



## U.S. National Aerobatic Championships

Salina Regional Airport (KSLN)  
24-29 September, 2023  
Salina, KS  
USA

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Greetings members of the IAC. My name is Shad Coulson and I have been appointed by the IAC Board of Directors as the Contest Director for the 2023 U.S. National Aerobatic Championships, in Salina, Kansas. I suspect it is likely that many of you just asked yourself - who? You are not alone. I have a short tenure with the IAC, especially when compared to those who have previously served as the nationals CD. I competed in my first regional contest in November of 2019 and my first nationals in 2021. I fell in love with competitive aerobatics almost immediately, but my love for the sport has been surpassed by my love and appreciation of this community.

I organized my first IAC contest in 2021, the Estrella Classic in Maricopa, Arizona, and have since served as the CD for the 2022 and 2023 U.S. Advanced & Unlimited Glider Aerobatic Nationals. That contest has seen steady growth year over year, recently hosting 32 pilots. A noteworthy achievement for a glider only event. I am honored and humbled by the confidence entrusted to me by the IAC board and the members of this community. I hope to inspire new ideas, provide fresh perspectives and to renew the interest and participation at the national championships.

Planning for the 2023 nationals began almost immediately following the conclusion of the 2022 competition in Arizona. We have assembled a great team of volunteers, many of whom are returning from last year and were instrumental to the success of the 2022 championships. That team is hard at work organizing and finalizing the various elements of the contest. Keep an eye on future issues of *Sport Aerobatics* and informational releases via *In the Loop*, the IAC website and the various IAC social media channels in the months to come.

During my short time with the IAC, I have noted our reliance on the same group of core judges and volunteers. It is my hope to build a robust cadre of judges and volunteers in the coming years. Our core judges are always invited, but if they so choose having more judges and volunteers will allow those who have served so devotedly to take some time away or to enjoy the sport or other capacities if they so choose. Let me use this opportunity to challenge each of you to get involved in your regional contest or at the upcoming nationals. Begin building your knowledge base as a judge, scorer, registrar, volunteer coordinator, or contest direct, etc. We will need your knowledge, participation enthusiasm and support in the future to continue the legacy of the IAC and the nationals in years to come.

**The 2023 nationals will once again be held in Salina. Official contest dates are September 24-29. Practice dates will be September 21-23. The official contest hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn, which will also serve as the host for our Sunday evening mixer and the contest banquet. We're excited to announce the return of a separate dinner for the award of individual flight medals and conducting of the auction. More details on hotel rates, socials, and dinners will be provided in the coming months.**

The registration fees for competitors at the 2023 nationals are as follows:

- \$250 - Collegiate**
- \$300 - Military (active duty)**
- \$300 - Primary**
- \$480 - Sportsman through Unlimited**
- \$100 - 4-Minute Freestyle**
- \$125 - Hangar (flat fee for the week)**

**Registration will Open May 15 for pilots and volunteers. [www.iac.org](http://www.iac.org) > nationals**

There are few things I value in life more than my free time. I will be the first to acknowledge that a week away from the various personal and professional commitments we all juggle to attend the Nationals can be a difficult task to navigate. I hope many of you will choose to attend and we look forward to welcoming many of you to Salina in September.

Respectfully,  
Shad Coulson  
Contest Director