

General Briefing Notes

**Avon Auditorium, Bridgeley Community Centre, 91 Wellington Street,
14:30 hrs – Sunday 3 September 2023.**

Attendance at the General Briefing is compulsory for all entrants and officials. The Official Competitor List will be compiled from a roll call of entrants at the General Briefing.

1. INTRODUCTIONS & OFFICIAL WELCOME

Northam Ballooning Events

2. KEY OFFICIALS

Gary Lacey

- Event Director: Gary Lacey (AUS)
- Deputy Director: Les Purfield (GBR)
- Steward: Garry Lockyer (CAN)
- Steward: Hiromori Soejima (JPN)
- Safety Officer: John Wallington (AUS)
- Meteorologist: Don Whitford (AUS)
- Chief Scorer: Steve Ireland (AUS)
- Target Team Chiefs: Ian & Carol Benning (AUS)
- Technical Support: Andrew Robertson (AUS)
- Jury President: Debbie Spaeth (USA)
- Jury Member: Hiromi Furukawa (JPN)
- Jury Member: Ruth Wilson (AUS)

Contact information is available on your ID tag.

3. LANDOWNER RELATIONS

Brendan Parker and Gerard Sermon

4. SAFETY BRIEFING - CASA PERMIT, RADIO PROCEDURES & REFUELLING

John Wallington

Note:- You have been provided with an electronic overlay of known power lines. It is recommended that you display these on your maps. However, no responsibility is accepted by the Event Organisers for any omissions, inaccuracies or errors in these data, or any reliance placed on them; any reliance placed on these data is at your own risk.

The Air Display Approval prevents the carriage of "Passengers" unless approved in writing. You are approved to carry passengers if you consider that they are necessary for the safe operation of the

flight. Ground Crew will need to keep a list of the details of each person in the aircraft for each flight.

Pilots should maintain a listening watch on the Northam (YNTM) Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) – 124.20 MHz. Please make the necessary calls and respond to other traffic in the area.

Please be aware that Northam Airfield is an active airfield, and nobody should be airside without permission. Always remain outside of the taxiway and runway areas.

5. WEATHER INFORMATION

Don Whitford – An overview for the event period.

Roll Call

6. THE RULES

II.2 - OUT OF BOUNDS (7.2)

All Blue and Red PZs are out of bounds.

II.3 - PZ LIST (7.3)

A list of all PZs was posted on the Electronic Notice Board (ENB) on 18 August 2023. Diagrams of each PZ have been provided, together with .plt track files.

Please note Yellow PZs 6, 7, 8 & 9. These are biosecurity areas. If you have to land in any of these areas due to an emergency, stay where you are, do not allow your crew to enter. Contact Brendan Parker or Gerard Sermon before anyone enters these areas.

II.4 COMMON LAUNCH AREA(S) (9.1.1) & II.5 COMMON LAUNCH POINT(S) (9.1.2)

Waypoint files of all CLPs have been provided on the ENB at Watchmefly.net

II.10 - RECALL PROCEDURE (10.15)

The recall procedure will be via WhatsApp. All competitors and Crew Chiefs must register their mobile number with Andrew Robertson. From the close of the General Briefing, the “*WWHABC2023*” WhatsApp Group should only be used by the Event Officials for providing information vital to the operation of the competition. This group is not a public forum.

II.12 - GOALS SELECTED BY A COMPETITOR

Unless otherwise stated on the Task Data Sheet (TDS), goals selected by a competitor must be from the list of goals pre-published on the ENB at Watchmefly.net

Each of these goals is close to the intersection of two or more roads identifiable on the competition map. When you select one of these goals using the three digit number, your result will be calculated as the distance between the loggermark for that task and the 4/4 grid coordinate provided in the Official Goal List. Goals from the Official Goal List are on the ground and scoring will as defined in Rule II.22, with a separation altitude of 1200 ft, unless otherwise stated on the TDS.

II.13 - LOCATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

The Official Notice Board is the Electronic Notice Board (ENB) at [WatchMeFly | Event](#)

Results will be published on the Official Notice Board – time periods for complaints start from the time stated on the Official Results that are published on the ENB – The Chief Scorer will notify competitors via WhatsApp when Official Results are published on the ENB.

If needed, a fall-back paper notice board will be located at the Northam Recreation Centre. This fall-back option will only be used if there is a complete failure of the ENB.

II.17 - DETAILS FOR THE USE OF GPS LOGGERS (6)

Full instructions for setting up the Balloon Live Sensor/Balloon Live App and WatchmeFly have been provided via the ENB. At the end of the flight be sure to “Stop” the flight and check that data is uploaded.

II.22 - 2D/3D SCORING METHODS (12.22.2)

The separation altitude between 2D and 3D scoring in this event will be 1200ft above mean sea level (AMSL) unless otherwise stated on the Task Data Sheet.

II.24 – MAP COORDINATES

Goals selected by the Event Director will be in 4-4 format or will be a three-digit number from the Official Goal List.

Goals selected by a competitor must be in 4-4 format or a three-digit goal number from the Official Goal List, unless otherwise stated on the TDS.

2.11 – RESPONSIBILITY

Competitors remain completely responsible for the safe operation of their aerostats at all stages of inflation, launch, flight and landing. They must ensure that their equipment, their crew, and their own level of skill and experience are suitable for the conditions in their own judgement.

3.8 and 3.10.2 – VEHICLES

All crew vehicles must be clearly identified on opposite side with competition numbers.

6.11 - FLIGHT REPORT FORM (FRF)

Each competitor will be provided with a FRF for each flight. The FRF **must be completed and signed** by the competitor and returned to competition officials who will be at the Northam Aeroclub next to refuelling. Any unused markers after must also be returned with the FRF.

The information on the FRF, particularly timing information and estimated results, greatly assist the scoring team to produce timely and accurate results

8.7.1 - TASK BRIEFING

Task briefings will be held at 05:15 and 15:15 in the Northam Recreation Centre. These times may need to be adjusted during the Event. A map of parking and where to enter is on the ENB. **DO NOT** enter the Recreation Centre through the glass sliding doors prior to Briefings.

If you wish to have a Team Manager present at Task Briefing you must provide me with their name and the signatures of all competitors in the team indicating that they all agree to that person being the Team Manager.

9.14 – LAUNCH MASTERS

Launch masters will not normally be used.

10.2 - DANGEROUS FLYING

All logger tracks will be checked using the Balloon Safety Analyzer. Competitors exceeding the limits of vertical speed outlined in the Rules will be penalized having regard to the Competition Operations Handbook (2023). Please note Rule 10.1.2 regarding vertical speed.

12.3 - DECLARATIONS BY COMPETITORS

Declaring the altitude is only necessary if required by the TDS.

12.5 - TARGET

Note: The target will normally be displayed within 100m of the given goal coordinates, as close as possible to the coordinates.

12.17.4 – SCORING PERIOD

Official sunset is 18:00h



Gary Lacey
Event Director
3 September 2023

FEES FOR LOST/DAMAGED ITEMS

- Marker: 30 AUD