



# Balloon Federation Of America



## 2024 US Nationals General Briefing Notes June 9, 2024

1. New Flight Briefing Time: 5:30 am each day. Doors will open at 5:15 am
2. Rule Changes for 2024: Referenced the document posted to the Official Notice Board on Watchmefly outlining the rule changes from 2023.
  - a. Pointed out to the Women pilots that rule Section III Chapter 2 (2.2.2) would not be applicable for the 2024 US Nationals. The rules states "Women qualifying and stating their intention to use the US Nationals as a qualifier to the Women's World Championship must have only female designated flight crew on board the aerostat", because there will be no Women's World Championship within the USA qualifying period of 2024 & 2025, plus there WILL be a Women's US National Hot Air Balloon Championship in 2024.
3. Defined the purpose and use of the messaging app WhatsApp:
  - a. The App would be used to communicate with several groups to provide weather/pibal information, to cancel any certain tasks or the entire task string, provide safety and curtesy information to the pilots, and to communicate any slight movements of hard target locations within the rules.
  - b. Any wholesale task changes would be made via a supplementary briefing
4. Provided the propane refueling times. The propane refueling manager would be Bill Adler and he can be reached at 903-235-3246 if any pilot will be late, or not coming at all to propane refueling
5. Pilots with trailers will need to remove their basket before it can be refueled. No standing in the basket during refueling
6. Landowner Relations:
  - a. Provided Chief Landowner Relation, John Rich's cell number: 903-7720-3616
  - b. Cautioned pilots and crew about wet conditions within Greg County
  - c. Suggested that crew walk out in front of vehicle to confirm dry driving conditions
  - d. Cautioned pilots regarding landing at pump jacks and oil/gas well heads.
  - e. Cautioned pilots regarding hidden power lines
7. Return all unused markers, etc. to Competition Center (Maude Cobb) before going to propane.
8. Suggested to pilots that they get propane before going to breakfast
9. Reminded pilots that the grid coordinates defining the competition area are slightly inside the edges of the map image.
10. Provided a handout of staff contact information
11. A moment of silence in honor of David Troutman

12. Recognized that the 2024 US Nationals was # Year of Bussey, in honor of his recent retirement from the GTBR Board of Directors.
13. Reminded pilots to see the FAA if they had not had their pilot/aircraft documents reviewed.
14. Remember the rest hours for contacting the competition staff.
15. Jury Make-up: President and on-site-Maury Sullivan. Remote jury members: Gary Briton and Chris Smart.
16. Recognized the large number of rookies participating in this year's Championship
17. I-20 is the only red road PZ, it has a 250 AGL, 650 MSL dome over the road.
18. Pibal readings will be provided in magnetic, forecast winds will be provided in true
19. For hard target locations provided on the Task Data Sheet, staff will provide the 4 digit identifier from the preapproved target list, along with the 4x4 full number, or a 4x4 number without the 4 digit identifier if it is a new target. If a new target has been moved slightly from its original location the TDS will indicate that the new target is "near" to \_\_\_\_\_, and provide the old target number.
20. Warned pilots regarding live streaming to social media.
21. Pilots need to fill out the flight report form after the conclusion of each flight
22. If pilots do not see their names on the list of provisional scores posted, be advised that Chief Scoring Officer JC Smith is still working on your score. Be patient.
23. Pibal readings will be shared with pilots and crews through WhatsApp