

Tochigi Hot Air Balloon International Championship

GENERAL BRIEFING Notes

Wednesday, 19th November 2014

Locations of Competition Facilities (Haga City 1584-4507):

Briefing Room:

On the Ground Floor of the Competition Centre.
Access to all competitors, crews, officials and observers.

Debriefing Room:

On the First Floor in the Competition Centre.
Only Observers and Officials are allowed to enter this room during the Debriefing.

Scoring Room:

On the First Floor in the Competition Centre.
Only Competition Officials are allowed to enter this room.

Competition Operations Office:

On the First Floor in the Competition Centre. All competitors and their crew must get permission to enter.
For complaints and protests: A competitor should go to the Competition Operations Office.

For results posting:

The **Official Notice Board** is located next to the entrance to the Briefing Room.

Briefing Schedule:

ALL Task Briefings will be held in the Briefing room at Competition Centre (1584-4507). The morning briefings will be held at 05:30 on 20/21/22 November and at 06:00 on 23/24 November. The afternoon briefing will be held at 1400 on all days. Any changes in briefing location or time will be announced by the Event Director.

Wind Information:

All wind data is given in true north not magnetic. Magnetic variation in Tochigi is 7 degrees west.

SECTION II Rule II.12 GOALS SELECTED BY A COMPETITOR

3.1.3 Rotation Vent:

Do not use rotation vents before final marker drop or contest landing.

3.10.1 Retrieve:

NOTE : Concerning the marker which has already been confirmed or certified by an Observer, but has not been measured due to reasons of time or time constraints, it is permitted that crew of the competitor stand guard by the marker, without the presence of an Observer or Official, to prevent a lost or stolen marker.

3.10.2 Competition Number:

Vehicle banners (numbers) from other events should be removed or covered. If other banners are visible, they will be considered the same as NO banners attached.

Additional vehicles shall also be identified with the competition number.

3.10.3 Parking:

Retrieve vehicles shall not be parked within 100m of a goal/target set by the Director or selected by the competitor.

Vehicles should not obstruct access to private property, or block roads when parking near goals. Complaints by third parties may be penalized under Rule 13.2.

Rule 6.10 GPS Logger Handling:

Loggers will be distributed to each competitor at the task briefing, the competitor will turn it on/off as required, and attach /detach it to/from the envelope. The Observer will receive the GPS from the pilot after the flight and return it to the debriefer with the marker(s).

The GPS Loggers used in this event are Garmin eTrex 30. GPS loggers have been set to record at 3 second intervals.

Rule 7.1: Contest Area:

See Official Map: The contest area is defined on the Official Competition Map of the Tochigi Hot Air Balloon International Championship, except the areas declared as out of bounds.

Area A: Valid 19th – 24th November 2014. SR – SS
Area B: Valid 22nd – 24th November 2014. ONLY. SR – SS
Area C: Valid 23rd – 24th November 2014. ONLY. SR – SS
Area D: Valid 19th – 24th November 2014. SR – SS
Area E: Valid 19th – 24th November 2014. SR – SS

Areas A, B and C are SFC – 6000 feet MSL
Area D is SFC – 3500 feet MSL
Area E is SFC – 1000 feet MSL

Western boundary of Area C is physically defined by the Red road which runs North / South.
DO NOT CROSS THIS ROAD.

Southeast boundary of the competition area is defined by the Joban Highway.
DO NOT CROSS THIS HIGHWAY (except in area E).

Rule 7.2: Out of Bounds:

See Official Map: ALL RED PZs are out of bounds.
ALL YELLOW PZs are out of bounds
ALL SA-G Golf Courses are out of bounds.
ALL SAs are out of bounds.

Rule 7.3.2: Prohibited Zones (PZs):

All Circular PZ's will use a Cylinder for their definition, and the radius will be in meters.

Rule 7.5: PZ Infringement:

All PZ: Respect all restrictions.
Test Courses: We have had serious claims. DO NOT ENTER OR LAND.
Red PZ: - COH Penalty Guideline of Rule 7.5, PZ Infringement.
Blue PZ: - COH Penalty Guideline of Rule 10.14, Air Law.

Rule 8.4.7: Multiple Tasks

“If not otherwise stated in the Task Data, the minimum distance from the launch point to a goal/target applies as well to all further goals/targets on that flight”.

This rule will NOT apply to any Fly-On goal declared during the flight.

Rule 8.11 Late Entry:

Late Entry for tasks:

For mass ascensions, late entry may be made at the signals points.

For tasks where competitors select their own launch area, late entry may be made at the competition office, or by phone to the Event Director **080 xxxx xxxx**.

Rule 9.1.2: & II.5 Common Launch Point(s)

COMMON LAUNCH POINT (CLP):
CLP1: 3080 – 4240 620 ft MSL (Twin Ring)
CLP2: 0786 – 4685 361 ft MSL (Utsunomiya)
CLP3: 1270 – 4600 463 ft MSL (Haga 1)
CLP4: 1700 – 4350 350 ft MSL (Haga 2)

Rule 9.3.2 Launch Procedures:

Quick-release tie-offs MUST be used for balloons launching in a common, or any individual launch area.

Rule 9.4.1 Vehicles:

Please note that NO MORE THAN ONE VEHICLE per balloon may be present in the launch area during the launch period. Extra vehicles must be parked in the parking lot outside the launch field.

Rule 9.12 Extension of Time. Rule 9.16 Launching at a Competitors Discretion:

- Launch Masters will NOT be used on Common Launch Areas, unless Task timing is required.
- Each Competitor is responsible for the safe operation of his balloon at all times.
- Any Extension of Time shall be requested from an Official at the Signals Point.

Rule 10.1 Midair Collision & 10.2 Dangerous Flying:

Rate of climb must not be greater than 300 feet per a minute (300 FPM, 1.5 meter per a second), unless a competitor is completely certain that no higher balloon is in his ascent path. Competitors shall at all times, operate their balloons within the manufacturers certified limits.

Crew on the ground shall watch their balloon in the sky. When they see danger, they shall warn the pilot immediately. When a pilot has a mid-air-collision, the proportion of any penalty will be determined from the GPS logger data. The penalty will be applied as defined in the COH.

Rule 10.4 Dropping Objects:

Similar lightweight objects are defined as shaving cream, tissue paper, water or corn flakes. Those materials are allowed to use for NAVIGATION PURPOSES.

Rule 10.14 Air Law (Sunrise and Sunset):

Event Sunrise is 0630 hrs. Event Sunset is 16:25 hrs. Flight after 16:25 hours is not recommended.

Rule 10.15 Recall Procedure:

Recall Procedure:

We will use mobile phone messaging for the Recall Procedure.

Any recall messages will be in text format, i.e. "Flight cancelled" or other instructions as defined at the flight briefing.

If you lose or break the mobile phone, the organizer will require 15,000- yen payment.

11.2 LANDING AT WILL & 11.3 CONTEST LANDING

Reference Rule 11.2.2 and Rule 11.3.4

NOTE: In a PDG or FON, etc., the goal described corresponds to the goal chosen by the competitor and does not apply to the goals chosen by other competitors. In a JDG, the goal in this rule corresponds to the common goal or Target. (Competitors may not land within 200 meters of their chosen goal or marker, or goal / target set by the director)

12.3 DECLARATIONS BY COMPETITORS; Also Ref:12.2 (II.11)

Goal Declarations shall only be made from the valid goal list printed on the competition map. The 3 digit goal number must be used for declarations.

The published "Target List" is for information only, and does not represent a valid goal for declaration purposes.

Rule 12.15.3 Lost Marker

Competitors may be required to pay for any marker damaged, not re-usable, lost or not brought back in time.

The charge for "Lost Markers" will be 500Yen, unless independent evidence of it being stolen is available.

Rule 12.16.1 Extension of Time Limit Requests

Permission for extension of the time limit may be granted by the Chief Scorer (Shinya Kohama) 080 xxxx xxxx, OR Chief Debriefer (Brenda Howard) 080 xxxx xxxx.

Rule 12.16.2 Lost Marker

If the marker has earlier been seen on, or falling to the ground, by an Official or Observer, then the competitor will be given an assessed result based on the least advantageous interpretation of evidence available, provided that the marker was released from lower than **2500 ft MSL**. Otherwise the competitor will be scored to his next marker or landing position, which ever comes first.

12.24 Target Officials

Concerning markers to be measured by the measuring team, when outside the 200m limit—
When the measure team spots a marker with a survey flag, this means the Measuring Team will measure it.
If a marker has NO survey flag spotting it, then the Observer must measure it.

Rule 13.3.3 Distance Infringements

The penalty for landing too close to a goal/target or mark, will be twice the amount of the distance infringement.

On PDG and FON intersection:

The FIRST Observer at the intersection will determine the center of the intersection and mark it with a ringed cross. All other Competitor / Observers will measure to that point.
If the center point first marked is in dispute, Competitors/Observers will measure to the first center point AND the “corrected” center point, but MUST measure to, and reference both points in measurements and give compass readings/bearings.

Altitude Restrictions over Golf Courses:

Golf courses are printed in LIGHT YELLOW and listed as SA-Gxx on the Official Competition Map. The height restriction over all golf courses is 200ft AGL.
All SA and golf course altitude limits are defined so as to respect people’s property and livelihood. Any inconsiderate flying in a SA or SA-G will penalized under Rule 10.5, irrespective of any complaint from persons on the ground.

Other Notes:

Speed Limit on Twin Ring Motegi Property:

The speed limit on the roads inside the Twin Ring Motegi property is 30KPH. If we receive driving or speeding complaints about any team from the Twin Ring authorities, the competitor will be penalized under rule 10.11 (up to 500 competition points).

Propane Refueling:

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THE GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES. If you do not obey the decision of the person in charge, you will not get any propane gas from them. In that case, the organizer will not provide propane gas of free charge.

Prize money®(For Tochigi Hot Air Balloon International Championship Competitors)

All competitors have received the information that all prize money will be taxed before the Competitor receives the money. The tax rate is 20% for foreign competitors and 0% for Japanese competitors. The prize money will be sent to the competitors home bank account after the Event. We apologize for this situation, but we cannot change it.

Minimum Altitude over the Racing Circuit during the motor sports events:

You MUST NOT land in the Twin Ring Motegi. The minimum height that is permitted to fly over the Twin Ring is 200 ft. AGL.

Vehicle Parking at Haga Competition Centre

All participants must park their vehicles in the public parking area opposite the Competition Centre. No Competitor vehicles shall be parked in the Competition Centre parking area.

Event ID and Entrance to Launch Fields

All participants must show their Vehicle Pass and event ID tag to the gate attendants, when entering the launch fields at Twin Ring Motegi and Utsunomiya.

CLEAN YOUR SHOES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please clean your shoes before you enter the Haga Competition Centre.

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- Related Documents:
- 1) General Safety Guidelines
 - 2) GPS Logger Operating Procedure
 - 3) PZ list
 - 4) Observer Handbook
 - 5) Competition Rules
 - 6) Competition Operations Handbook 2014

Les Purfield
Event Director
22nd October 2014.
080 xxxx xxxx

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