



July 17, 2023

Dear Pilot:

This past week the Event Team was able to meet in Albuquerque, NM to work on details for this year's event which is just 81 days away.

#### Insurance – Rule 2.7

Regarding **Rule 2.7** Pilots must provide proof that their balloons are insured for at least \$1,000,000.00 USD for third party liability during the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett.

For all international teams, please have your insurance company complete the [Certificate of Insurance](#) form and include a copy of your policy for verification of coverage. This form must be returned no later than August 4, 2023.

#### Transponder Notice- Rule 4.1 (8):

Regarding **Rule 4.1 (8)** Transponder: The FAA requires transponders to have a valid test for the flight.

For pilots flying a US registered aircraft: Must have a Current §91.413 ATC Transponder Tests/Inspections entry by a certified §145 Repair Station.

For pilots flying an aircraft under EASA: (in GM1 ML.A.302(d)(2)(d)) does require the periodic check according to SIB 2011-15

[https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/easy-access-rules/online-publications/easy-access-rules-continuing-airworthiness?page=54#\\_Toc256000969](https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/easy-access-rules/online-publications/easy-access-rules-continuing-airworthiness?page=54#_Toc256000969)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R1207-20220125>

These documents may be checked by the FAA prior to take-off.



We are working with a local ATC Transponder Inspector who will be available at the Double Eagle Airport with an appointment to test/inspect your equipment for a small fee if you are in need.

Please note that your call sign on your transponder will need to match the registration number of the balloon in which you are participating with.

### Competition Area-Rule 6.3:

According to **Rule 6.3** the competition area shall be defined as: the **50 States of the USA** and **Canada** including all solid ground islands that belong to this defined area.

### CANADA

For flying into Canada please familiarize yourself with the following content:

- [What you need to know about flying into Canada](#)
- Pilots flying an experimental registration please apply for validation, [VALIDATION INFO](#).
- To enter Canada you will need an eTA. Information below in the link:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>

Additional details about flying into Canada will be provided at either General Briefing or in the next memo.

### WASHINGTON, DC -SPECIAL FLIGHT RULES

There is a “Special Flight Rules” area around Washington, DC. **To be eligible to enter the SFRA of Washington, DC you need to complete this course and have the certificate on hand** <https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/courseLanding.aspx?CID=405>

### The list of fellow pilots:

AUT-1	Stürzlinger / Spät	GER-3	Michels / Michels
AUT-2	Wagner / Liller	LTU-1	Komža / Mikelevičius
ESP-1	Gonzalez / Aguirre	POL-1	Zapart / Halas
FRA-1	Pelard / Peterle	POL-2	Bogdański / Mościcki
FRA-2	Decellières / Havret	POL-3	Olszewski / Cieślak
FRA-3	Moine / Blanchard	SUI-1	Wicki / Erni
GBR-1	Scholes / Rose	USA-1	Forden / Padelt
GER-1	Eimers / Eimers	USA-2	Fricke / Cuneo
GER-2	Munz / Schlegel	USA-3	Sullivan / White

### Schedule:



**Please note the schedule has been changed.**

The schedule for this year's Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race will be:

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Pilot Registration	Thursday, October 5	1400 – 1700 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
	Friday, October 6	1000 – 1100 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
General Briefing	Friday, October 6	1300 hrs. – 1400 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "A"
Opening Ceremonies	Friday, October 6	1430 hrs. – 1630 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "B"
FAI Hall of Fame	Friday, October 6	1700 hrs.	BALLOON MUSEUM
Pilot Briefing	Saturday, October 7	1100 – 1200 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "A"
Launch Preparation	Saturday, October 7	1300 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Launch Window Opens	Saturday, October 7	1800 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Launch Window Closes	Wednesday, October 11	2359 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony	Saturday, October 14	1800 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "BC"

***Sand filling will be available on Thursday, October 5 and Friday, October 6 morning.***

#### Shipping Reminder:

All pilots who are shipping with Blaser, please note all equipment must be at Blaser by August 1 (Calendar week 31). If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:

David Strasmann

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#### Official Notice Board:

The official notice board can be found by clicking this link: <https://balloonfiesta.com/Gordon-Bennett-2023>



We look forward to see you very soon. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Tomas Hora, [tomas.hora@airwizard.de](mailto:tomas.hora@airwizard.de) or myself, Jennifer Garcia at [jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com)

Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Your Event Team

