

IAC RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

Section: 503.9.1 – Free Unknown Figure Submission

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Current Wording (2025 Rulebook)

503.9.1.1 Free Unknown Figure Submission meetings will be scheduled by the Contest Director.

The Contest Director will determine whether figure submission will be accepted in the order of random draw or by competitor ranking. If by competitor ranking, the Contest Director will determine which flight program will be used to qualify competitors for the submission, and the Figure Submission meeting will occur after the conclusion of the qualifying flight program for that category with sufficient time for preliminary scores to be available.

Proposed Wording

503.9.1.1 Free Unknown Figure Submission meetings will be scheduled by the Contest Director.

The Contest Director will determine whether figure submission will be accepted in the order of random draw or by competitor ranking.

If figure submission is determined by **competitor ranking** and the draw occurs **before any flights have been flown in the current year**, the ranking order will be based on the **overall results from the previous U.S. National Aerobatic Championships**. Competitors who did not participate in the previous Nationals will be placed after those with prior results, and their order will be determined by a **random draw** conducted among those pilots.

If figure submission is determined by competitor ranking **after flights have been flown**, the Contest Director will determine which flight program will be used to qualify competitors for the submission, and the Figure Submission meeting will occur after the conclusion of that qualifying flight program with sufficient time for preliminary scores to be available.

Intent / Rationale

This change formally defines how **competitor ranking** will be determined in situations where the **draw for figure submission occurs prior to any flights in the current contest year**.

- Using the previous year's National Championship overall standings provides a consistent and transparent ranking basis.
- Competitors without prior results are fairly included through a random draw among themselves.
- This approach ensures all pilots are ranked appropriately while maintaining fairness and continuity year to year.
- The rule aligns with existing provisions that allow the Contest Director to use either random draw or ranking but removes ambiguity regarding how the ranking is determined before the current year's flights are flown.

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