



Fédération Aéronautique Internationale  
Ballooning Commission CIA

FAI/CIA Plenary meeting 2024  
Lausanne, March 13, 2024

## Minutes AA/AM Working Group

### Attendees

Chairman: Marc André (SUI)  
Members: Eric Decellières (FRA)  
Luc van Geyte (BEL)  
Benoit Perlard (FRA)  
Troy Bradley (USA)  
Sebastian Eimers (GER)  
Mark Sullivan (USA)  
Observers: Cheri White (USA)  
Tomas Hora (GER, remote)  
Markus Haggenev (GER)

#### 1. Report from the 2023 GB held in Albuquerque, NM

Was all very positive, lots of media coverage. Balloon Fiesta very happy.  
Need to improve remote jury handling (microphone during general briefing)

#### 2. Report on the 2024 GB to be hold in Münster, Germany

Sebastian presented status. Budget looks ok (20k EUR missing). Tight launch field.

#### 3. Report on the 2025 GB to be hold in France

Having trouble finding organizer. Currently most realistic in Metz. Option in Paris. Have already sponsorship for hydrogen.

#### 4. Discussion on proposed rule changes to the GBMER

The following rule changes were agreed:

##### 2.2 Pilot licences and experience

Both pilots

- must hold a valid Lighter-than-air (LTA) license (free balloon)
- ~~Starting 2024:~~ must hold a valid license to be pilot in command of a gas [balloon](#)
- must hold a FAI Sporting License issued by their National Air Sport Control (NAC)
- must have logged at least 100 hours as pilot in command in a free balloon at the entry closing

#### 2.4 Closing entry date

The organizer shall communicate the closing entry date and dead-lines in the initial invitation in accordance to the sanction given by FAI.

The minimum entry details are name of the pilot in command, contact details (email address, telephone, residence address) and a copy of his passport/ID.

#### 3.1 Definition of a balloon

For the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett a gas balloon is defined as an aircraft lighter than air, supported statically in the air, with no means of propulsion by any power source and which obtains the buoyancy solely as a result of the difference in weight of the lifting gas and the surrounding air.

~~In modification of the 1980 Rules, Article 6, o~~Only gas balloons with a maximum capacity of 1000 cubic meters may participate in the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett. A tolerance of plus 5% is allowed.

#### 4.1:

- (9) ELT: ~~each balloon will be equipped w~~With a Digital 406 MHz S-ELT or EPIRB which should contain an integrated analog (121.5 MHz) homing beacon and be registered with Cospas-Sarsat.

Note: SPOT, InReach or similar satellite tracking devices are not a valid ELT/EPIRB.

#### 6.2:

- until all balloons have taken off.

Officials will determine the lay-out of the launch field, the filling order and expected time window for inflation and launch. A balloon who is not ready to start the filling within 15 minutes of the designated sequence slot, unless caused by factors outside of the pilot's control, will be moved to the end of the filling procedure with no guarantee to be filled before the launch window closes.

All balloons will launch within a time window fixed by the Event Director. As a guide, balloons will be

#### 8.4 Time limit

The time limit for complaints and protests is eight (8) hours after publication of the official results. The time limit is reduced to one (1) hour after <\*time\*> on <\*date\*>. Times between 11pm and 7am LT are disregarded. Protests must be handed in within two hours of a reply to a complaint.

In case the event director receives a complaint from an Aviation Authority ~~per rule 6.3~~ after the publication of the final results, he must investigate the matter and he may publish a new official result.

#### 9.4 Pilot to be responsible for safe operation of his balloon

A competitor remains completely responsible for the safe operation of his balloon at all stages of inflation, launch, flight and landing. He must ensure that his equipment, his crew and his own level of skill and experience are suitable for the conditions in his own judgment. No flight is mandatory, and all take-offs are at the option of the pilot.

Penalty is up to disqualification in the race.

In addition, the following rule will be added to the GB2024 rules:

#### 6.1

- until all balloons have taken off.

In case needed by the weather situation, the Event Director can decide to change the draw procedure. In that case the order of departure will be decided by a single draw of the pool of all balloons.

All balloons will launch within a time window fixed by the Event Director. As a guide, balloons will be

## 5. Discussion on reserving dates for GB in the future

The following dates are calculated and will be given to EDS:

	Full Moon					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	ABQ	Proposed date
2025	10.7.	9.8.	7.9.	6.10.	4.-12.10.	4.9.-13.9.2025
2026	29.7.	28.8.	26.9.	26.10.	3.-11.10.	27.8.-5.9.2026
2027	18.7.	17.8.	16.9.	15.10.	2.-10.10.	9.9.-18.9.2027

The group strongly advises that the Americas Challenge is a FAI sanctioned event (cat1 or cat2) to justify the consideration on the dates.

## 6. Discussion on “single use” gas balloons

This was discussed in the pre-meeting only and it was discussed not to put any specific rule in place for now.

## 7. Any other business and new topics from the online meeting

### a. Proposal from Sebastian on Hoses

Discussion of the proposal from Sebastian that the CIA invests 5500 CHF to buy hoses for the GB.

- The hoses would be used only for the Gordon Bennett
- Benoit confirmed that this is a good idea and GB 2025 would rent as well
- Agree need a return on investment after approx. 12y. Hoses are good for at least 15y.
- Eimers would take care of maintenance
- Concern that FAI should not own them as FAI can't guarantee the safety.

Discussion with Sebastian after the meeting

- Club (probably club that operates Gladbeck) would buy.
- FAI pays club a contribution
- Every event pays FAI a technical fee of 600 CHF and the club a maintenance fee and storage fee of 250 EUR.
- Eimers take care of maintenance and storage
- Details in the contract to be worked out after the motion passes.

Motion:

Invest 5500 CHF to support the purchase of 8x40m = 320m of filling hoses to be used in the Gordon Bennett races. The purchase will be done by a club in Germany. Every event who is using it will pay 600 CHF technical fee to the CIA and 250 EUR for storage and maintenance to the club. The club is responsible for the maintenance and safety tests.

**b. Sanction Fee**

It was discussed in pre-meetings that we would not allow a maximum number of entrants defined by the organizer. This is because we don't have a selection process other than 3 competitors per NAC.

To solve the sanction fee definition, the AA WG proposes that the sanction fee is defined as 1250 CHF flat (based 25 competitors as it was used in the previous years).

**8. 2024/2025 WG members and Chairperson**

No change

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Members:	Eric Decellières (FRA)
	Luc van Geyte (BEL)
	Benoit Perlard (FRA)
	Gerald Stürzlinger (AUT)
	Troy Bradley (USA)
	Sebastian Eimers (GER)
	Mark Sullivan (USA)

**9. Summary of recommendations to the RSC**

Change the rules as above.