

Received 09:41 8/5/23

Glacy

Monday 8th May 2023

Director

23rd National Ballooning Championships
Northam, WA

Dear Sir,

Reference: Flight 1, am. hours Mon 8 May

I hereby register a complaint concerning scoring of Tasks 1 & 2 on two grounds.

1. On observing very difficult launch conditions where safe operations were at risk of causing an incident or accident, the organising officials chose to not cancel tasks 1 & 2, despite wind conditions at launch deteriorating:
facts
a. all balloons were ~~to~~ tipping over during cold and hot inflation.
b. some balloons dragged on take off
c. most balloons experienced significant difficulty staying buoyant due to excessive "curving" from the strong surface breeze
d. a number of balloons (four or more) suffered damage from burning
e. one balloon suffered a broken launch rope
f. one balloon suffered a near miss when dragged on take off
2. That two balloons, competitors 2 & 14, repositioned after initial arrival, to a position downwind of & close to balloons already established for inflation, preventing the already established balloons from hot inflating (due to the risk of drag and/or requirement to move the vehicle for a safe running take-off) and taking off. This delay shrank the available take off window, reduced the scoring periods available for both tasks one and two, and put safe take-offs @ risk of causing a collision on take-off, if the affected pilots had made minor

errors from ideal technique. This risk was realised when competitor 18 dragged very close to another balloon (17), narrowly avoiding vehicle impact.

3. Remedy sought:

On the grounds the officials did not:

a. Act to cancel when conditions were not suited to a safe take off, and

b. Act to order take off positions to mitigate the risk of impact or pause take offs until risks could be mitigated.

and therefore

c. allowed competitors to be disadvantaged for time and ^{due} caution by positioning and not taking off and/or not hot inflating

I seek the scores for tasks 1 & 2 be voided and not admissible / nor declared as counting towards the ~~decisions~~ ^{winning} of the National Championship or the declaration of champion

Yours faithfully

Damian Glewist
Competitor B.