



1 About the 2025 Edition

1.1 Changes From the Previous Year

- 1.1.1 This year the IAC Rules Committee received 20 proposals, including 1 post-Nationals and one at the Fall Board meeting. The Rules Committee submitted the proposals to the members for comment, collected those comments, and presented them to the IAC Board with their recommendations.
- 1.1.2 Of the 20 proposals, 8 were accepted and 12 rejected by the board.
- 1.1.3 The deadline for new proposals is July 1st 2025. Submit your proposals to: ruleschair@iac.org.

1.2 Editing Principles

- 1.2.1 The Rules Committee strives to maintain this document so that it says things only once, as succinctly as possible, in the most logical order. Revisions from last year are indicated with a change bar in the outside margin.
- 1.2.2 To improve clarity, the IAC Rule Book includes only *rules*. Background information and instructional material is better placed in other documents. However, in some cases a rule is not easily grasped without supporting information. In these cases, an **example**, **exception**, and/or **clarification** may appear beneath the rule.

1.3 Guidance For Future Rule Changes

- 1.3.1 We can maintain a clear and concise rule book if we ask future rule change proponents:
 - a) Did you test the idea? Rules Deviations allow contest directors to test out new ideas. If an untested idea is added to the rule book it is likely to be removed or changed again later.
 - b) Did you write the rule as succinctly as possible? Avoid flowery phrases. Keep each rule to one or two sentences. Eliminate redundancies and cliches. Readers are smart. They understand context.
 - c) Do you use the terms correctly? Terms should be defined and used consistently. There is no reason to define a term that has an obvious English meaning or will come up after a quick search engine query. Define terms if they are unique to the rule book.
 - d) Is this a rule or is it guidance? Guidance can go elsewhere. If there are no repercussions for ignoring the rule it is probably guidance. If it is background information, it is guidance.
 - e) Does this rule interconnect with many others? The glider rules and the rules for the four minute freestyle are your templates. These rules exist in isolation. The rest of the rule book is largely written as if these rules do not exist. This is easier to follow than many examples of "unless" or "except if" that would otherwise be sprinkled throughout the rule text.
 - f) Have you rewritten the rule several times to find the best wording? A rule can improve a lot after several drafts even when the meaning stays the same.
 - g) Are any **clarifications**, **exceptions**, or **examples** necessary and called out in the proper format? Do not include these unless they are needed. Diagrams are necessary when it is not possible for text to get the point across, but do not use them when the text is clear. Diagrams take up space, are hard to format, and are hard to update.
 - h) Is the rule in the proper place? If there are several possible places to put the rule test them all out. Find the spot that minimizes redundancy and best considers how readers search for information.
 - i) Is the idea workable given typical contest resources? It's very easy to come up with clever ideas but keep in mind that competition aerobatics is mostly a weekend activity.
 - j) Does this rule reference other rules? It's probably better to reference a term or the title of a rule than to reference the rule number, in case a future edit changes the numbering.