limit 2: more than 5m/s at less than 50m
 - Limit 3: more than 8m/s at less than 75m
 - Limit 4: more than 8m/s vertical ascend speed

Limit 4 must be violated for a consecutive 10s or more to be triggered.
Thus except for Limit 4 the limits are set as relative speeds between balloons. The limits trigger what is considered a dangerous situation. The actual penalty is then applied only based on the behaviour of each balloon alone. It is possible that a dangerous situation triggers no penalty as both balloons alone are flying within the limits of the table below.
- Rule II.20 / 12.5.3 Lost marker. Pay \$20 before next briefing.

Communications

- WhatsApp
 - One way communication
 - Groups:
 - Weather: Pibals, weather sheet and weather updates
 - Competition: go / no go, task or flight cancelations, safety announcements, other flight or target related information
 - Scoring: Publication of scores, requests to pilots
 - Test
 - Questions
 - Scoring related: Elisa Talbert
 - Landowner related: Neida Bueno
 - Safety issues: Neida Bueno / John Pata
 - Complaints / Protests: Via WhatsApp to Andrew Baird, Sanne Haarhuis and Jeff Ashworth

Jury duties

- 4.3 Jury Duties and composition
- Change in HACD policies, procedures and regulations in 2026 in anticipation of that we assigned a jury president.
- Jury President Maury Sullivan (remote)
- In accordance with nationals rules for Jury composition we have a list of eligible (active BFA / HACD members) pilots to be in the pool or jury members.
- Jury Pool form has to be filled out by the end of the briefing
- If all members of the pool should have a conflict with the current protest, the Safety officer and / or another staff member shall complete the jury.

Balloon Live App

- Refresh flight when flight is live
- Start / stop flight
- Fill out FRF
- Test run

Tasks

- Target coordinates on TDS are correct. List is just for reference and coordinates might change.
- Angles if set will be set in Grid North unless otherwise specified
- Examples of tasks