



52^{ème} Championnat de France de Montgolfières
British National Hot Air Balloon Championship
Marmande – du 10 au 16 août 2026



General Briefing

Section II

II.1 CONTEST AREA (7.1)

The official map is the digital map to be downloaded from the electronic notice board:

<https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=france2026&v=enb>

II.3 PZ LIST (7.3)

See list in appendix.

The PZ waypoints, with radius and altitude, are available at:

<https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=france2026&v=enb>

II.4 and II.5 COMMON LAUNCH AREAS AND LAUNCH POINTS (9.1.1 and 9.1.2)

<i>Pdc / CLP</i>	<i>Coordonnées Coordinates</i>	<i>Altitude</i>	<i>Entrée Entry</i>	<i>Ville City</i>
PDC 1 CLP 1	7455 / 3017	68 ft	7562 / 2965	Marmande
PDC 2 CLP 2	7823 / 3055	108 ft	7834 / 3049	Virazeil
PDC3 CLP3	8814 / 3145	312 ft	8813 / 3140	Puymiclan

II.7 LIVESTOCK AND CROPS (10.6)

Please let us know about any livestock farms or sensitive areas that you may see during your flights.

II.9 AIR LAW (10.14)

A NOTAM has been filed for the event.

It does not cover the entire competition map, but a circle with a 15 km radius centred on 7207/3297.

It is available on the electronic notice board.

<https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=france2026&v=enb>

There is no TRA (Temporary Restricted Area).

All Air laws must be applied in accordance with the current aeronautical charts.

The areas have been put on the competition map for information purposes only.

II.10 RECALL PROCEDURE (10.15)

The recall will be carried out by radio communication on 122.255 MHz and by SMS.

Any early cancellation of briefings will be announced by SMS and on the electronic notice board.

An SMS procedure test will be carried out during the general briefing. If you do not receive the SMS, please see Guillaume Kuntz or Bérangère Combier at the end of the briefing.

See also rule 8.10: A WhatsApp group has been created. It will only be used for logistical questions, for sending piball data and, if necessary, for minor changes to tasks in accordance with the procedure defined in rule 8.10 (maximum 10 (CLP) or 20 (ILP) minutes before the launch period).

II.11 VERTICAL SPEED (10.2.2)

All tracks will be checked using the "Balloon Safety Analyzer" software.

Competitors exceeding the following vertical speed limits will be penalized.

	3D distance	Relative vertical speed
Limit 1	25 m	3 m/s
Limit 2	50 m	5 m/s
Limit 3	75 m	8 m/s
Limit 4	Exceeding an absolute upward vertical speed of 8 m/s will be penalized.	

Competitors are reminded that the limits specified in their balloon flight manual are binding on them.

II.12 GOAL CENTER (12.1)

See list provided in the appendix.

A list of goals waypoints is available on the electronic notice board.

II.13 LOCATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD (5.3.3)

The official electronic notice board is available at

<https://watchmefly.net/events/event.php?e=france2026&v=enb>

An official notice board will be displayed at the entrance to the competition centre.

II.16 DETAILS FOR TIME LIMITS (rest hours) (5.1.5 and 5.2.5)

The hours between 10:30 PM and 3:30 AM and between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM will be disregarded for the purpose of the time limits of complaints and protests.

II.18 DETAILS FOR THE USE OF THE GPS LOGGERS (6)

d) Competitor handling: a warning, followed by a penalty of 50 competition points, will be applied for any switching on or off outside the specified time limits

g) Recommendations:

A tutorial on using the Balloon Live App (BLA) is available on the official electronic notice board.

The current version of the "Balloon Live App" is v.3027. Remember to update it!

The scoring team remains available for any questions regarding BLS before the first competition flight.

Section III - Details

3.8 Competition numbers

Only one basket panel is provided by the organizers.

All recovery vehicles will be clearly identified on both opposite sides with the competition number.

Competitor No. 41 will have a basket panel numbered 49.

5.1.4 Complaint procedure

Complaints must be submitted to the Event Director (ED), Deputy Director or officials.

5.2.4 Protest procedure

Protests must be submitted to the Event Director (ED), Deputy Flight Director or officials.

6.3 Flight Report Form (FRF)

The competitor must submit their FRF via Watchmefly. In the comments field, they must specify:

- the specific details related to the flight (incident, safety, ground contact, etc.)
- the times and coordinates of the launch and landing locations. If these details are missing, the FRF will be rejected and the search period deadlines that may lead to penalties will continue to run.

The FRF must be submitted as soon as possible and before the end of the search period (12.11).

It is possible to request an extension of the search period on an exceptional basis (tractor, etc.).

If a pilot chooses not to launch, he must also submit its FRF.

10.1: Balloon collision

10.1.1: Any basket-to-envelope contact will be penalized regardless of vertical approach speed.

10.2 Dangerous flying

All tracks will be checked after each flight.

Violations of Section II.11 of the rules will be penalized in accordance with paragraph 10.2 of the COH.

Please inspect your basket for loose wicker strands and make sure that the ends of the basket panel fasteners are inside the basket.

10.14 Air law

Any penetration into clouds observed by an official will be penalized :

- under rule 10.14 if this provides a competitive advantage
- and/or under rule 2.12 (minimum 200 competition points)

When approaching Marmande-Virazeil airfield (LFDN), the ED will monitor the airfield frequency (120.055 MHz) if tasks are taking place in the area.

12.11 Search period

The end of the search period is defined as follows: end of the last marking period + 1 hour

13.1 Unsporting behaviour.

The use of drones inside or above any launch area or MMA will be considered unsporting behaviour and will be penalized. Outside these areas, please note that drones are subject to specific regulations.

Failure to comply with the parking areas within the competition centre perimeter or with the designated gas-filling locations and traffic directions will be penalized.

13.5 Respectful Flying Score (RFS)

The RFS is not used for this event.

General information

1. Useful telephone numbers :

Emergencies:

Fire Brigade	18, 112
Gendarmerie / Police	17
Enedis / RTE (Power lines) :	Call the safety officer on 06 62 34 71 82

Organization:

General organization	+33 6 44 86 24 43 / +33 6 16 33 35 61
Competition FD	+ 33 6 88 27 55 80
Deputy Competition FD	+ 33 6 87 47 61 59
Stewards	+ 33 6 86 89 12 15 / + 33 6 64 04 35 11
FD Fiesta	+ 33 6 80 63 32 30
Safety officer	+ 33 6 62 34 71 82
BLS	A number will be provided for the duration of each flight
Agriculture	+ 33 6 14 74 78 90

2. If you have any doubt about the recovery of your marker, please check Watchmefly under the results of the relevant task :

- You have a measurement : marker measured and collected
- Collected Outside MMA : marker outside MMA collected
- No Physical Marker DROP : marker not collected (not seen and/or balloon did not pass over the target)

3. Costs for lost or damaged equipment :

Logger	€300
Logger mount	€15
Logger case	€20
USB power cable+ adapter	€10
Marker	€20

Vincent Gounon / Event Director

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