

COMPLAINT OF PILOT #43

Received at 20:23 24/08/2023

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "flynpaddy1 (null)" <flynpaddy1@aol.com>

Date: August 24, 2023 at 5:08:14 PM GMT+2

To: Paddy Nilz <flynpaddy1@aol.com>

Subject: Complaint task 23

This is a formal written complaint by Pilot #43 (Patrick Nilz Jr.) in regards to task 23.

As we all know, the event director sent a text message at 6:45 AM this morning changing the goal, MMA, and marker information for task 23 JDG from a gravity marker drop MMA 50 meters to a logger only that "should be 500 ft" and the changes were due to "landowner issues".

The objective of this written complaint is to have task 23 cancelled and the scores removed from the overall standings.

Personal unfair impacts to me (pilot 43) that justify throwing out this task:

- I had launched approx. 1 hour prior to the text being sent. I had achieved results on two tasks already and was mid-flight focused on this task and executing my strategy to achieve the best result for a MMA on the ground.
- While the text from ED changing the task was sent at 6:45 AM, me and/or my crew did not see the message until 6:51 AM. This is evidenced by the time stamp in the ED chat group. I dropped my logger marker approx. 7:01 on task 23. I had less than 10 minutes to change my course of action.
 - The strategy for the original MMA gravity drop had me wanting to approach the goal down low from a more right to left direction. Adjusting the task strategy for a 500 ft logger drop less than 10 minutes from the the target would be disadvantageous as it would shift me more right of the target as I climbed. It means I would have been in an unoptimal position having to course correct much more drstically than someone who was much further behind in the flight path and had more distance and time to adjust their approach.
 - I did not even fully comprehend the goal of the task and how to achieve the best result at the time I flew across the target. You can see my crew chiefs texts asking for clarification with time stamps. At 6:58 he asks "so cross target at exactly 500 ft??" . At this point I am 3 minutes from the target. The ED does not respond before I drop my logger marker at 7:01. Because the original text said "should be 500 ft" and implied it was due to "landowner issues", my interpretation was that i should be AT LEAST 500 ft high to avoid landowner issues and treat it sort of like a PZ. So in effect, I had to fly a task that was not clarified in briefing, and the ED did not answer my questions before I was forced to go fly it for a result.
- If I knew i only had to fly a logger mark at 500 feet rather than to a cross and drop (low is more beneficial) I could have changed my donut task 22. Pilots that launched much later had a distinct advantage on this task as well and this is unfair to me.

Matters of principle for the spirit of fair competition that justify cancelling this task:

- Changing a task after the launch window has drastic consequences and impacts pilots all differently and unequally. Some pilots had been in the air for about an hour and completed two tasks. It is possible that others were still on the ground.
- Not all pilots (39/45) acknowledged they were ok in flight that they had received the text message.
- The event director was ambiguous when saying "should be 500 foot" paired with "landowner issues". This could be interpreted to mean be at least 500 ft minimum altitude for landowner preference like a PZ. Unclear task setting means pilots do not know how to achieve the best result. This is the same as releasing us to fly from briefing without first answering all the questions of a briefing.
- For the reasons stated above I call for task 23 to be cancelled. Cancelling 22 & 23 is an acceptable result in my view as well, but my complaint is primarily for the task that was ambiguous, and the task for which I did not have enough time to adjust my plan, nor to execute for the best possible result.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Patrick Nilz - Pilot #43

Sent from my iPad