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## Response to Competitor Complaint

1 message

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**BENJAMIN MILLER** <bjmille2@kent.edu>  
To: Lynn sullivan <lynthiaerae@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 10, 2024 at 5:50 PM

Dear Phil,

Please see the response to your formal complaint:

Jeff,

After receiving the response to the inquiry, I would respectfully request that Task #4 be disqualified from the scoring based on the following information and published BFA rules.

The target was displayed approximately 2000 meters from the coordinates provided on the task sheet. This is a very large discrepancy and was not visible when flying to the coordinates specified on the task data sheet.

***Rule 12.1.2 states if a target is not displayed at the given coordinate and no target is displayed within 100 m, the competitor should aim for the coordinates... since the incorrect target was well beyond 100 m and not visible as you previously stated, per this rule, competitors are to aim for the coordinates, not the incorrectly displayed target.***

Multiple pilots flew to the incorrectly displayed target and threw markers with the expectation it was in the correct location.

***In response to your comments on pilots flying to the incorrect target displayed, the TDS clearly and correctly stated coordinates for ALL tasks applied to this morning's flight. It was the decision of these pilots to choose to fly to the target that was displayed incorrectly when they clearly had the correct coordinates.***

Multiple pilots also flew to the correct coordinates provided on the task data sheet and some threw markers. There was no official to observe the markers and there is no way to determine if they were valid.

***In response to your comments of having no official or observer, the Event Safety Officer was present to observe all five (5) marker drops made at Task #4 coordinates. Thus the Safety Officer was able to validate these marker scores.***

The pilots that received results on task #4 were measured to the coordinates provided on the task data sheet where no target was ever displayed. BFA rule 12.5 states the following:

### 12. 5 TARGET

A prominent cross intended to be displayed within 100 meters of a goal or at a specified coordinate. Where a target is displayed, any measurements are made from the target, not from the goal. A competitor reaching a goal where an expected target is not displayed should aim for the goal coordinate.

This rule states that the target should be displayed within 100m of the specified coordinates allowing for flexibility in condition of field and wind direction. It also states that a competitor may throw at the coordinates when a target is not displayed, however, a target was displayed but in an incorrect location.

***The rule states that if a target IS displayed within 100 meters of a goal, the competitor would then throw to the target if said target is moved from stated coordinates. As you stated previously, since the incorrect displayed target was clearly not visible, again, competitors should aim for the coordinates.***

It also states that "when a target is displayed, any measurement are made from the target, not from the goal."

*This rule goes on to state " a competitor reaching a goal where an expected target is not displayed should aim for the goal coordinate". Due to this rule my decision is that Rule 12.5 clearly covers the concerns regarding this target. In addition, 12.1.2 states if a target is not displayed at the given coordinate, and no target is displayed within 100 meters, the competitor should aim for the coordinate...This rule also covers this target location discrepancy.*

Again, this

Based on the significant competitive disadvantage to many pilots Task #4 should be invalid.

While some pilots did throw at the incorrect location,

Best Regards,  
Phil Clinger

*As a result, I respectfully reject your complaint to make Task #4 invalid.  
Kind Regards,  
Ben Miller  
Flag City Balloon Fest Competition Director*