

33rd Lithuanian–Latvian Hot Air Balloon Championship



Birštonas, Lithuania

GENERAL BRIEFING NOTES

v.1 16.06.25

I.5 Personnel Jury

President of Jury is Mindaugas Lyčius, all others jury members we will elect from not interested President of Jury is Mindaugas Lyčius; all other jury members will be elected from pilots not involved or interested in the specific protest being considered—one from Lithuania, one from Latvia, and one from the Polish pilots, to be selected during the General Briefing pilots if needed.

I.9 Language

The rules and information circulated to competitors, or issued during the event, shall be in **English** and, at the discretion of the organiser, in **Lithuanian**. In all cases of interpretation, the **English-language version shall prevail**. (GS 4.5.4)

Printed materials (e.g., Task Data, Meteorological Information, etc.) shall be in **English** and may additionally be provided in **Lithuanian**. Verbal communication during briefings will be conducted in **Lithuanian**, with **live online translation** provided into **English, Latvian, and Polish** using **Microsoft Translator**.

II.10 PZ List

No.	Color	Center point coordinates	Radius m	Altitude ft AMSL	Description
PZ1	Red	34U 686537/6051970	500	1200	Horses
PZ2	Red	See Map	-	1200	Wildlife Punia
PZ3	Red	See Map	-	1200	Birds
PZ4	Red	35U 323310/6075505	1000	2600	Power plant
PZ5	Red	35U 322016/6064210	200	1000	Wind turbine
PZ6	Red	35U 314554/6050905	500	1200	Horses
PZ7	Red	See Map	-	700	Power plant
PZ8	Red	See Map	-	6500	Military If active EYR34
PZ9	Red	See Map	-	6500	Military if active EYD11
PZ10	Blue	See Map zone B	-	4000 (3000)	Air space reserved: 03:00 - 05:00 and 16:00 – 19:00 UTC
PZ11	Blue	See Map zone A	-	1200	TMA Kaunas sector A
PZ12	Blue	See Map zone C	-	6500	TMA Kaunas sector C
PZ13	Blue	See Map zone D	-	6500	TMA Vilnius sector D
PZ14	Blue	See Map zone C'	-	3000	TMA Vilnius sector B
PZ15	Blue	See Map zone G	-	9500	Airspace class G

Flying in Blue PZ will result in penalty (according to the rules up to disqualification from competition)

II.10 Recall procedure (r.10.15)

The recall procedure will be carried out via a dedicated WhatsApp group created specifically for this event prior to the first task briefing. The phone number provided at check-in must remain switched on and monitored throughout the

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II.12 Goal selected by competitor (r.12.2)

entire event. Crews will be allowed to join the group for the purpose of monitoring communications only.

This group will be used strictly for official event communication. A separate WhatsApp group will be created for sharing photos and informal social interaction. Pilots are kindly asked not to post unrelated content or create informational noise in the official communication group, in order to avoid missing important messages.

Competitors will not be required to declare goals by reference to land and/or map features. When declaring a goal, competitors will be scored based on the declared coordinates and altitude. If altitude is not declared when required, the competitor's score will be calculated using the separation altitude (II.22) of 600 ft. The declared goal must not be:

- Within 200 meters of an active red PZ.
- Within an active blue PZ.

A competitor who declares a goal into a wrong goal declaration slot will be penalized by 25 task points (II.18).

In the event of GPS signal disturbances during the competition, tasks will be selected and designed in a way that competitors are not required to rely on map-based goal declarations or visual land features whenever possible.

In case of possible GPS failure

In case of possible GPS signal interference during the competition, all competitors are **required to have a printed map** of the competition area in their basket at all times.

If such interference occurs, tasks will be adjusted accordingly to minimize reliance on electronic navigation. Whenever possible, organizers will design tasks using **physical markers** and **clearly visible reference points**, reducing or eliminating the need for virtual goal declarations.

This measure is intended to ensure fair competition conditions and maintain flight safety in situations with limited GPS availability.

1. Briefings

Briefings are planned at 4:30 and 19:00 local time at Birštonas Sports Center. Times and/or location may be changed as indicated in the task data sheet or announced in the WhatsApp group.

Please turn off all ringtones and other sound notifications on all your devices during the briefings.

2. Wind reading

Wind readings made by officials will be available at task briefings and posted in the WhatsApp group.

3. Competition numbers

Only the valid competition numbers provided by the organizers shall be displayed on the car and trailer. Any numbers from previous competitions must be **completely removed or clearly crossed out using black tape.**

Competition numbers on baskets must be **securely attached** and **must not have any sharp or protruding edges** that could cause injury or damage.

4. Vertical speeds

Vertical speed will be monitored at any single moment of flight according to respectful flying score (RFS). Vertical speed limits apply to a certain difference in vertical speed at a 3D distance between ballons:

Limit 1 – more than 3 m/s at less than 25 m.

Limit 2 – more than 5 m/s at less than 50 m.

Limit 3 – more than 8 m/s at less than 75 m.

Limit 4 – 8 m/s or more than ascend speed for more than consecutive 5 seconds.

After track analysis by software infringement will be penalized according to rules and COH

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5. Safety

Ensure that there are no sharp edges protruding outside the basket.
A quick-release must be used properly on every single flight, regardless of the basket's construction.

6. After flight

Pilots shall submit their flight track electronically, either via the Balloon Live application or by sharing it with the scorers upon request.
The Flight Report Form (FRF) must be completed online as soon as possible on Watchmefly.net, including the 4- or 6-digit coordinates of your Intended Launch Point (ILP) and Landing (LND).

If you are delayed in uploading the track or submitting the FRF, please call and inform the scorers with an explanation.

7. Markers

The pilot will receive all markers used for competition and is responsible for handling markers for each flight. Five colors

8. Responsibility

Permanently lost markers cost to competitor 10 euro each. Markers for the following flight will be provided to the competitor after a fine is paid to the measuring team boss – Jolanta.

Lost (or irreparably damaged) Balloon Live sensor provided by organizers – 400 euro.

9. MMA's

When the natural border of a field is closer than the MMA radius set in the Task Data Sheet (TDS), the MMA is considered to be bounded by the natural border. For safety reasons or to ensure smooth operations, the Target (TGT) may be shifted from the given goal coordinates by up to 100 meters if necessary.

10. Provisional results

Provisional results may be published before all evidence has been fully analyzed by the scorers. Pilots are welcome to request assistance (see section 5.1) after the provisional results have been published.

11. Refueling

Obey refueling rules and instructions given by refueling chief. Coordinates of refueling site are 0762/5481 (fenced "Birštono siluma" territory) traffic direction in refueling site is counterclockwise (one way).

Refueling times

07:00 – 10:00 and 21:00 – 23:00

Possible changes to refueling times may be announced on electronic notice board.

12. Important contact

- Emergency - 112
- Emergency for electricity - 1852
- Event organizer – Žydrūnas Kazlauskas – (370) 601 02555
- Event director – Tadas Gegevičius – (370) 676 00050
- Chief scorer – Julius Venskus – (370) 650 62255
- Chief target team – Jolanta Šuopytė – (370) 67144
- Auto repair services – Vaidas (370) 675 80078

Target team 1 – Ieva Šuopytė_(370) 695 71218

Target team 2 – Inga Sakalauskė_(370) 623 55808

Target team 3 – Giedrė Katinienė_(370) 659 99001

Target team 4 – Zinta Ozolina (371) 29 138753

Internet in briefing center: Name: Birštonosportocentras /Password: Birštonosportas