



2022
Canowindra International
Balloon Challenge

Pilots Operations Manual

General Conditions

The Display Organiser for this display is Adam John BARROW.

The Display Organiser is required by the CASA to take steps to ensure that all conditions of this manual are complied with and that the display is conducted safely, in accordance with CAO 29.4, and in a manner that does not endanger persons or property on the ground or in the air.

The display must be conducted in visual meteorological conditions [**VMC**] only.

All operations will be conducted in accordance with:

- (i) AIP ENR 5.5 Section 3 [*Balloon operations*];
- (ii) CAO 95.54 [*Manned balloons – private operations*], unless otherwise approved;

The Display Organiser has considered the recommendations contained in the following publications:

- (i) Air Display Administration and Procedure Manual, issued by CASA;
- (ii) The Operations Manual of the Australian Ballooning Federation Inc. (ABF);
- (iii) CAAP 157-1(0) [*Balloon flight over populous areas*];
- (iv) CAAP 92-3 (1) [*Guidelines for manned balloon launching and landing areas*].

All necessary navigation, VHF communications, and safety equipment required for operation in the relevant airspace must be carried and available for use as required.

Full access to all areas of the display arena will be provided to officers of CASA . These areas include all balloon launching areas remote from the main arena, and any target or dropping areas to be used during the event.

The Display organiser will provide a post-display report, using CASA Form 694, completed and returned to the CASA Sydney Region Office (ian.hogben@casa.gov.au) within 14 days of the conclusion of the display.

Briefing of balloon pilots

The general briefings will be conducted by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser on Sunday 3rd April 2022 at 4pm. The location will be the Canowindra Community Centre in Gaskill St, Canowindra 2804.

Pilots unable to attend the general briefing must be briefed individually by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser.

A pilot must not participate as pilot-in-command of a balloon in the display unless he or she has attended a general briefing or has been individually briefed by the Display Organiser or a person nominated by the Display Organiser.

The Display Organiser, or a person nominated by the Display Organiser, must verify the documentation of each pilot and balloon prior to authorising participation in the displays.

The Display Organiser must take reasonable steps to ensure that all pilots are conversant with the contents of this document.

Briefing of ground crew

It is the pilots responsibility to brief their crew before every flight. The briefing must include details of the duties and responsibilities of each ground crew member relevant to their area of involvement.

Manoeuvre, height and airspace limitations

Balloon launching or landing areas, including departure and approach paths, must be located and be of such dimensions that balloons may be operated with minimal risk of injury to occupants of the balloons or spectators on the ground, and with low risk of injury to livestock or damage to property.

Balloons launched from sites in or adjacent to towns or populous areas must maintain a positive rate of climb until reaching 500 feet AGL.

Except when taking-off or landing, or because of stress of weather, the pilot-in-command of a balloon participating in a display must not fly a balloon over a populous area at a height below 500 feet above ground level.

The pilot-in-command of a balloon participating in the displays should, to the greatest extent practicable, comply with the recommendations contained in Civil Aviation Advisory Publication [CAAP] 157-1(0) in relation to balloon flight over populous areas.

Pilots must broadcast intentions and maintain a listening watch on the YCWR CTAF, 126.7 MHz, when operating within the vicinity of Cowra aerodrome.

A balloon not equipped with serviceable VHF communications equipment or not carrying a pilot qualified to use the equipment must not fly above 5000 feet AMSL or within 10NM of a certified or registered aerodrome unless the balloon is flown in company with, and remains in visual contact with, another balloon equipped with serviceable VHF communications equipment and the pilot of the other balloon is qualified to use the equipment.

Pilot and Aircraft requirements

Each pilot participating in the display must hold a Private Pilot (Balloon) Certificate issued by the ABF, or foreign equivalent with validation to fly in Australia, and sufficient recent experience to act as pilot in command of a balloon participating in the display.

A balloon being flown in the display must:

- (i) have a valid certificate of registration from the country of registration; and
- (ii) display registration markings from the country of registration; and
- (iii) have a current balloon log book and annual inspection or other documentation that can be used to verify the balloon's airworthiness.

Each balloon must be operated in accordance with the conditions and limitations described in the flight manual for the particular balloon.

The Display Organiser, or a person nominated by the Display Organiser, must verify the documentation of each pilot and balloon prior to authorising participation in the displays.

Dropping of markers

Markers may only be dropped from balloons that are participating in the display.

Markers, which must only be carried inside the balloon basket, must be weighted with no more than 80 grams of ballast so they will drop readily away from the balloon basket.

Markers must be dropped only in a clear area associated with a target and remote from any populous area.

Unless markers can be dropped by the pilot-in-command from his normal station and without affecting his/her ability to control the balloon, an additional crew member must be carried to act as a dispatcher [the ***dispatcher***] for the purpose of dropping the markers.

Effective communication must be maintained between the pilot-in-command and the dispatcher during a dropping operation; a marker may be dropped only with the approval of the pilot-in-command.

The pilot-in-command shall ensure that the dispatcher is briefed in relation to their duties.

The Display Organiser must ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that spectators and officials remain clear of target areas when a marker is being dropped.

The pilot-in-command of a balloon participating on the display may descend to a height lower than 500 feet above ground level [**AGL**] for the purposes of dropping a marker, provided the balloon remains clear of populous areas while manoeuvring to drop the marker.

Note: Markers for the purposes of this instrument are described as small satchels of sand, with a streamer attached to the satchel for identification purposes.