

IAC Rule Changes For The Year 2009

The following changes to the *IAC Official Contest Rules* book were approved by the Board of Directors at their November 2008 meeting and will become effective 1 January 2009.

No.	Synopsis	Effected Rule	Proposed Rule Change	Rationale
09-4	Adds the 8.43.4 figure (with restrictions) to the legal figures for Intermediate Unknowns.	Appendix 3 Intermediate	Add the following Catalogue number (with restriction) to the allowed Intermediate Family 8 maneuvers: 8.43.4 (No roll allowed on vertical line)	Current rules allow the 8.44.4 figure in Intermediate Unknowns and the only difference between that figure and the proposed 8.43.4 is an inverted, rather than upright, exit.
09-6	Removes the requirement to round average scores to the nearest 0.5, allowing full use of the computer's computational precision, resulting in more accurate, and therefore more fair, final results.	7.3.6 7.3.7	7.3.6, 2 nd sentence: Delete the phrase, "to the nearest 0.5" 7.3.7, 2 nd paragraph: Delete the phrase, "to the nearest 0.5"	In the past, averages were rounded to the nearest 0.5 point as the "computer" was often a pencil or a pocket calculator. The scoring software now runs on a computer with essentially infinite precision which renders the need for rounding unnecessary. Most importantly, the errors introduced by rounding can be significant. A rounding of 0.25 points up or down on a 30K figure introduces a 7.5 point error into the final scoring.
09-9	Restricts the total number of penalties assessed per interruption to two (2).	4.16	Add new last sentence to 4.16(c): "In no case shall the Chief Judge assess more than two interruption penalties per Program Interruption event."	Following the rules of 4.16 through 4.16.3, it is possible for a pilot to amass as many as four separate interruption penalties for a single Program Interruption. This is disproportionate for what is, after all, a procedural issue - not something that measures the pilot's aerobatic skills. It is proposed, therefore, to limit the penalties to not more than two per Program Interruption -- One penalty for the interruption itself and not more than one additional penalty for any procedural errors.
09-10	Simplifies dealing with Free Programs found to be noncompliant with IAC rules.	6.12.6	Replace 6.12.6 in its entirety with the following: "Free Program paperwork shall be considered final when the Free Program Pilot Briefing begins, and may not be altered after that time. Should a noncompliant Free Program be discovered any time after the Free Program Pilot Briefing has begun, that Free Program shall be referred to the Contest Jury who shall apply the <i>Judges' Checklist for Free Programs</i> (See 6.14). If a noncompliance is verified, penalties shall be assessed by the Contest Jury as specified in the applicable subpart(s) of 6.14."	The current Rule 6.12.6 is a well-intentioned set of procedures for holding competitors accountable for errors in Free program design, while providing maximum flexibility in rectifying errors prior to flying. However, this degree of complexity is a burden for the contest staff, who have their hands full with normal operations. In addition, the final paragraph indicates that other competitors who plan to fly the same erroneous Free program should be given the opportunity to correct it, while the pilot who had the bad luck of flying the program first is penalized. The Rule Book makes it clear that the pilot is ultimately responsible for arriving at a contest with a legal Free Program and this rule change deals fairly with all pilots flying a illegal Free Program while greatly reducing operational complexity.