

New Safety Rules Summary for 2012 Competition

Effective June 1, 2012, the official rules of operations and competition have changed for the National Championship Air Races and Air Show. The following are changes that you may need to be aware of.

Definitions

- The maximum racing altitude is 250 feet AGL
- Race class rules: The RARA Official rules of Operations and Competition take precedence over the class rules should there be a discrepancy between the two.
- Race course show line: The term deadline has been replaced by race course show line. It can be defined as the " edge of the raceway closest to a spectator area."

Aircraft Eligibility

- To ensure a thorough inspection of the aircraft, all aircrafts must be in place at Reno Stead no later than 1200 hours on the Saturday preceding Race Week. This allows plenty of time for the inspection team to make sure each aircraft is suitable to race.
- If the aircraft has had any recent modifications since the last time it was registered with the RARA or within the last 12 months should be made aware that their aircraft can be examined by the Class Aircraft Compliance Inspection Team. Any major changes should be documented prior to the inspection and race.
- The Class Aircraft Compliance Inspection Team will have a minimum of two qualified individuals. This team will make the final decision of whether an aircraft is eligible for the competition.
- Any aircraft that has been "assembled" at Reno-Stead requires an inspection prior to any flight.
- The RARA and FAA must agree with the Class Aircraft Compliance Inspection Team on the eligibility of the aircraft, then from there, they must advise the Chief Judge of the Contest Committee that each aircraft has been cleared for flight.

Pilot Eligibility

- Every pilot must pass the qualifications to race made by the Pilot Qualification Committee. They will advise the RARA Pilot Registration Coordinator eligibility and they will then advise the Air Boss/RACE Control, Chief Judge of the Contest Committee and the RARA Chief Timer.
- Each contestant, regardless of their class must have a current medical certificate that has been issued within 6 months of the race. It is also recommended by the RARA that each racer take an EKG and a stress test before the race, to put in their entry package.

Briefings

- During the General Pilot Briefing, it will focus on awareness training and techniques that will prevent the potential for G induced pilot loss of consciousness.

- RARA must brief the crew chief on aircraft maintenance documentation, corrective action and documentation requirements during the pre-inspection, practice, qualifying and racing operations.

Practice and Qualifying Periods

- All pilots must fly a practice session of four to six laps before they can be qualified for the race. The practice laps are meant to allow for G tolerance build up.

Qualification of Aircraft

- The practice day on Sunday will be supported by CFR from 0730 to 1700 for all pilot class certifications and practice flights.
- All pilots must have their aircrafts ready for inspection the first Sunday before the race unless the aircraft is under maintenance and therefore will be considered on time.

Race Course

- The South Race Show Line for all classes shall be the North edge of the runway.

Racing

- Going above 250 feet AGL will not result in a violation only if it is for the safety of the pilot, for example, maneuvering during the start lap for the Jet, Unlimited and Sports Racers while the field is still bunched up, maneuvering out of jet/prop wash, as required for safe passing, or due to loss of situation awareness.
- Maximum race altitude at Pylon Outer 8 for Jet and Unlimited Gold Class racers is 250 feet. The maximum altitude when passing at Outer 8 is restricted to 250 feet AGL for the Gold Racers.

Violations/Penalties/Fines

- Any pilot participating in a Sport, Unlimited or Jet race is not required to maintain race altitude during the Start lap from the start pylon to pylon 6 while they are maneuvering for race position during the start.

Special Rules

- The passenger ride should be no lower than 250 feet AGL

Classes/Full Field/Number of Races

- In the Jet class, there are 14 fastest qualifiers and the number of races is to be determined.