

Early Birds 2.0 - Worldwide Balloon Competition

What's this all about?

Early Birds 2.0 is an informal competition devised by some competition pilots enthusiasts who - now that a lot of ballooning competitions have been canceled - want to keep the feeling of competition, and more; want to introduce new (starting or experienced) pilots to the sport.

In addition, the flights can be carried out in their own region and free time and this is completely free.

For whom?

- Everyone can participate. Experienced or inexperienced. Young or old.
- Experienced pilots can practice their skills.
- New pilots can learn the basics of competitive flying.
- Also very important, crews can get acquainted with competition flying, learn and help each other.

The target:

- Early Birds 2.0 aims to be accessible and to experience a competition as it would be in real life.
- Everyone is free to consult others and share experiences, before and after a flight. We even want to encourage this.
- Give as many pilots and crews as possible the opportunity to talk about the imposed tasks without too much time pressure.

How to participate?

To participate, you need to do some simple things:

1. Register by sending an email to jonas_maes@yahoo.com
2. You need to register on the website: <https://watchmefly.net>
3. You need to download the Balloon Life App from: <https://balloonlive.org/about-balloon-live> This app works on your smartphone, which will also serve as a logger. For whom the app is unknown territory, there is a lot of valuable information to read on this site.
4. You will receive a personal 'token' per publication of the tasksheet. You must enter this code in the app before the start of the competition flight.
5. For newbies it is recommended that they read the regulations that will be used. Questions can always be asked. The regulations can be found on the Electronic Notice Board of the event on WatchMeFly.net

How is it organized?

We start on Saturday 6/6/2020. Every 14 days a new tasksheet is published on the event page on WatchMeFly.net. The competition ends on 9/9/2020.

In total there are 7 competition flights, each in their specific period as indicated in the table below. So you get 14 days (= 1 slot) per tasksheet to fly it. Below you can find the overview:

Slot No.	Publication Tasksheet	Competition period
1	05/06/2020	06/06/2020 - 19/06/2020
2	06/19/2020	20/06/2020 - 03/07/2020
3	03/07/2020	04/07/2020 - 17/07/2020
4	17/07/2020	18/07/2020 - 31/07/2020
5	07/31/2020	01/08/2020 - 14/08/2020
6	08/14/2020	15/08/2020 - 28/08/2020
7	08/28/2020	29/08/2020 - 11/09/2020

The points are calculated per slot according to the official system. The distribution of points per slot can therefore differ, depending on the scores and the number of pilots who have made a flight in the slot.

After the end of each slot, an intermediate score will be made. At the end of the 7 slots, there is a winner.

Furthermore, it is perfectly possible to make only a few flights. You are therefore not obliged to perform a flight in every slot.

After all, it remains an informal event, where pleasure should prevail.

We assume that the 7 slots can all be flown during the 14-day period. To encourage beginners, we only consider the 5 best results in the final results. In case you'll fly all 7 slots the worst 2 results are deleted.

For Belgian and Dutch pilots there are some prizes given away at the end of the period. It is not possible to do this for other countries due to extra costs. However, if some pilots of other countries think they can come to us to pick up the prize just let us know ;-)

As always everybody should obey the rules in their respective countries concerning the COVID19 crisis. We cannot be held responsible to any complaint on this matter.

Sporty greetings,
Jonas Maes & team

With special thanks to:

- Tom Deleersnyder for putting forward the idea.
- Djorry Simoen for the start of the first Early Birds 1.0.
- All enthusiastic helpers!