

FORMAL COMPLAINT REGARDING THE SCORING OF TASK 4

To: Ben Miller, Event Director
Event: 2026 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic
Flight Date: July 25, 2026
Task: Task 4
Competitor: Chase Donner, Competitor #3
Date Submitted: July 25, 2026

Dear Mr. Miller:

I hereby submit this formal complaint concerning the scoring of Task 4 and the proper application of Rules 8.2.2, 12.1.2, and 12.4 of the Competition Rules provided for this event and endorsed by the sanctioning body, HACD.

Rules 12.1.2 and 12.4

Rule 12.1.2 provides:

"If a target is not displayed at the given coordinate and no target is displayed within 100m, the competitor should aim for the coordinates and make an electronic mark. The MMA rule 12.18.3 does not apply. These coordinates will also be taken to calculate/measure any other related tasks of that flight."

Rule 12.4 defines a target as:

"A prominent cross (as specified in the COH) displayed in the vicinity 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."

No official target meeting the requirements of Rule 12.4 and the Competition Operations Handbook was displayed at the published goal coordinate or within 100 meters of that coordinate.

Anything other than a prominent cross meeting the specifications established in the COH does not constitute a target under Rule 12.4. Therefore, an unofficial object, marking, indication, or location near the goal cannot be treated as a displayed target for purposes of Rule 12.1.2.

Because no qualifying target was displayed at the published coordinate or within 100 meters, Rule 12.1.2 applies directly. Under the express language of that rule, competitors were to aim for the published coordinates and make an electronic mark. The published coordinates must also be used to calculate or measure any other related tasks from that flight.

Rule 12.1.2 does not provide an alternative method permitting physical markers to be scored when no qualifying target was displayed within 100 meters. While this result may be unfavorable to competitors who dropped physical markers, the rule specifically directs the use of electronic marks under these circumstances.

Rule 12.4 further confirms that a competitor reaching a goal where an expected target is not displayed should aim for the goal coordinate. Reading Rules 12.1.2 and 12.4 together, Task 4 must be scored exclusively using competitors' electronic marks measured from the published goal coordinate.

I also understand that HACD has addressed several materially similar instances and that precedent on this issue has been repeatedly reinforced. That established treatment is consistent with the plain language of Rules 12.1.2 and 12.4 and supports the same application here.

Effect of Rule 8.2.2 and the Official Status of Task 4

Rule 8.2.2 provides:

"The Director has the authority to cancel a task(s) for safety reasons or for reasons out of the control of the director, at any time before the official status task scores are published."

Task 4 has already reached official status. By its express terms, Rule 8.2.2 permits cancellation only before official-status task scores are published. The rule therefore does not provide authority to cancel, remove, discard, or otherwise "throw out" Task 4 at this stage.

Because cancellation is no longer available under Rule 8.2.2, Task 4 must remain part of the competition and must be scored according to the substantive scoring rules governing the circumstances presented.

Those rules are Rules 12.1.2 and 12.4. Because no qualifying official target was displayed at the published coordinate or within 100 meters, the only rules-based recourse is to score Task 4 exclusively using electronic marks measured from the published goal coordinate. Physical markers cannot properly be used because no official target meeting the definition in Rule 12.4 was displayed within the required area.

Requested Relief

I respectfully request only that Task 4 be scored in accordance with the competition rules provided by the event and endorsed by HACD.

Because Task 4 is already official, the rules do not provide for its cancellation or removal. Under Rules 12.1.2 and 12.4, Task 4 should therefore be rescored exclusively using competitors' electronic marks measured from the published goal coordinate.

This complaint requests only that the published rules be applied as written to the scoring of Task 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Chase Donner

Competitor #3

Date: July 25, 2026

Time: _____