



1st Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup

Version1

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Introduction

The rules and regulations for the Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup consist of:

- These competition rules (partly based on FAI Gordon Bennett rules)
- FAI Sporting Code, General Section and Section 1 (Balloons and Airships)

1 Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup Details

1.1 Title

This event shall be known as “1st Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup”

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup are:

- a. to determine the team covering the greatest distance within Italy
- b. to acknowledge and develop the cooperation of Aeronautica Militare Italia and the FAI sporting activities
- c. to promote the development of the sport of gas ballooning
- d. to promote international relations and friendships among all ballooning nations and pilots.

1.3 Definition of the winner

The winner shall be the team covering the greatest distance over Italian land mass

1.4 Organisers

The Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup is organized by Difesa e Servizi S.p.a. together with the collaboration of Aeronord Aerostati as technical partner

1.5 Correspondence

All entries and official correspondence have to be addressed to:

Aeronord S.a.S

Via Mazzini, 33 – 20099 S.S Giovanni (Mi)

+390226227112

info@aeronord.it

1.6 Personnel

Event Director	Tomas Hora
Safety Officer	Hilmar Lorenz
Jury (president)	Eugenius Komar
Jury (member)	Jan Gruszecky
Jury (member)	Jens Berger

1.7 Date and place

The Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup will be held in Piacenza

The latitude and longitude of the launch platform will be given at the general briefing.

The Aeronautica Militare Balloon Cup will be held on Oct 10th through Oct 13th General Briefing / Closing Ceremony

1.8 Times

Unless otherwise specified all times are in Local Time of the event location.

1.9 Language

The official language of the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup shall be English.

1.10 Documents

The following documents may be inspected when pilots register on arrival at the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup:

- a. For the PIC
 - (1) Pilot Certificate valid to fly a gas balloon
 - (2) Pilot Log Book
 - (3) Medical Statement if part of the requirements for the license
 - (4) Radio License
 - (5) Passport or other Identity Document
- b. For the balloon
 - (1) Balloon Registration Document
 - (2) Balloon Airworthiness Documents and Inspection Records
 - (3) Certificate of Insurance
- c. Valid electronic or paper aeronautical charts for the competition area.

2 Entry Conditions

2.1 Participation

The Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup is open to all gas balloon pilots who received an invitation.

2.2 Pilot licences and experience

The PIC

- must hold a valid Lighter-than-air (LTA) license (free balloon)
- must hold a valid license to be pilot in command of a gas balloon
- must be able to communicate with Air Traffic Control in English
- must have sufficient experience in operating the navigation aids.
- must be authorized to fly at night.

2.3 Acceptance of rules and regulations

Pilots are required to know, understand, accept and abide by the Sporting Code and the rules and regulations for the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup.

2.4 Rights

Through the registration, the pilots give full permission to the local organizers, affiliated parties and its authorized representatives, to use any picture, movie, data or sound recording of the pilots, the balloon, equipment and team members for news, advertising, promotional media and commercial use.

2.5 Insurance

Pilots must provide proof that their balloons are insured for the required legal minimum for third party liability during the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup.

Insurance cannot be purchased from the organizer.

3 Balloon Qualifications

3.1 Definition of a balloon

For the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup a gas balloon is defined as an aircraft lighter than air, supported statically in the air, with no means of propulsion by any power source and which obtains the buoyancy solely as a result of the difference in weight of the lifting gas and the surrounding air.

3.2 Airworthiness

Aerostats flown in the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup must have current certificates of registration and airworthiness, or in place of the latter, an equivalent document from the recognized authority of the nation concerned. The organizers are empowered to reject any aerostat which in their opinion is not of a reasonable standard of airworthiness.

3.3 Flags

Each balloon may carry a flag of a country of the teams choice.

3.4 Ballast

Only water or fine sand may be used as ballast. Jettison of anything other than sand or water should only be done in case of an emergency and in no case if there is the possibility of harm to people or animals.

3.5 Transport

Transport of the balloon to the launch field in Piacenza and after landing to the home city of the balloon is at the expense and responsibility of the pilots. Balloons should be at the launch field by 10.10.2024 at 22:00.

4 Instruments, equipment and other

4.1 Flight instruments

Each balloon must carry at least;

- (1) Barometric Altimeter
- (2) Variometer
- (3) VHF air-band radio with 8.33kHz channel spacing, minimum 5 watt radio plus back up radio
- (4) Strobe light with minimum brightness required for aircraft
- (5) GPS with activated position and altitude recording function with a maximum logging interval of 5 minutes.
- (6) Life raft or survival suites shall be carried for any anticipated flight over large bodies of water
- (7) Transponder Mode S
- (8) ELT: With a Digital 406 MHz S-ELT, PLB or EPIRB which should contain an integrated analog (121.5 MHz) homing beacon and be registered with Cospas-Sarsat.
Note: SPOT, InReach or similar satellite tracking devices are not a valid ELT/EPIRB.

4.2 Tracker

Each balloon will carry an official GPS logger/tracking device provided by the organizer. Organizers will publish balloon positions with altitudes during the flight.

4.3 Equipment

There is no restriction in the use of navigation aids and flight control instruments. Every balloon must be equipped with sufficient oxygen as required by the applicable aviation law or the flight manual.

Each balloon should carry a backup GPS that would constitute a back-up tracking log in case of tracker failure. Transponders shall be turned on before launch and kept on in all air space.

4.4 OTHER

Every balloon must be equipped with a filling hose 10 meters long and with the necessary amount of sand bags for inflation and flight.

At launch each balloon must carry at least 10 liters of water for ballasting over sensitive areas.

5 Races and Prizes

5.1 Result

The final classification will be based on the greatest distance covered within the borders of Italian land. The distance will be measured by determination of the arc of the great circle on the WGS84 ellipsoid. The reference point is the coordinate of the launch platform.

5.2 Prize

First place will receive a bottle of wine.

5.3 Publication of results

The official race results will be published within 24 hours after the Event Director has been notified of the landing of the last balloon.

6 Flight Rules

6.1 Flight conditions

All flights will be carried out under Visual Flight Rules.

6.2 Launch

Weather permitting the balloons will launch on 11.10.2024 after 18:00lcl

A delay to 12.10.2024 23:59 may be used if necessary to assure a safe and successful race.

Launch will happen in a launch order drawn during the general briefing.

Officials will determine the lay-out of the launch field, the filling order and expected time window for inflation and launch.

Permission to launch does not relieve the pilots of complete responsibility for his take-off, including adequate lift to clear all obstacles and other balloons and to continue safely in flight.

6.3 Airspace

The race takes place within the borders of Italian Airspace. A flight beyond this borders is possible on pilots own performance and not covered by this event.

Pilots must be familiar with and abide by the applicable aviation regulations. Pilots are required to log all ATC clearances (ATC log) given en route; these must be returned to the Event Director in a sealed envelope for investigation in case of suspected violations.

Infringements of Aviation regulations are in the first instance a matter between the pilot and the Aviation Authorities.

6.4 Penalties

In a case where a technical infringement of the rules or failure to comply with requirements caused by mistake or inadvertence has occurred and no advantage has been attained, the competitor concerned will, as a guide, be penalized by a reduction of not less than 2% of the best distance.

Serious infringement, such as dangerous or hazardous actions or repetitions of lesser infringements will be penalized by a reduction of not less than 5% of the best distance.

Unsportsmanlike behaviour which includes deliberate attempts to deceive or mislead officials, intentional airspace violations, falsification of documents or repeated serious infringements of rules should, as a guide, result in disqualification.

7 Scoring

7.1 Scoring position

The point at which the teams track shows the last time over Italian land mass (including islands). No competition landing is necessary.

Momentary contact with the ground or water does not constitute a landing, nor does contact between a trail rope and the ground, unless the aerostat is moored.

One intermediate landing shorter than 15 minutes is permitted.

7.2 Reporting

The approximate scoring position shall be communicated to the Command Center or Event Director via whatsapp.

Information about landing must be given to the competition office at the latest one hour after landing.

8 Communication, Complaints and protests

8.1 Communication

The Event Director must define at the General Briefing the ways of communication. The competitor is required to monitor the communication on a regular basis.

8.2 Complaint

Complaints concerning any matter have to be made to the Event Director or handed in at the Command Center. Complaints must be in writing and in English and will receive a written reply. Pilots are allowed to email their complaint to the Event Director.

8.3 Protest

If dissatisfied with the Event Director's reply to a complaint, a competitor has the right to make a protest to the International Jury. Protests have to be handed in at the Competition Centre to an official who will record the time of receipt or send in by email. Protests shall be accompanied by a deposit of €100

A competitor presenting a protest may make a verbal presentation of his case in addition to his written statement. The verbal presentation may not exceed fifteen minutes, except by leave of the Jury. A competitor not fluent in English may be assisted by an interpreter.

The deposit will be returned only when the protest is upheld.

8.4 Time limit

The time limit for complaints and protests is 2 hours after publication of the official results.

8.5 Official Media

Media coverage is very important for the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup. The competitor should work with to the official media team and provide media content and interviews before, during and after flight to the best of their capability.

9 Liability and Safety

9.1 Waiver

By entering the Aeronautica Militare Gas Balloon Cup the pilots waive any right of action against the organizer, the event officials, the owner of any site and their respective members, employees or personnel for any loss or damage sustained by him in consequence of any act or omission on their part or on the part of other pilots.

9.2 Loss and damage of the pilots properties

The balloon and other property of a competitor shall be at the risk of the competitor at all times. By entering the Cup a competitor agrees to waive all claims for injury to himself or loss or damage to his property.

9.3 Liability to third parties

By entering the Cup a competitor assumes all liability for injury, loss or damage to third parties or their property and agrees to indemnify the organizers in respect thereof.

9.4 Pilot to be responsible for safe operation of his balloon

A competitor remains completely responsible for the safe operation of his balloon at all stages of inflation, launch, flight and landing. He must ensure that his equipment, his crew and his own level of skill and experience are suitable for the conditions. No flight is mandatory, and all take-offs are at the option of the pilot.

9.5 Information provided in good faith

All meteorological reports and forecasts and other safety or navigational information is provided in good faith for the guidance of competitors. Officials will be appointed to regulate the inflation and launching of balloons.