



2019 CANOWINDRA BALLOON CHALLENGE AIR DISPLAY APPROVAL

I, Karen Patricia Blair, Certificate Team Manager, Regulatory Services & Surveillance Division, Aviation Group, Sydney Region, a delegate of CASA, make this instrument:

- (a) under the following sections of the Civil Aviation Orders [**CAO**]:
 - (i) Section 29.4 subsection 2 [*air displays*]; and
 - (ii) Section 29.5 subsection 3 [*dropping site*].
- (b) under the following provisions of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 [**CAR 1988**]:
 - (i) Subregulation 150 (2) [*dropping of articles*]; and
 - (ii) Subregulation 156 (1) [*flying over public gatherings*]; and
 - (iii) Paragraph 157 (4)(b) [*low flying*].

Karen Blair
Certificate Team Manager
Regulatory Services & Surveillance Division
Sydney Region

April 2019

Approval to conduct an air display

1. Application

This instrument applies to a series of air displays of free flight hot air balloons [the **displays**] at Canowindra, NSW, over an eleven-day period during April 2019.

2. Organising Body

The **Organising Body**, in accordance with Subsection 1 of CAO 29.4, shall be Canowindra Challenge Incorporated (ARN 800445).

3. Personnel appointed by the Organising Body

- (a) The Display Organiser shall be Graham John Kerr (ARN 412154).
- (b) The Display Coordinator shall be Adam John Barrow (ARN 526818).

Note 1: These permissions and approvals relate only to activities under Australian civil aviation legislation. They do not give the Display Organiser any rights over the land or water over which the displays are conducted or affect any rights that any person may have in relation to injury to persons or damage to property caused directly or indirectly by the displays. Further, they do not exempt the Display Organiser from any requirement to notify relevant authorities and agencies of the intention to conduct the displays, and to comply with any requirements specified by those authorities and agencies.

4. Approval

I approve the Display Organiser, under subsection 2 of CAO 29.4, to conduct the Displays at Canowindra, NSW, in accordance with the application and details submitted to CASA on 7 March 2019.

5. Permission

I permit the pilot-in-command of a hot air balloon participating in the displays:

- (a) under subregulation 150 (2) of CAR 1988 and under subsection 3 of CAO 29.5, to drop markers within 5 nautical miles [**NM**] of Cowra aerodrome, NSW (YCWR); and
- (b) under subregulation 156 (1) of CAR 1988, to fly the balloon over the public gathering associated with displays; and
- (c) under paragraph 157 (4)(b) of CAR 1988, to fly the balloon at a height lower than 1000 feet above ground level over a populous area.

6. Conditions

These permissions and approval are subject to the conditions mentioned in the Schedule.

7. Expiry

This instrument is valid during daylight hours between Friday, 19 April 2019 and Monday, 29 April 2019 inclusive and expires at the end of that period as if it had been revoked by another instrument.

Schedule – Conditions

1. General conditions

- (a) The Display Organiser must take steps to ensure that all conditions of this instrument are complied with and that the displays are conducted safely, in accordance with CAO 29.4, and in a manner that does not endanger persons or property on the ground or in the air.
- (b) The display must be conducted in visual meteorological conditions [**VMC**] only.
- (c) Allocation of pilots and balloons to participate in the display shall be at the discretion of the Display Organiser and subject to the conditions mentioned in Condition 7.
- (d) All operations must be conducted in accordance with:
 - (i) AIP ENR 5.5 Section 3 [*Balloon operations*];
 - (ii) CAO 95.54 [*Manned balloons – private operations*], unless otherwise approved;
- (e) The Display Organiser should also consider the recommendations contained in the following publications:
 - (i) Balloon Event Guidelines, issued by the Balloon Federation of America;
 - (ii) Air Display Administration and Procedure Manual, issued by CASA;
 - (iii) The Operations Manual of the Australian Ballooning Federation Inc. (ABF);
 - (iv) FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) Safety Officer Handbook;
 - (v) CAAP 157-1(0) [*Balloon flight over populous areas*];
 - (vi) CAAP 92-3 (1) [*Guidelines for manned balloon launching and landing areas*].
- (f) All necessary navigation, VHF communications, and safety equipment required for operation in the relevant airspace must be carried and available for use as required.
- (g) Full access to all areas of the display arena must be provided to officers of CASA and of the ABF. These areas include Canowindra Showground, other balloon launching areas remote from the main arena, and any target or dropping areas to be used during the event. The Organising Body, the Display Organiser and the Display Coordinator shall take reasonable measures to ensure that this access is provided.
- (h) A post-display report, using CASA Form 694, must be completed and returned to the CASA Sydney Region Office (SydneyRegion@casa.gov.au) within 14 days of the conclusion of the display.

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2. Briefing of balloon pilots

- (a) A general briefing of all pilots participating in the display must be conducted prior to each day's flying in accordance with CAO 29.4 paragraph 5.3 at a date, time and location determined by the Display Organiser.
- (b) The general briefings must be conducted by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser.
- (c) Pilots unable to attend the general briefing must be briefed individually by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser.
- (d) A pilot must not participate as pilot-in-command of a balloon in the display unless he or she has attended a general briefing or has been individually briefed by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser.
- (e) The Display Organiser, or a person nominated by the Display Organiser, must ensure that the requirements of Condition 7 of the Schedule are complied with and must verify the documentation of each pilot and balloon prior to authorising participation in the displays.
- (f) The Display Organiser must take reasonable steps to ensure that all pilots are conversant with the contents of this instrument.
- (g) A Participant Signature Sheet, such as CASA Form 695, should be used to ensure compliance with Condition 2 (d) of his instrument.

3. Briefing of ground crew

- (a) The pilot-in-command of each balloon participating in a display must conduct a pre-flight briefing for the ground crew assigned to the balloon.
- (b) The briefing must be provided to the crew chief, balloon line attendants and any other persons with safety-related responsibilities for the operation of the balloon.
- (c) The briefing must be conducted prior to each day's flying and must take place after the general briefing referred to in Condition 2 (a).
- (d) The briefing must include details of the duties and responsibilities of each ground crew member relevant to their area of involvement.

4. Manoeuvre, height and airspace limitations

- (a) Balloon launching or landing areas, including departure and approach paths, must be located and be of such dimensions that balloons may be operated with minimal risk of injury to occupants of the balloons or spectators on the ground, and with low risk of injury to livestock or damage to property.
- (b) Balloons launched from sites in or adjacent to towns or populous areas must maintain a positive rate of climb until reaching 500 feet AGL.
- (c) Except when taking-off or landing, or because of stress of weather, the pilot-in-command of a balloon participating in a display must not fly a balloon over a populous area at a height below 500 feet above ground level.
- (d) The pilot-in-command of a balloon participating in the displays should, to the greatest extent practicable, comply with the recommendations contained in Civil Aviation Advisory Publication [CAAP] 157-1(0) in relation to balloon flight over populous areas.
- (e) Pilots must broadcast intentions and maintain a listening watch on the YCWR CTAF, 126.7 MHz, when operating within the vicinity of Cowra aerodrome.
- (f) In spite of Condition 1 (f), a balloon not equipped with serviceable VHF communications equipment or not carrying a pilot qualified to use the equipment must not fly above 5000 feet AMSL or within 10NM of a certified or registered aerodrome unless the balloon is flown in company with, and remains in visual contact with, another balloon equipped with serviceable VHF communications equipment and the pilot of the other balloon is qualified to use the equipment.

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5. Launching of balloons

- (a) The pilot in command of a balloon participating in the display:
 - (i) shall nominate a balloon line attendant assigned to the balloon to act as crew chief.
 - (ii) must not use a launch area adjacent to another balloon in adverse wind conditions.
- (b) The crew chief must:
 - (i) function under the direction of the pilot in command of the balloon;
 - (ii) be identifiable, such as by wearing distinctive apparel that is easily recognised;
 - (iii) be located to provide an unobstructed view of the balloon launch area and of the expected departure path of the balloon;
 - (iv) ensure that visual sight lines above, upwind and downwind of the launch area are not obscured by trees or temporary structures.

Note 2: One of the functions of the crew chief will be to enhance the pilot's situational and traffic awareness so that the pilot may launch the balloon with minimal risk of collision with another balloon.

Note 3: Although the crew chief will indicate when the launch area is clear and that the balloon may be released, the pilot in command is ultimately responsible for the decision to launch the balloon.

6. Pilots and balloons to which this instrument applies

- (a) Each pilot participating in the display must hold a Private Pilot (Balloon) Certificate issued by the ABF, or foreign equivalent with validation to fly in Australia, and sufficient recent experience to act as pilot in command of a balloon participating in the display.
- (b) A balloon being flown in the display must:
 - (i) have a valid certificate of registration from the country of registration; and
 - (ii) display registration markings from the country of registration; and
 - (iii) have a current balloon log book and annual inspection or other documentation that can be used to verify the balloon's airworthiness.
- (c) Each balloon must be operated in accordance with the conditions and limitations described in the flight manual for the particular balloon.
- (d) The Display Organiser, or a person nominated by the Display Organiser, must verify the documentation of each pilot and balloon prior to authorising participation in the displays.

7. Dropping of markers

- (a) Markers may only be dropped from balloons that are participating in the display.
- (b) Markers, which must only be carried inside the balloon basket, must be weighted with no more than 80 grams of ballast so they will drop readily away from the balloon basket.
- (c) Markers must be dropped only in a clear area associated with a target and remote from any populous area.
- (d) Unless markers can be dropped by the pilot-in-command from his normal station and without affecting his/her ability to control the balloon, an additional crew member must be carried to act as a dispatcher [the **dispatcher**] for the purpose of dropping the markers.
- (e) Effective communication must be maintained between the pilot-in-command and the dispatcher during a dropping operation; a marker may be dropped only with the approval of the pilot-in-command.
- (f) The pilot-in-command shall ensure that the dispatcher is briefed in relation to their duties.
- (g) The Display Organiser must ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that spectators and officials remain clear of target areas when a marker is being dropped.
- (h) The pilot-in-command of a balloon participating on the display may descend to a height lower than 500 feet above ground level [**AGL**] for the purposes of dropping a marker, provided the balloon remains clear of populous areas while manoeuvring to drop the marker.

Note 4: Markers for the purposes of this instrument are described as small satchels of sand, with a streamer attached to the satchel for identification purposes.

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