

Dear Event Director and Jury,

We would like to file an official complaint regarding the cancellation of Task 10 during the morning flight of 16/05/2026.

We strongly disagree with the cancellation of Task 10 after the measuring results had already been published online.

According to the General Briefing Notes, section II.10 – Recall Procedure, WhatsApp is the official and mandatory communication channel for cancelling briefings, tasks and flights. During the flight, only Task 11 (Elbow) was cancelled via WhatsApp and radio. At no point during the flight was Task 10 cancelled through any official communication channel, neither via WhatsApp nor via radio, as required by the published procedures.

Task 10 was therefore never officially cancelled during the flight. The decision to cancel the task was only taken after the measuring results for Task 10 had already been published online. This does not comply with the required procedural standards for task cancellation under FAI competition procedures, which require cancellations to be communicated clearly, timely, and equally to all competitors.

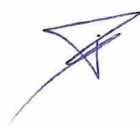
During the approach to Task 10, the conditions above the target remained VMC at all times. The last balloons approaching the target still maintained clear visual contact with the ground and target area and still made a physical marker drop within the MMA. Evidence and onboard video recordings are available to support this.

Furthermore, nearly all pilots were able to perform a valid marker drop on Task 10, demonstrating that the task remained both safe and executable.

As Task 10 was never cancelled during the flight, Our flight strategy was determined accordingly. We adapted our tactical decisions in order to complete Task 9 more efficiently and position ourselves to approach Task 10 under better conditions. During the flight, it became clear that weather conditions were evolving, and we anticipated these changes accordingly, even at the expense of Task 9.

The pilots who experienced more difficult conditions during their approach to Task 10 did so largely as a consequence of their own strategic choices and timing decisions during the competition.

Changing flight conditions, including increasing thermal activity, reduced visibility, and changing wind direction, are inherent aspects of competitive balloon flying and do not in themselves constitute grounds for cancelling a task. Participants in a Category 2 competition are expected to possess sufficient capability to assess and manage



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prevailing meteorological conditions. Adapting strategic decisions during flight based on changing weather conditions is a fundamental component of competition flying.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the cancellation of Task 10 be reconsidered, as:

- the task was never officially cancelled during the flight according to the published procedures,
- the task remained safely executable under VMC conditions,
- valid results were successfully achieved by the majority of competitors,
- and the changing conditions formed part of the normal strategic and meteorological environment inherent to competition ballooning.

Based on the above we request the cancellation of task 10 to be reconsidered.

Sincerely,
Thomas Spildooren