



U.S. National Aerobatic Championships Livestream Guide For Commentators

The IAC hopes for a professional broadcast-quality livestream. Read and follow these guidelines to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of professionalism.

Keep in mind that this is serious business. An accident could happen at any time. What you say could be played back thousands of times. Make sure you are familiar with the Incident Response Plan.

About the audience

Your livestream audience includes competitors, volunteers, friends and family, and fans of aerobatics. It may also include the FAA, airport authorities, and, in a worst-case scenario, NTSB investigators. Your professionalism matters to your audience.

Audience expectations and education

- Speak to the audience as if they are spectators who are unfamiliar with competition aerobatics.
- Call the sequence so that the audience knows what they will expect to see next.
- Remind the audience who you are and what they are watching once in awhile (e.g. "You are watching the International Aerobatic Club's livestream coverage of the 2020 National Aerobatic Championships. Currently, we are watching the Sportsman category pilots flying their Free program. Up next, we will have the Intermediate category's Unknown program").
- Tell the audience who is flying next, who has already flown, and other information so they know where we are in the program.
- Update the audience with the latest scoring information.
- Describe the things the audience can't see on TV, like the relative lengths of sides on a square loop or the box position.

Filling breaks in the action

- Use the breaks between flights to talk about how our competitions work, the pilots, and the aircraft.
- Give a shout out to our sponsors and donors
- It's ok to monitor livestream chat and answer questions during the break. Restate the question before answering. Remember that people watching from home or watching later might not see the chat messages.
- You may interview relevant guests during the break, but not during flights. Be sure and prep the person who is the guest on what you'd like to interview them about.



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Competitor overviews

- Be respectful of all pilots regardless of their skill level.
- Remember that pilots watch their performance, often right after their flight. Their families watch it, too.
- Be impartial.
- Keep in mind that you are not a judge.
- Provide factual information about the pilot, his plane, his flying history. Use official provided biographies.

Don'ts for Commentators

- Watch figure skating coverage and mirror what you see there. Use an indoor voice. Don't get overly excited or emotional. Never yell.
- Don't use inside jokes, nicknames, or jargon.
- Don't talk about yourself.
- Don't try to be funny. The flying is entertaining enough.
- Do not try to fill all the dead air. Some space is ok.
- Don't coach pilots. Some competitors fly later than others and should not have the advantage of advice from the livestream.
- Don't gush or compliment other pilots.
- Don't tell stories.
- Don't name drop. The audience isn't interested in you personally.
- Don't speculate. If you aren't sure about something, don't talk about it.
- Don't try to predict the future, read minds, or show off how smart you are.
- Don't have conversations with more than two people.
- Don't use profanity, talk about alcohol, or delve into controversial topics.

Emergency procedures for Commentators

In case of aircraft crash or other serious incident, silently coordinate with Forrest to discontinue the livestream.