

2026 Rule Changes from 2025



2026-4	Synopsis	Penalty for Failure to Signal an Explicit Interruption
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT with minor revision from Rules Committee recommendation	
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>15.2 Implicit Interruptions</p> <p>15.2.1 An Implicit Interruption is any one, or a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Using a turn of 90 degrees or more to correct a heading deviation between figures.b) Using a one-half slow roll to correct an improper attitude (upright to inverted or vice versa) between figures.c) Deliberately climbing or diving between figures or flying a horizontal portion of a figure such that the obvious intent is to gain or lose altitude. <p>15.2.2 Implicit Interruptions are penalized as if they were Explicit Interruptions. They are not treated as added figures.</p> <p>15.2.3 Signaling to resume the Performance following an implicit interruption Implicit Interruption is not mandatory.</p> <p>15.2.4 <i>(new)</i> A cessation of the Program that does not comply with the requirements of either an Explicit or Implicit Interruption shall still be penalized by the Chief Judge as an interruption. The Grading Judges shall grade this error as an HZ on the interrupted figure. Resumption of the Performance shall be as specified for an Explicit Interruption.</p>	

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2026-5	Synopsis	Simplify Point Deduction Special Cases
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT some of the Rules Committee recommendations
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p><i>(Define the requirement for each but do not include a specific deduction amount. All deductions will thus be proportional to the error per 27.7.1)</i></p> <p>27 Basic Criteria for Judging Aerobatic Figures</p> <p>....</p> <p>27.7 Deductions</p> <p>27.7.1 For many criteria the amount of deduction is specified. In the case cases where a specific deduction value is not specified, the judge shall apply a deduction proportional to the error, but not less than 0.5 points.</p> <p>....</p> <p>28.6 Family 2 - Rolling Turns</p> <p>28.6.6 If the The rate of roll stops must not stop (aside from any brief pause when changing roll directions), deduct one (1) point. Deduct for each stop.</p> <p>....</p> <p>28.13 Family 7.4.7-7.4.14 – Reversing Whole Loops</p> <p>28.13.2 The change in loading (positive/negative) must be immediate, If a line is with no line added between the two Looping Segments, deduct at least two (2) points.</p> <p>....</p> <p>28.19 Family 8.6.9 to 8.6.16 and 8.10 Reversing P Loops and Reversing 1 1/4 Loops</p> <p>28.19.1 The change in loading (positive/negative) must be abrupt, If a line is with no line added between the two Looping Lines, deduct at least two (2) points.</p> <p>....</p>

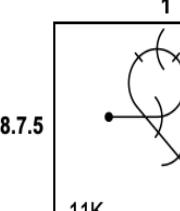
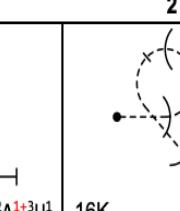
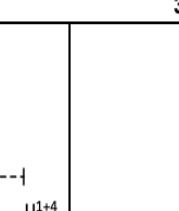
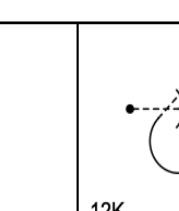
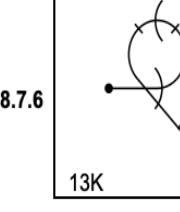
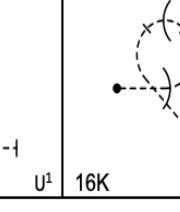
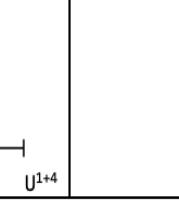
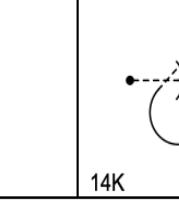
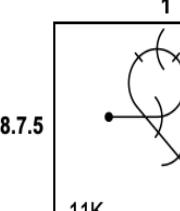
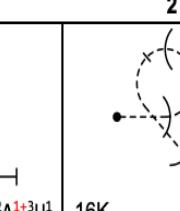
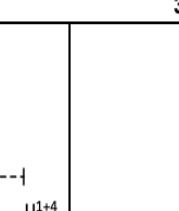
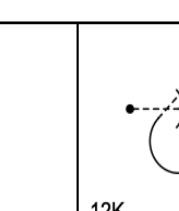
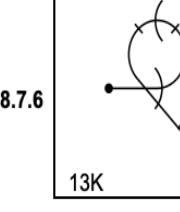
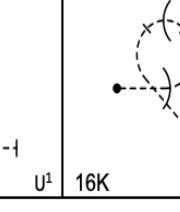
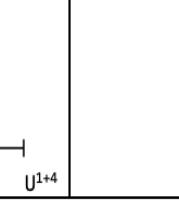
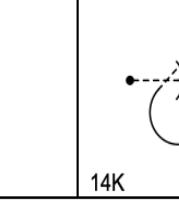
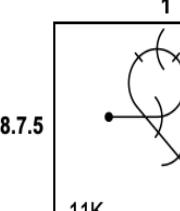
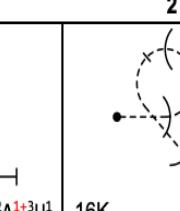
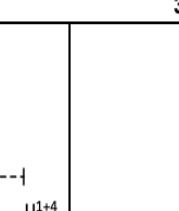
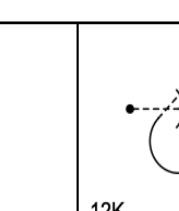
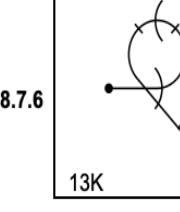
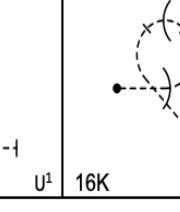
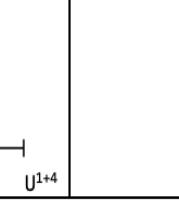
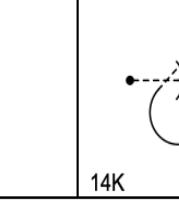
2026 Rule Changes from 2025



2026-6	Synopsis	Error Corrections Within Figures
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>26.6 Errors are Downgraded, Corrections Aren't Corrections Within Figures</p> <p>26.6.1 (new) Pilots are required to correct errors in a figure element prior to or within the execution of the following element. EXAMPLE: If a stop of a Hesitation Roll is 5° over the specified rotation angle, there should either be a 5° rotation back to the correct angle or the next roll element should rotate 5° less to correct the prior error.</p> <p>26.6.2 (re-numbered) Downgrades are always made for the original error but not for any corrections which immediately follow. Example: Over-rotating a roll and rolling the wings back again must be penalized for the over-rotation, but not penalized a second time for resuming the correct geometry afterwards.</p> <p>26.6.3 (re-numbered) When a downgrade in geometry (pitch, roll, yaw) is observed for one maneuver element within a figure, any immediately following maneuver element within the same figure is not downgraded a second time for any misaligned entry geometry. Example: The first point of a 4-point roll stops at 100° of rotation. The second point stops exactly at 180° of rotation. There is no downgrade for the second 80° of rotation.</p> <p>26.7 (new) Corrections Between Figures</p> <p>26.7.1 (was 26.6.3) If any errors observed immediately following the final maneuver element of the preceding figure are corrected before beginning the subsequent figure, only the preceding figure shall receive the deduction.</p> <p>26.7.2 (was 26.6.4) Failure to correct such errors shall result in a downgrade to both figures. <i>(Renumber subsequent sections)</i></p>

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2026-9	Synopsis	Prohibit Snap Rolls on Horizontal Entry of Glider Advanced Unknown Q Loops											
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation												
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>37.3 Allowable Figures for Glider Unknowns 37.3.16 Sub-Family 8.6 – Q Loops <i>(Add Footnote “I” annotation applicable to “A” for 8.7.5.1 & 8.7.5.4)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.5 11K $I^2A^{1+3}U^1$ </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.5 16K U^{1+4} </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.5 12K A^1U^1 </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.5 14K U^1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.6 13K U^1 </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.6 16K U^{1+4} </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.6 14K U^1 </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  8.7.6 14K U^1 </td> </tr> </table>					 8.7.5 11K $I^2A^{1+3}U^1$	 8.7.5 16K U^{1+4}	 8.7.5 12K A^1U^1	 8.7.5 14K U^1	 8.7.6 13K U^1	 8.7.6 16K U^{1+4}	 8.7.6 14K U^1	 8.7.6 14K U^1
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 8.7.6 13K U^1	 8.7.6 16K U^{1+4}	 8.7.6 14K U^1	 8.7.6 14K U^1										

- 1) Snap rolls are not permitted on the horizontal entry line.
- 2) Rolls are not permitted.
- 3) Rolls are not permitted on the 45 degree line.
- 4) Hesitation rolls are not permitted on the 7/8 loop.

2026-10	Synopsis	Clarify Starter Responsibilities							
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation								
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>9.3.3 The Starter may assist the competitor with: pushing their aircraft, putting on parachutes, attaching seat belts, checking altimeter settings, or other items as time allows.</p> <p>9.3.4 The Starter will brief the competitor as to confirm the competitor is aware of: holding procedures, the position of the Judging Line, the Official Wind Direction, and other contest and airspace procedures.</p>								

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2026-11	Synopsis	Chief Judge Radio Communications
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation	
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>30.1 Flight Coordination</p> <p>30.1.1 The Chief Judge will coordinate with the Starter to launch aircraft according to the Order of Flight.</p> <p>30.1.2 (new) The Chief Judge shall coordinate access to holding areas and the Aerobatic Box as needed to support a safe and efficient contest. Clarification: This includes clearing pilots into the holding area and Aerobatic Box when safe to do so, and providing traffic conflict advisories if necessary.</p> <p>30.1.3 (was 30.1.2) The Chief Judge will communicate by radio with pilots, granting them permission to enter the Aerobatic Box confirm the next pilot's identity by radio.</p> <p>30.1.4 The Chief Judge shall not offer unsolicited advice to pilots. Clarification: The Chief Judge is free to answer basic questions from the pilot including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the program they are expected to fly. • any special box or airport procedures • the Official Wind Direction. 	

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2026-12A	Synopsis	Clarify and Condense Penalties – Part 1												
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation												
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>13 Penalties <i>(Delete entire existing 13.1 and replace with new 13.1 below)</i></p> <p>13.1 Failure to Prepare About Penalties</p> <p>13.1.1 Contest Officials may only apply penalties for the specific reasons given in this rule book.</p> <p>13.1.2 Penalties may only be assessed by:</p> <p>a) the Chief Judge, for penalties associated with a specific program under their control, or</p> <p>b) by majority vote of the Contest Jury, for all other prescribed reasons. <i>(Change 13.3 to)</i></p> <p>13.3 Interruption, Signaling and Other Box Procedure Procedural Penalties</p> <p>13.3.1 The penalties for an Interruption, Improper Program Start, Improper Restart, and Illegal Safety Check are: This penalty is applied for procedural infractions as specified throughout this Rule Book. This penalty depends on category as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Penalty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Primary</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Sportsman</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Intermediate</td> <td>15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Advanced</td> <td>50 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Unlimited</td> <td>90 points</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>13.4 Jury Penalties</p> <p>....</p> <p>13.5 Altitude Limit Infringement Penalties</p> <p>....</p> <p><i>(Change all instances of "Failure to Prepare Penalty" with "Procedural Penalty" throughout the rule book.)</i></p> <p>32.1.2 (New) The Scoring Director shall enter all grades and Penalties from each Score Sheet into the Scoring Software.</p>	Category	Penalty	a) Primary	5 points	b) Sportsman	5 points	c) Intermediate	15 points	d) Advanced	50 points	e) Unlimited	90 points
Category	Penalty													
a) Primary	5 points													
b) Sportsman	5 points													
c) Intermediate	15 points													
d) Advanced	50 points													
e) Unlimited	90 points													

2026-12B	Synopsis	Clarify and Condense Penalties - Part 2												
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation												
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p><i>(Revise the Penalty Values for the new combined Procedural Penalties)</i></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Penalty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Primary</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Sportsman</td> <td>10 5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Intermediate</td> <td>25 15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Advanced</td> <td>50 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Unlimited</td> <td>100 90 points</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Penalty	a) Primary	5 points	b) Sportsman	10 5 points	c) Intermediate	25 15 points	d) Advanced	50 points	e) Unlimited	100 90 points
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2026-15	Synopsis	Delete Rolling Turns as an Allowed Glider Intermediate Unknown Figure
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation	
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>37.3 Allowable Figures for Glider Unknowns 37.3.4 Family 2 – Turns and Rolling Turns <i>(Delete Footnote "I" annotation for 2.1.3, the only Rolling Turn currently allowed for Glider Intermediate Unknowns)</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	

2026-16	Synopsis	Retention of Contest Records
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation	
IAC BOD Approved Change	<p>32.10 Contest Records</p> <p>32.10.1 The Contest Director will submit to the IAC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Official Contest Results, including all files from the IAC scoring software. A copy of all protests and Contest Jury decisions. Copies of Aircraft Review Forms and Pilot document Review Forms for all competitors. Copies of all competitor applications for entry into the contest. <p>32.10.2 The Contest Director will retain all contest paperwork until Official Results and Final Standings are posted and the Protest Period has expired.</p> <p>(Delete) 32.10.3 The Contest Director will retain the applications for entry into the contest for a period of one year.</p>	

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2026-19	Synopsis	Clarify Deductions Under the 1-in-5 Rule
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>27 Basic Criteria for Judging Aerobatic Figures</p> <p>....</p> <p>27.6 Deducting for Errors in Angle: The One Point for Every 5 Degrees Rule</p> <p>27.6.1 For all errors in angle the judge shall deduct 0.5 points for every 2.5 degrees of rotation. Deduct 0.5 points for every 2.5 degrees of angular error or fraction thereof. For ease of memorization, this is restated as: One point for every 5 degrees.</p> <p>Clarification: Any perceptible error up to 2.5 degrees should receive a deduction of 0.5 points, errors greater than 2.5 degrees but less than 5 degrees should receive a deduction of 1.0 points, and so on.</p>

2026-20	Synopsis	Distinguish "Reasonable" "Horizontal" vs. "45 Degree" Glider Lines
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>34.20 Grading Glider Performances</p> <p>....</p> <p>34.20.2 Figure Entry and Exit</p> <p>34.20.2.1 In Glider flights, the lines marking the entry into and exit from a maneuver can be at any reasonable constant angle and need not be the same, provided the angles do not violate the basic form of the figure. Any change to the flight path between figures shall be penalized one point per five (5) degrees.</p> <p>Clarification: An angle is "reasonable" if, in the opinion of the judge, the figures flown are identifiable and there is an observed change of vertical flight path between any "horizontal" line and any connecting "45 degree" line.</p> <p>Example: If a pilot is about to fly a loop, which requires only a moderate velocity, followed by a hammerhead with a quarter-roll on the up line, which requires a high velocity, a judge can expect a much steeper attitude on the line marking the loop's exit than on the line marking the entry to the loop.</p> <p><i>(new) 34.20.2.2 If no change in angle between a "horizontal" and connecting "45 degree" line is seen, mark the figure HZ.</i></p>

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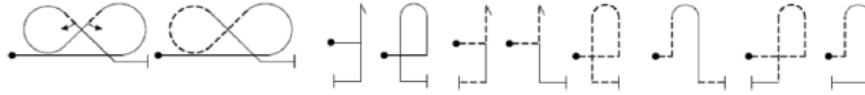
2026-25	Synopsis	Clarify Four Minute Freestyle “Pleasing and Continuous Flow” Grading
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT	per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>35.13.1 The Pleasing and Continuous Flow of Figures</p> <p>The figures should be flown in a continuous manner with only brief pauses between figures to demonstrate control. Deduct points if there is any a prolonged period of level flight, a prolonged period of inactivity, or repositioning of the aircraft to regain orientation between figures.</p>

2026-26 (Post-Nationals)	Synopsis	Define Interruption Directed by Chief Judge & How to Proceed
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT	with revisions from Rules Committee recommendation (see below)
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>15 Interruptions</p> <p>15.1 Explicit Interruptions</p> <p>.....</p> <p>15.2 Implicit Interruptions</p> <p>.....</p> <p>15.3 (new) Chief Judge Interruptions</p> <p>15.3.1 (new) A Chief Judge Interruption is a break in the Competitor’s Performance directed by the Chief Judge in order to ensure safety with respect to air traffic, weather, or other hazardous condition, or to pause the flight due to circumstances on the Judging Line.</p> <p>Clarification: A Chief Judge Interruption may not be used for safety of flight issues arising from the Competitor’s own inability or negligence – See Emergency Competitor Disqualification.</p> <p>15.3.2 (new) The Chief Judge will provide instructions to the Competitor with respect to aborting the flight to land or resuming the Performance. If the Performance is to be resumed, the Chief Judge shall communicate to the Competitor which figure where grading will be resumed.</p> <p>15.3.3 (new) No penalty shall be assessed for a Chief Judge Interruption.</p> <p>15.3.4 (new) Resumption of the Performance shall be as specified for an Explicit Interruption.</p>

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2026-29 (Post-Nationals)	Synopsis	Specify How to Grade Presentation on a Reflight After an Abort
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>29 Presentation</p> <p>....</p> <p>29.3 Grading Presentation</p> <p>29.3.1 The exact method used to determine the Presentation grade is left to the individual judge but shall include the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balance on the X axis. Management of wind conditions. Control of distance and altitude for best viewing angle. Consistent pacing. <p>29.3.2 While Presentation is intentionally subjective, judges must apply their methodology consistently to every pilot.</p> <p>29.3.3 (new) Presentation Grades shall be based on all the figures graded for that Performance.</p>

2026-30 (Post-Nationals)	Synopsis	Change “Alternatively” to “Additionally” for Safety Figures
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>14.3 Safety Checks</p> <p>14.3.1 To check safety belts and inverted fuel and oil systems, competitors have the option of performing any number of Safety Checks comprising of a one-half roll from upright, with a reasonable hesitation at inverted, followed by a one-half roll back to upright.</p> <p>14.3.2 The competitor may apply additional brief g-loading in either/both upright or inverted flight.</p> <p>14.3.3 AdditionallyAlternatively, competitors in the Advanced and Unlimited categories may have the option to perform no more than two horizontal flight half rolls plus one of the figures depicted below. This figure Safety Check, if flown, must be flown continuously on the same axis and inside the aerobatic box. If the selected figure starts inverted, a one-half roll from upright will precede it and if that figure finishes positive a second half roll is not flown. If the selected figure ends inverted, then a one-half roll back to upright will complete the check.</p>  <p>14.3.4 Safety Checks may be performed only in the area designated during the Program Briefing and only after the competitor has been cleared to approach the Aerobatic Box.</p>

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2026-33 (Post-Nationals)	Synopsis	Only Penalty for Program Briefing Late Arrival is Points
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT per Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>25 Program Briefing</p> <p>25.1.1 Program Briefings are mandatory for all contest officials and competitors.</p> <p>25.1.2 Notification of time and place will be given in advance.</p> <p>25.1.3 The briefing will be officiated by the Chief Judge(s) or their representative.</p> <p>25.1.4 Program Briefings may be given for each Program individually or combined into a daily briefing.</p> <p>25.1.5 The briefing will include, at a minimum:</p> <p>a) Roll call and Order of Flight.</p> <p>i. Pilots-Competitors must answer roll call in person. Competitors who miss roll call, without prior Contest Director <u>Late Arrival</u> permission, shall be <u>assessed a Failure to Prepare penalty to their next Performance</u>. charged \$50 to receive a special individual briefing</p> <p>ii. If the The Chief Judge, or contest personnel designated by the Chief Judge, shall provide the competitor a special briefing of the portion of the briefing missed fee has not been paid by the time before the competitor flies, the Chief Judge will assess a Failure to Prepare Penalty.</p> <p>iii. The Contest Jury has the right to waive penalties if missing roll call was the penalty due to circumstances beyond the competitor's control.</p> <p>iv. Any Late Arrivals authorized by the Contest Director will be disclosed.</p> <p>....</p>

2026-35 (Post-Nationals)	Synopsis	Prohibit Shutdown of Engine During 4-Minute Free Program
IAC BOD Disposition		ACCEPT with revisions to Rules Committee recommendation
IAC BOD Approved Change		<p>35 The Four Minute Freestyle</p> <p>.....</p> <p>35.11 (new) Shutdown of Engine Prohibited</p> <p>35.11.1 (new) Competitors shall be immediately disqualified if at any point during the sequence the aircraft's engine is intentionally shut down.</p> <p>....</p> <p><i>(Renumber subsequent paragraphs)</i></p>

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2026-37 (BOD-Directed)	Synopsis	Add Requirement for Chief Judge Also Acting as a Grading Judge
IAC BOD Disposition	ACCEPT	
IAC BOD Approved Change	30 Chief Judge Responsibilities 30.4 Acting as Grading Judge 30.4.1 If necessary, the Chief Judge may also serve as a Grading Judge to fulfill the minimum Grading Judge requirement.	

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Proposed Editorial Changes (Not Impacting Intent of Existing Rules)

Revise dates throughout as appropriate for this new edition.

Judge's Quick Reference: Update as required to reflect approved rule changes.

Review use of “Family” and “Sub-Family” within the rules – Revise to make consistent if/as required.

Throughout, change “deduct at least 0.5 points” TO “deduct according to the magnitude of the error”.

1.1 - Revise proposal counts as experienced in 2025.

2.1.2 – Change “will be assisted” to “may be assisted”.

5.3.2 – Clarify text regarding required documentation.

To:

5.3.2 Required Documentation~~:~~*(delete colon)*

(new) 5.3.2.1 All documents required for legal operation of the aircraft must be present and onboard the aircraft.

Clarification: For contests under FAA jurisdiction, this includes:

a) Airworthiness Certificate.

b) Aircraft Registration Certificate or military serial number designation.

c) Aircraft ~~o~~Operating limitations.

d) ~~Current aircraft w~~Weight and balance.

(new) 5.3.2.2 The following additional documents must also be presented:

~~ea) Entries from the Aircraft and Engine log books, recording annual inspection.~~

~~fb) Certificate of Insurance verifying coverage of \$1,000,000 property damage and \$100,000 single limit bodily injury minimum.~~

11.4 – Move 30.4.1 to 11.3 since who can be a Grading Judge is defined there.

To:

11.3.5 (new, moved from 30.4.1 – Also see 2026-37) If necessary, the Chief Judge may also serve as a Grading Judge to fulfill the minimum Grading Judge requirement.

Delete 30.4 and renumber subsequent sections.

11.5.2 – Change existing second sentence to be a clarification.

To:

11.5.2 There will be a Chief Judge for each category.

Clarification: A Chief Judge may serve in that capacity in more than one category.

2026 Rule Changes from 2025



14.4, 14.5 and (new) 14.6 - Rearrange the 14.4 Signaling and 14.5 Start and End of a Performance to improve clarity.

To:

14.4 Signaling

14.4.1 The standardized signal is a visible and distinct dipping of the wings.

14.4.2 The ideal signal consists of three (3) wing dips, each with a 45 degree or greater bank angle. However, no penalty shall be given for deviating from the ideal if the intent is clear to the Chief Judge.

14.4.3 Signaling may be performed on a horizontal, climbing, or descending flight path, either inside or outside the aerobatic box.

~~14.4.4 If the first figure following Signaling begins in inverted flight, Signaling must be performed in inverted flight and the competitor must change the flight attitude from upright to inverted only by a half roll prior to the first wing dip.~~

~~14.4.5 A competitor may make, without penalty, lateral and vertical adjustments to their position prior to beginning their Performance.~~

~~14.4.6 A competitor may decide not to begin performing after Signaling. Provided the competitor flies through the Aerobatic Box without initiating an aerobatic figure there will be no penalty for restarting.~~

14.5 Start ~~and End~~ of a Performance

14.5.1 If a competitor fails to Signal their intent to begin or restart their Performance, the Chief Judge shall assess an Improper Program Start Penalty.

~~14.5.2 (moved from 14.4.4) If the first figure following Signaling begins in inverted flight, Signaling must be performed in inverted flight when followed by a figure that begins in Inverted flight. The competitor must change the flight attitude from upright to inverted only by a half-roll prior to the first wing dip.~~

~~14.5.3 (moved from 14.4.5) A competitor may make, without penalty, lateral and vertical adjustments to their position prior to beginning their Performance.~~

Clarification: These adjustments may be done either prior to or after Signaling.

~~14.5.4 (moved from 14.4.6) A competitor may decide not to begin performing after Signaling. Provided the competitor flies through the Aerobatic Box without initiating an aerobatic figure there will be no penalty for restarting.~~

~~14.5.2 The competitor is expected to signal to indicate the end of the Performance. No penalty shall be incurred if this signal is omitted.~~

~~14.5.3 The Performance is over when Signaled, or when the competitor has completed the final figure and either exited or turned away from the box.~~

~~14.5.4 If the Flight ends in an inverted orientation, the competitor may execute a half-roll to upright prior to signaling.~~

14.6 ~~Start and~~ End of a Performance

~~14.6.1 (moved from 14.5.2) The competitor is expected to signal to indicate the end of the Performance. No penalty shall be incurred if this signal is omitted.~~

~~14.6.2 (moved from 14.5.3) The Performance is over when Signaled, or when the competitor has completed the final figure and either exited or turned away from the box.~~

~~14.6.3 (moved from 14.5.4) If the Flight ends in an inverted orientation, the competitor may execute a half-roll to upright prior to signaling.~~

(renumber 14.6 to 14.7)

2026 Rule Changes from 2025



21.1.1 - Clarify to “Scoresheets must be any of the following:....”.

To:

21.1.1 Each Scoresheets must ~~be any use one~~ of the following formats:

- a) IAC ~~A, B, C~~ A/B/C format,
- b) CIVA L/R format, ~~and~~/or
- c) IAC L/R format

24.1(b) - Clarify sentence to make grammer jive with the possibility that there are more than one unknown programs.

To:

24.1 Sequences to be Flown During This Program

- a) Primary and Sportsman competitors must fly the same sequence they flew in the Free Program.
- b) Intermediate, Advanced, and Unlimited competitors must fly ~~the~~ Unknown Sequences provided by the IAC.

24.6.2 a) ii) – Clarify no snaps following half loops for Intermediate.

To:

24.6.2 Rolls are restricted as follows:

- a) Intermediate
- i. No unlinked rolls.
- ii. Snap rolls are not permitted following ~~Half-Loops (Family 7.2)~~ within a figure.

26.1.9 - Correct typo in the last word of the Exception.

To:

... see the Family-Specific Grading Criteria.

26.8.2 & 26.8.3 – Clarify non-directionality of turns, pivots and hammerheads.

To:

26.8.2 Any Interior Lines ~~and Looping Lines~~ drawn on the X axis, ~~whether straight or looping~~, must be flown in the direction depicted.

Exception Clarification: Turns, ~~and the pivots of~~ Hammerheads pivots and Tailslides ~~pivots~~ are not ~~directional~~ Interior lines or Looping Lines ~~even though they are drawn on the X Axis~~. These elements may therefore be flown in any manner that matches all Figure-Specific Criteria and preserves the correct entry and exit direction and orientation.

26.8.3 ~~The Y axis is generally non-directional. However, for any figure with both entry and exit lines on the Y axis, the exit must be flown in the same or opposite direction relative to the entry as depicted.~~ Figures flown on the Y axis may be flown in either Y direction (toward or away from the Judge Line).

Exception: When a figure is drawn with both entry and exit lines on the Y axis, the exit must be flown as depicted, with the exit in the same or opposite direction relative to the entry.

....

2026 Rule Changes from 2025



27.7.2 – Update margin flag definitions to eliminate confusing 123.

To:

27.7.2 Common deductions are marked with icons in the margin for easy identification.

HZ Hard Zero criteria.

MR Matching Radii criteria.

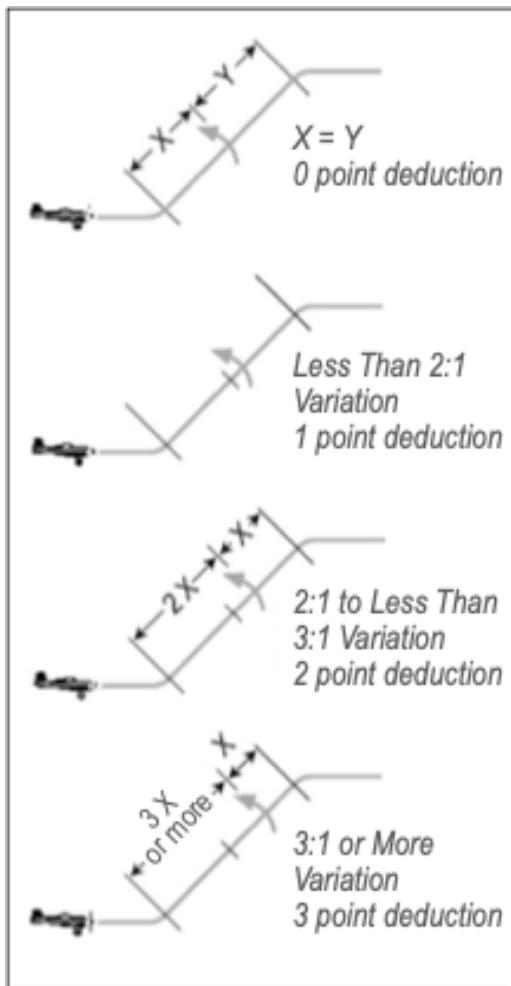
ML Matching Length criteria.

1 A specific point deduction is mentioned.

5° The One Point for Every 5 Degree rule is repeated for clarity.

27.9.4 – Correct illustration to match wording.

To:



2026 Rule Changes from 2025



27.11 – Clarify no snaps on horizontal lines connected to looping lines.

To:

27.11 Looping Lines with Connected Rolls

27.11.1 When a Looping Line is immediately preceded or followed by one or more rolls **that are to be flown on a horizontal line (i.e., rolls not centered on a straight line)**, there may be a pause between the roll and Looping Line.

27.11.2 Any pause between the roll and Looping Line must be short.

27.15.1 - Add margin flag:

2

28.6.6, 28.12.2, 28.19.1 – Remove margin flags for changes approved per proposal 2026-5.

28.7.1 – Change margin flag to be more distinctive.

To:

ML

28.12.2 – Change margin flag to be more distinctive.

To:

ML

28.12.2 Example – Clarify to “...line is seen **on a Square or Octagon Loop** before initiating...”.

28.20.1 - Add margin flag

1

28.22.4 – Clarify HZ to be either pitch change or autorotation.

To:

If **both** the required pitch change **and or** Autorotation **are is** not clearly seen, mark the figure HZ.

28.22.4 - Add margin flag:

HZ

28.24.7 – Clarify meaning of “blended recovery” in Clarification.

To:

Clarification: Judges must not confuse this with a “**ailedered**” **recovery** **finish**, **see below**.

31.2.1, 31.2.2, 31.2.3, 31.5.2, 31.5.8 (d), and 31.5.8 (e) – The word "chairman" is used where we should be using "Chair". We normally use gender-neutral language in IAC policy.

To:

Change the term “chairman”, “Chairman” or “Jury Chairman” to “Jury Chair” in these paragraphs, plus check T/O for similar.

2026 Rule Changes from 2025



32.4.1 & 32.4.2 – Clarify grades, not scores, are from Judges & how the Jasper software handles having no numeric grades.

To:

32.4.1 The Final Grade for a figure will be the average of all ~~scores~~ grades for that figure with special treatment for:

- Conference Averages (“C”)
- Hard Zeroes (“HZ”)
- Averages (“A”)

Clarification: If no numeric grades are present, the Final Grade is 0.0.

32.4.2 Hard Zeroes override the other grades when they are in the majority. If more than 50% of ~~the judges graded the figure a~~ a figure's grades are Hard Zeroes, the Final Grade for the figure is 0.0. Conference Averages are considered grades for the majority calculation, but regular Averages are not.

36.6.2 – Correct formatting for the words “same type” to non-italicized.

37.2.8 – Clarify footnotes to avoid inapplicable instructions.

To:

37.2.8 Family 5 – Stall Turns (Hammerheads)

	1	2	3	4
5.2.1	 17K IAU	 23K AU	 18K AU	 22K AU
5.3.1	 18K $I^3 A^1 + 4U^2$	 25K $A^1 + 4U^2$	 20K $A^1 + 4U^2$	 20K $A^1 + 4U^2$
5.3.2	 24K $A^1 + 5U^2$	 22K $A^1 + 5U^2$	 25K $A^1 + 5U^2$	 21K $A^1 + 5U^2$

1) ~~Only 9.1.2.2 and 9.4.2.2 are permitted on 45 degree lines.~~ Only 9.1.1.1 is permitted on vertical up lines.

2) Snap rolls are not permitted on vertical up lines or 45 degree lines. The combined total for all rolls on

the 45 degree and vertical up lines must not exceed 450 degrees of rotation and 4 stops.

3) No rolls are permitted on either the 45 degree or vertical up lines.

4) ~~No rolls are permitted on the 45 degree lines.~~

5) Only 9.1.2.2 or 9.4.2.2 are permitted on the 45 degree lines.