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USPA National Skydiving Championships General Competition Rules



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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

- 1.1.1 The Skydiver's Competition Manual (SCM) provides general rules for USPA national skydiving competition; specific rules for skydiving disciplines and collegiate competition; and procedures for host/site selection and the requirements for conducting USPA-sanctioned championships events.
- 1.1.2 Further, the SCM provides direction for the judge training and certification program; the selection and conduct of U.S. Teams; procedures for claiming and validating state, national and world records; the representation of U.S. interests in competition, judging and world records to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale/International Skydiving Commission (FAI/ISC); and guidance for bidding and conducting FAI-sanctioned international skydiving events.

1.2. Scope

- 1.2.1 This Manual includes rules and procedures by which the following competitions are conducted:
 - National Collegiate Skydiving Championships
 - Accuracy Landing
 - Artistic Events
 - Canopy Formation
 - Canopy Piloting
 - Canopy Piloting - Freestyle
 - Formation Skydiving
 - Wingsuit Flying
 - Speed Skydiving
 - Test Events
- 1.2.2 Reference is made to the FAI/ISC Sporting Code (General Section and Section 5), which serves as a supporting document to the SCM and can be found at www.fai.org.

1.3. Applicability

- 1.3.1 In accordance with an agreement with the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), the United States Parachute Association is the sole organization delegated authority over skydiving competition and records in the United States and is responsible for promoting and conducting competition events.
- 1.3.2 It is USPA's responsibility to control, observe and document world records set at skydiving events and record attempts conducted in the United States, and to report any subsequent record claims on behalf of U.S. citizens (or foreign nationals/aero clubs) to the FAI/ISC.
- 1.3.3 USPA is responsible for selecting a delegation to participate in all meetings conducted by the FAI/ISC and serves as the representative of the U.S. skydiving community to the international body.

1.4. Responsibility

- 1.4.1 It is the responsibility of the competition committee of the USPA Board of Directors to maintain and edit this Manual.
- 1.4.2 The USPA Board of Directors must approve all changes, except those relegated to the USPA executive director to ensure quality control and policy consistency (see USPA Governance Manual), and those changes made by the ISC.

1.5. Changes

- 1.5.1 From time to time, the SCM requires revision to reflect the latest ISC rules adopted by the competition committee and/or rule changes approved by the board of directors.
- 1.5.2 Although USPA may provide periodic updates to those who have purchased this Manual or downloaded it from the USPA website, it is the responsibility of SCM holders to ensure their version is current.
- 1.5.3 The SCM is available at www.uspa.org/scm
- 1.5.4 Those in possession of an SCM are encouraged to contact the USPA Director of Competition or the Chair of the USPA Competition Committee with comments or recommended changes.

1.6. Chapters

- Chapter 1: USPA National Skydiving Championships General Competition Rules
- Chapter 2: USPA Judging Program

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- Chapter 3: State, National and World Record Reporting Procedures
- Chapter 4: United States Parachute Teams and Delegations
- Chapter 5: USPA Nationals Site Selection
- Chapter 6: International Parachuting Activities
- Chapter 7: USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 8: USPA National Accuracy Landing Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 9: USPA National Formation Skydiving Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 10: USPA National Canopy Formation Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 11: USPA National Artistic Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 12: USPA National Canopy Piloting Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 13: USPA National Canopy Piloting – Freestyle Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 14: USPA National Wingsuit Flying Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 15: USPA National Speed Skydiving Championships Competition Rules

1.7. Elimination of a Discipline

- 1.7.1 Disciplines shall be assessed periodically to determine if the expectation of future participation justifies their continued existence with respect to competitiveness, international representation, and costs to the Hosts and competitors. When participation in a discipline drops below the thresholds described below, the discipline's status must be added to the Competition Committee agenda at the next USPA Board Meeting.
- 1.7.2 The threshold will be met for a discipline when the average ratio of registered competitors (including test events) to required judges drops below 4. The average will be taken over 2 consecutive years.
- 1.7.2.1 Events excluded from 1.7.2 include AL Team Accuracy & SP Mixed Teams.
- 1.7.2.2 Due to its unique equipment costs, the threshold for the Accuracy discipline will be when the average number of registered competitors over 3 National Championships drops below 18. Participation beginning in 2023 will be used when applying this rule.
- 1.7.3 If a discipline is eliminated, then SCM Ch 4, 3.1.3 may be applied, but without the possibility of TTF funding.
- 1.7.4 New disciplines shall be exempt from these guidelines for their first 3 years. Test events/classes/disciplines must be promoted to official status or be dropped after no more than 2 years.
- 1.7.5 Hosts awarded a competition while certain disciplines were active may include those disciplines. Any removal of a discipline from a scheduled National Championship must be announced at least six months before its first event.

2. Purpose And Objectives

- To establish the USPA National Skydiving Championships and recognize and honor U.S. National Champions in the following disciplines: Artistic Events (AE), Canopy Formation (CF), Formation Skydiving (FS), Accuracy Landing (AL), Canopy Piloting (CP), Canopy Piloting – Freestyle (CP-F), Wingsuit Flying (WS), Speed Skydiving (SP) and National Collegiate Skydiving (NCSC).
- To select from the Open Classes of the USPA National Skydiving Championships final standings the best competitors in the United States to form representative U.S. Teams from the appropriate disciplines for participation in selected international competitions.

3. Competition Planning

3.1. Dates and Locations

- 3.1.1 The USPA National Skydiving Championships will be held at a date and location determined by the USPA Board of Directors or by an authority delegated by them.
- 3.1.2 The USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships will be held at a location determined by the USPA Competition Committee and approved by the full board.

3.2. Fees

- 3.2.1 Competitor costs will be advertised by the host via a means suitable to USPA Headquarters (Parachutist and/or a dedicated website page) at least four months before the competition.
- 3.2.2 Host will list separately the costs (per the Letter of Agreement) of practice and competition jumps, the general meet registration fee and event/multiple event registration fees.
- 3.2.3 For all USPA-sanctioned competitions, the cost of travel, food, lodging, and practice jumps will be borne by the competitors.

3.3. Registration

- 3.3.1 Registration will commence and terminate at a date specified before the start of events for each competitive discipline. The close of registration may be extended by the Meet Director when extenuating circumstances delay the start of competition.
- 3.3.2 Once registration is closed, no other team (in team events) or individual (in individual events) will be allowed to register for the event.
- 3.3.3 Should a team make a change to its roster after the close of registration, they may continue to compete but only as a guest team.

3.4. Refund policy

- 3.4.1 Competitors will be refunded the price of any scheduled competition jumps not made within 30 days of the completion of the meet.

4. Management Of Competition

4.1. Meet Director

- 4.1.1 Meet Directors for the USPA National Skydiving Championships and the National Collegiate Skydiving Championships selected by the host must be approved by the USPA Competition Committee.
- 4.1.2 The Meet Director may delegate administrative duties and authority to others but may not relieve himself or herself of the responsibility of conducting the meet according to all applicable competition rules.
- 4.1.3 Duties of the Meet Director include—
 - Directing all activities relating to the conduct of the competition
 - Deferring to the jury all matters pertaining to rules interpretation
 - Ensuring that all decisions reached by the jury are followed, knowing that the Meet Director cannot overrule the jury except in matters pertaining to safety
 - Sending an after-action report to the USPA Controller within 30 days of the completion of the competition
 - Selecting the Chief Judge(s) with confirmation of the Chair of the USPA Competition Committee
 - Selecting the Chief Pilot
 - Assume the duties of S&TA if no local S&TA is present.
 - Approving the start of competition in collaboration with the USPA Controller and Chief Judge(s).
 - Ensure that incidents occurring during competition or official practice that require on-site medical attention are reported to USPA's incident reporting system and to note the number of such reported incidents to be included in the After Action Report.
- 4.1.4 The Meet Director may not be a competitor in any event.

4.2. Chief Judge

- 4.2.1 The Chief Judge will be nominated by the Meet Director from a list of candidates generated by the USPA Judges Advisory Working Group (described in Chapter 2) using the available pool of USPA judges and required qualification guidelines.
 - 4.2.1.1 Chief Judges from prior USPA National Championships should be consulted for recommendations when determining who to nominate. The Chair's approval should be based solely on core qualifications and not on relative strengths compared to other candidates.
- 4.2.2 The Chief Judge will select the judging staff.
 - 4.2.2.1 Regardless of the Chief Judges' intended selections, they must ensure that each USPA-rated National judge in the discipline is given the opportunity to express interest and/or availability to judge any National Championships.
 - 4.2.2.2 All interested judges who are not selected for the official Panel must be notified at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.2.3 All judges, including the Chief Judge, must be Nationally or Internationally rated in the relevant discipline by either USPA or any current FAI member country.
- 4.2.4 The Chief Judge shall approve the start of competition in collaboration with the USPA Controller and the Meet Director.
- 4.2.5 For the purposes of this section, the following are considered one discipline:
 - Accuracy Landing
 - Artistic Events
 - Canopy Formation
 - Canopy Piloting
 - Canopy Piloting - Freestyle

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- Formation Skydiving
- Wingsuit Flying
- Speed Skydiving

- 4.2.6 The panel of judges for Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation, will comprise an event judge plus at least three other judges.
- 4.2.7 Accuracy landing requires at least three judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
- 4.2.8 Artistic Events require a Chief Judge, Event Judge, and two or three panel judges of whom can be remote if approved by the Competition Committee.
- 4.2.9 Canopy piloting requires at least eight judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
- 4.2.9.1 The host must provide and assign 2 additional persons to assist the judges during the competition. At least one of these helpers must be able to set up and operate the video judging system. They should preferably have at least a local CP judge rating. If any of these persons are not a CP judge, they should be vetted before being accepted for the position. These persons must be made available to and approved by the CJ, no later than the day before the OPP starts.
- 4.2.10 Wingsuit flying requires at least five judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
- 4.2.11 Speed Skydiving requires at least three (3) judges (including the Chief judge).
- 4.2.12 Additional individuals may perform tasks (e.g., canopy observer, wind recorder) or take part in judge training provided they are under the direct supervision of the NJTP course director or the Chief/Event Judge.
- 4.2.13 At a USPA National Championship or National Collegiate Skydiving Championships, the Chief Judge has the right to dismiss a judge from the panel of judges if his/her work and/or behavior is/are incompetent or unacceptable.
- 4.2.14 The Chief Judge shall be responsible for determining a competitor's/team's final score and placing.
- 4.2.15 Within 30 days after the conclusion of the competition, the Chief Judge is responsible for sending an after-action report to the USPA Controller, including names of all participating judges and the event(s) judged.
- 4.2.16 The Chief Judge will organize a judges' conference prior to the start of the competition. All judges on the panel shall attend the conference, though the Chief Judge may make exceptions for logistic reasons or unforeseen circumstances. Any such exceptions must be documented in the Chief Judge's After Action Report.
- 4.2.17 Judges must be physically present at the competition site to perform their duties during the competition. Exceptions to this must be approved by the USPA Competition Committee. Each Event and/or Class utilizing remote judging must be separately approved.

4.3. USPA Controller

- 4.3.1 The USPA Director of Competition shall act as the USPA Controller and will represent USPA for the event to ensure the competition is conducted in accordance with the USPA National Skydiving Championships Letter of Agreement, USPA BSRs, and all applicable competition rules.
- 4.3.2 If the Director of Competition is unavailable, the Chair of the USPA Competition Committee will appoint a Controller. The USPA Controller should be a member of the USPA Competition Committee or Headquarters staff, but if neither is available, another member of the USPA Board or Headquarters should be appointed.
- 4.3.3 The duties of the USPA Controller, commencing upon appointment, include—
- Ensuring that the host follows the terms of the Letter of Agreement and all applicable competition rules
 - Physically inspecting the competition site at a suitable time during the preparation thereof
 - Ensuring that a USPA Safety & Training Advisor is present during the competition
 - Liaising with the event host and Meet Director during the competition to ensure adherence to the program of competition, including the conduct of the awards ceremony and any social events
 - Confirming that the registration fee and cost per jump are as presented in the host's approved bid
 - Establishing the number of participants who pay the sanction fee
 - Verifying and facilitating the payment of travel and per diem expenses to those due payment
 - Approving the start of competition in collaboration with the Chief Judge(s) and the Meet Director

4.4. Jury

- 4.4.1 The Jury President will convene a jury at the USPA National Skydiving Championships.
- 4.4.2 The responsibility of the jury is to ensure that the Skydivers Competition Manual, the USPA Basic Safety Requirements, and the USPA/Host Letter of Agreement are strictly observed.

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- 4.4.3 The maximum number of jury members, not including the Jury President, is four and the minimum is two. The USPA Competition Committee may, at their discretion, approve a Jury of One for a small competition with few competitors.
- 4.4.4 A majority of jury members, including the Jury President, (a quorum) will be physically present and officially convened to perform its duties which include:
- Ensuring fair, just, and equitable conduct of the competition and ensuring that all applicable competition rules are followed
 - Evaluating petitions for rule interpretation
 - Hearing protest appeals
- 4.4.5 The Jury President's role shall, by default, be filled by the USPA Controller. The Chair of the USPA Competition Committee may, at their discretion, appoint someone else, as needed, who must not already be a meet official or competitor.

4.5. Video Controller

- 4.5.1 The Meet Director, with the approval of the USPA Competition Committee Chair, will appoint a Video Controller prior to the competition.
- 4.5.2 The Video Controller may inspect a team's video equipment to verify it meets competition standards as listed in Chapter 1 Section 7.3.
- 4.5.3 As determined by the Chief Judge, inspections that do not interfere with the team's performance may be made at any time during the competition.
- 4.5.4 If any video equipment does not meet competition standards as previously defined, this equipment will be deemed unusable for the competition by the Video Controller.
- 4.5.5 The Video Controller's responsibilities are as follows:
- Have a clear understanding of the video processing system used for the event
 - Ensure that an effective copying and logging system, approved by the Chief Judge(s) and event judge(s), is in place for all events that use video for judging and scoring and that videographers operate in compliance with the appropriate chapters
 - Process the competition video
 - Conduct a video briefing prior to the start of the event
 - Provide USPA with copies of the competition video
 - Stress proper video procedures to camera flyers and provide a convenient method for copying and identifying files (event, team number and round) for judging.

5. Qualification Requirements

5.1. General

- 5.1.1 In Open class team disciplines, if any member of a team is ineligible for medals or participation on a U.S. Team, the entire team is ineligible.
- 5.1.2 In non-Open class team disciplines, the entire team is ineligible to compete for medals if:
- 5.1.2.1 On teams consisting of five (5) competitors or more (including the videographer, excluding any alternate), more than 25% of the team is considered ineligible to compete for medals, or
- 5.1.2.2 On teams consisting of less than five (5) competitors (including the videographer, excluding any alternate), more than one (1) competitor on the team is considered ineligible to compete for medals.
- 5.1.3 Meet management has the right to require documentation to substantiate eligibility and qualifications in 5.2.
- 5.1.4 International and guest competitors may compete at any USPA National Championships at the discretion of the Meet Director and at their own expense, provided they are USPA members and comply with the minimum age and license requirements.

5.2. Competitor Eligibility and Qualification

- 5.2.1 To compete at a USPA National Skydiving Championships and be eligible for nationals' medals, competitors must be a current, regular USPA member and—
- Be a U.S. citizen OR possess a Resident Alien Card U.S. INS Card I-551, OR possess an I-551 temporary stamp in their passport, OR possess a current O-1A visa.
 - Be at least 18 years of age
 - Have at least 100 freefall skydives

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- Hold a current, valid USPA license or FAI Certificate of Proficiency appropriate for the discipline or event as follows:

Table 1: Competition Qualification Requirements

Discipline/Event	Required License	Discipline/Event	Required License
Accuracy Landing	C	Formation Skydiving (Open)	C
Artistic Events (Open)	C	Formation Skydiving (10- and 16-way)	C
Artistic Events (Intermediate)	B	VFS (Intermediate)	B
Canopy Formation (2-way Pro/Am)	B	VFS (Advanced)	B
Canopy Formation (2-way Open)	C	VFS (Open)	C
Canopy Formation (4-way)	C	Mixed Formation Skydiving (Advanced)	B
Canopy Piloting* (See 5.2.2)	C	Mixed Formation Skydiving (Open)	C
Formation Skydiving (Beginner)	B	Wingsuit Flying	C
Formation Skydiving (Intermediate)	B	Speed Skydiving	C
Formation Skydiving (Advanced)	B		

- All team air-to-air videographers are required to hold a minimum of a C License or international equivalent.

5.2.2 Canopy Piloting and Canopy Piloting - Freestyle

- Intermediate Class and Advanced Class competitors must also have at least 500 high-performance landings total including a minimum of 100 high-performance landings in the last 12 months.
- Open Class competitors must also have at least 1,000 high-performance landings total including a minimum of 150 high-performance landings in the last 12 months.

5.2.3 Guest competitors who do not reside in the U.S. may hold an introductory membership in lieu of a regular membership. Residency documentation must be presented to the USPA Controller upon request.

5.3. Eligibility for USPA Nationals Medals and the U.S. Team

5.3.1 The following are not eligible to receive a USPA Nationals medal or serve as U.S. Team members:

- International and guest competitors
- Competitors ineligible to acquire an FAI sporting license issued by the U.S. holding a foreign sporting license is not in itself a disqualification.
- U.S. citizen/legal resident competitors eligible to hold a US-issued FAI sporting license, but who are not eligible to represent the U.S. at the next applicable FAI First Category Event (FCE) by current FAI rules.

5.3.2 At all award ceremonies, the next US Team(s) in the completed events, as best determined by the current team selection rules (SCM4-3), shall be given special recognition. The US Team Patch shall be distributed to those who have initially qualified for the next US Parachute Team. Competitors who have already qualified for the same US Team will not be given second patches.

6. Duties And Conduct Of Participants

6.1. General Rules

- 6.1.1 Competitors and officials must comply with these rules throughout the competition as well as on official practice & registration days.
- 6.1.2 Lack of knowledge regarding any subsection of these rules will not be grounds for protest of any judgment made by the judges or Meet Director.
- 6.1.3 Competitors and officials must honor the basic rules of good behavior, sportsmanlike conduct, and the USPA Values Statement (6.5), follow the official schedules, attend scheduled activities on time with proper equipment, obey the officials, and respect the established order of jumping.
- 6.1.4 To compete, all competitors must register.
- 6.1.4.1 Registration is complete when registration forms (online if available), DZ check-in requirements, and payment are complete as confirmed by the USPA Controller in coordination with the Host.
- 6.1.5 Registration by a competitor is an implicit agreement to abide by these rules and the pronouncements made by meet management.
- 6.1.6 Failure to observe the required conduct and duties described in this section or willful disobedience of signals or orders from meet officials may be grounds for disqualification of a competitor by the Meet Director from a jump, an event, or the championships without refund of fees.

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- 6.1.7 USPA and/or the sponsors of USPA-sanctioned competitions are not responsible for accidents, injuries, or casualties to competitors or loss of their equipment or possessions.
- 6.1.8 Legal responsibility waivers will be signed by competitors during registration.
- 6.1.9 If the jumps are made in conditions which are evidently within the limits of the competition rules, though some of the technical conditions stated in the rules are not strictly complied with, there are no grounds for a rejump.
- 6.1.10 Any other individuals/team(s) in the aircraft must not interfere with the exiting individual/team.

6.2. Safety Rules

- 6.2.1 USPA Basic Safety Requirements and any special safety rules must be followed at all times.
- 6.2.2 The Meet Director may ground or expel (without refund of fees) an individual or entire team from one or all events for violating these safety rules.

6.3. Rules for Exigencies

- 6.3.1 Meet management has the authority to impose regulations, which may become necessary due to unforeseeable exigencies.
- 6.3.2 Competitors have the right to expect that such exigent regulations will be commensurate with fair and impartial conduct of the meet and will not alter the spirit of these rules.

6.4. Spirit of the Rules

- 6.4.1 For any controversy during the competition, which is not precisely described in these rules, the spirit of the rules will be applied to settle the matter.
- 6.4.2 "Spirit of the rules" is defined as a fair and equitable opportunity for individuals or teams to demonstrate their skill in competition.
- 6.4.3 It is the responsibility of the individual or team to plan strategy and to execute the appropriate skills in a manner that does not violate the rules.

6.5. USPA Value Statement

- 6.5.1 USPA is committed to promoting an atmosphere that allows our sport to be safe, inclusive and fun. We advocate for the dignity and well-being of all individuals and respect diverse traditions, heritages and experiences. We value inclusivity and reject discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or any other attribute not related to performance or merit. USPA affirms its vision of a safe and healthy skydiving environment free of violence and any form of harassment, including sexual or racial harassment.

7. Technical Conditions

7.1. General Rules

- 7.1.1 All practice jumps made at a USPA National Skydiving Championships site will be made only from aircraft under control of the Meet Director and at his or her discretion.
- 7.1.2 After the close of registration and before the start of competition, meet management will conduct a briefing.
 - 7.1.2.1 Competitors may continue to jump or make use of a wind tunnel after the close of registration and prior to the briefing
 - 7.1.2.2 Canopy Piloting Freestyle may be permitted additional practice with Meet Director approval prior to its starting date if Canopy Piloting Freestyle follows Canopy Piloting Standard events.
- 7.1.3 Injury or illness: A competitor may make up any jumps missed due to injury or illness until the event in which the jumps were missed is completed. Medical documentation may be required at the discretion of the Meet Director and USPA Controller.
- 7.1.4 Competitor jump limits: There is no maximum number of competition jumps allowed per day per competitor in all events or disciplines.
- 7.1.5 Jumping may continue if there is, in the Meet Director's opinion, sufficient light for a safe and fair competition.

7.2. Wind Tunnels, Training and Fun Jumps

- 7.2.1 For all FS/VFS events, CF events except Rotations, and the WS Acrobatic event, once such an event's draw has been made public and until the event has completed, no competitor or team registered in the event will be permitted to make non-competition skydives. FS/VFS & Wingsuit Acrobatic competitors affected by this rule are also prohibited from using a wind tunnel. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the Meet Director with concurrence of the Chief Judge.
 - 7.2.1.1 Violations of this rule may warrant disqualification by the Meet Director and a recommendation to the USPA Competition Committee of disbarment from future USPA championships.
- 7.2.2 A team or individual may jump when weather permits jumping but not judging (determined by the Meet Director); if a team or individual so decides, the jump will not be scored and they will not be eligible to receive a medal in that event.

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7.2.3 Freefall videographer's jumps during the championships are not considered training or fun jumps.

7.3. Videographers

7.3.1 Each team in the AE, CF, FS, VFS, MFS and WS Acrobatic events will include a videographer who will provide the evidence required to judge each round. The videographer need not be the same team member for every round.

- For the purpose of these rules, air-to-air video equipment shall consist of the complete video system(s) used to record the video evidence of the team's freefall performance, including camera(s), recording media, cables, and battery(ies), and excluding any post-recording editor or graphics processing equipment.
- All video equipment must provide a high-definition digital-video file in a compatible file format approved by the Video Controller containing a 1080-type digital signal with a minimum frame rate of 50 frames per second.
- Each videographer must use the video transmission system provided by the organizer. The videographer is responsible for ensuring the compatibility of the video equipment with the scoring system.
- The camera must be fixed static to the helmet.
- No roll, pitch, or yaw movements of the camera, mechanical, or digital zoom adjustment, or any digital effects (excluding "steady shot" or other image stabilization feature) may be used during competition jumps.
- As soon as possible after each jump is completed, the videographer must deliver the air-to-air video equipment (including the media used to record that jump) for copying at the designated video station.
- No post-processing, editing, or additional re-rendering of the video evidence is permitted.
- The media evidence must remain available for viewing or download until all scores are posted as final.
- Failure to meet any of these requirements will lead to a 20% score penalty (rounded down to the next whole number) for that round.

7.3.2 Only one team videographer may jump on each jump.

7.3.3 Additional videographers

- Non-team videographers ("outside videographers") may accompany competitors/teams with prior permission of the team and Meet Director.
- In competition, an outside videographer may not engage in aerial contact with any team.
- If in the opinion of the CJ, the EJs and the Video Review Panel, a videographer or cameraflyer (other than the team's videographer) interferes with the judgeability of a team's performance or through direct body contact adversely affects a team's performance, a re-jump may be awarded. In this case the videographer or camera flyer responsible will not be permitted to participate in further video or camera jumps during the competition.

7.4. Jump Order

Except where specified in the discipline-specific competition rules, the following procedure will be applied:

7.4.1 Before starting the first round of each event, jump order numbers for each team or individual competitor will be determined by the Meet Director or their designee except when the discipline-specific section of the SCM for the event provides a different method.

7.4.2 Teams or individuals will compete in this order, unless otherwise determined by the Meet Director.

7.5. Jump Notification

7.5.1 Teams or individuals will be given a call at least 15 minutes and five minutes before boarding the aircraft. Such calls may be implemented by non-audible means if approved by the USPA Controller.

7.5.2 If a team or individual does not arrive in time for boarding, they will be scored as having made the jump and assessed the maximum penalty.

7.5.3 Except for re-jumps and the first jump of the day, each competitor is allowed a minimum time of 45 minutes from arriving at the competition site to the first call for the next competition jump.

7.5.4 For competitors who have entered in two events that are run concurrently, the minimum allowed time from arriving at the competition site to the first call for the next jump, except for re-jumps and the first jump of the day, is 30 minutes.

7.6. Change or Interruption of Events

7.6.1 If a round in an event is interrupted for any reason, the round will be completed at the earliest opportunity.

7.6.2 In order to ensure completion or if the weather requires it, the Meet Director may run multiple events simultaneously.

7.7. Competitor Refusal to Jump

7.7.1 Competitors may refuse, at their own expense, to jump for reasons that violate good safety practices (e.g., clouds, aircraft, lack of oxygen, excessive cold, jump run inequality, video failure, high winds, premature pack opening, high-G jump runs).

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- 7.7.2 They must ride the aircraft down unless ordered by the pilot to exit in emergencies.
- 7.7.3 If a competitor exits the aircraft (except in an emergency), the jump becomes official and will be scored.
- 7.7.3.1 In Formation Skydiving, this rule does not apply if the only competitor to exit the aircraft is the team's videographer.
- 7.7.4 If the Meet Director determines that the reasons for refusal are not considered pertinent, the team or individual will be scored as having made the jump and assessed the maximum penalty.

7.8. Host and Meet Management Responsibilities

- 7.8.1 The Host is responsible for providing a wind speed-measuring device capable of displaying wind velocity in meters per second.
- 7.8.2 The Host is to provide sufficient staff (normally one or two persons) to make up the scoring and recording section of the judging staff.
- 7.8.3 The Host must provide a video slate (or other suitable method) for AE, CF Rotations and WS events so that videographers can video their team number and round just before exit.
- 7.8.3.1 The Host must provide the teams with a way of identification of the team showing the team number/round to be recorded by the Videographer just before exit. The recording of this or other clear identification of the team number and round should continue into with the jump without any stop in recording. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a score of zero (0) points for the relevant round.
- 7.8.4 A meet announcement board, which may be an electronic format approved by the USPA Controller, where official announcements including event holds, releases, scores, and protest results are posted, must be present.
- 7.8.5 Such announcements, and especially scores, become officially posted when placed on such an announcement board for permanent, continuous public display.
- 7.8.6 The Chief Judge shall post standings for each round on the board to declare the given rounds as official. Only the Chief Judge shall have this ability.

8. Policies And Procedures

8.1. Equipment and Clothing

- 8.1.1 Each competitor is responsible for outfitting himself or herself with safe and acceptable gear, normal associated equipment, and clothing necessary for the performance required in each competitive discipline.
- 8.1.2 The harness and container system and parachutes must meet all current FAA and USPA regulations and standards.
- 8.1.3 All skydiving gear must be inspected and approved by an inspector designated by the host in order for a competitor to be registered for the competition.
- 8.1.4 All modifications to harness/container systems must be disclosed prior to the close of registration. Modifications require a letter from the manufacturer as any unapproved modification could invalidate the TSO. No alterations or modifications may be added after the inspection.
- 8.1.5 The Meet Director, whose decision will be final, will settle any controversy concerning the suitability of a competitor's equipment.

8.2. Aircraft

- 8.2.1 The type of aircraft for each event in each discipline will be as advertised before the competition.
- 8.2.2 The airspeed at time of exit for each event in each discipline will be as specified in the rules governing that discipline.
- 8.2.2.1 It is the pilot's responsibility to maintain airspeed and altitude using the manifold pressure, rpm, etc., set by the Chief Pilot or Meet Director to assure equal conditions for all teams and individuals on exit from all aircraft.
- 8.2.2.2 It is the responsibility of the individual competitor or team captain to confirm airspeed and altitude except where the rules specific to the event indicate otherwise.
- 8.2.2.3 An individual competitor or team captain may request a second pass if aircraft speed or altitude is suspect (not within specified limits at time of intended exit).
- 8.2.3 Aircraft pass limits
- 8.2.3.1 No more than two aircraft passes over the target per competitor or team will be permitted for any jump.
- 8.2.3.2 A team or competitor that does not exit the aircraft on the second pass will be considered to have made the jump and scored the maximum penalty except:
- When the pilot or Chief Judge authorized another run because of unusual circumstances
 - When it is apparent to the Chief/Event judge that a competitor or team exhibited good safety practices or common sense in making additional passes or landing with the aircraft.

8.3. Weather

- 8.3.1 For all competitive disciplines, any weather limitations affecting the competition are explicitly defined in the chapter of the Skydiver's Competition Manual governing that discipline.
- 8.3.2 The maximum wind limit for all events shall be 11 m/s unless otherwise specified by a lower limit in the section of the Skydiver's Competition Manual governing that discipline.
- 8.3.3 Competition jumps may only take place between the official times of sunrise and sunset at the competition site. For Team Accuracy Landing, the jump time is defined as the exit time of the first jumper.

8.4. Protests

- 8.4.1 At any time during the event, a competitor or a team that is dissatisfied on any matter should first ask the appropriate official for assistance and, if still dissatisfied, may file a written protest to the Meet Director, who must give the protest to the Jury President and advise the Chief Judge of its contents without delay. At the discretion of the Jury President, electronic and other messaging mediums may be accepted.
- 8.4.2 A protest must be filed within two hours of the knowledge of the grounds for protest.
 - 8.4.2.1 The timing of the two hours will only be done during the time that the competitors in the event are required to be at the competition site.
 - 8.4.2.2 The protest must state the particular rule or rules about which the protest is being made and contain a description of the situation, reasons for the protest, names of pertinent witnesses, and the availability of the witnesses to provide information if called by the Jury.
 - 8.4.2.3 No protest may be made nor may one be accepted by the Meet Director that deals with the evaluation of a jump or a score given by the judges.
 - 8.4.2.4 A protest may be withdrawn, with the return of the fees, at any time before the final decision of the Jury.
 - 8.4.2.5 In order not to delay award ceremonies or other activities, the two hour period after the official results for a particular event have been posted may be waived by unanimous consent of all competitors or a representative from each team that are entitled to submit a protest within the two hour period to be waived. This waiver consent will be indicated by the signature of each team representative on a form prepared by the Meet Director and will be effective at the moment all necessary signatures have been obtained, after which time no protests may be made for that event.
- 8.4.3 The issue must be addressed by the Jury as soon as possible.
- 8.4.4 A \$100 fee must accompany the protest. This fee applies to each competitor/team.
 - 8.4.4.1 If a decision regarding the protest is granted in favor of the competitor or team, all protest fees will be refunded.
 - 8.4.4.2 Kept fees will be donated to the U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund in the name of the protesting individual or team when possible.
- 8.4.5 Procedures
 - 8.4.5.1 The Jury President will convene a hearing with all applicable parties present during and aware of the protested incident to discuss pertinent information.
 - 8.4.5.2 The Jury President will inform the competitor or team of the protest decision by public written posting, noting the competitor or team number, event, round, and disposition of the protest.

8.5. Rejumps

- 8.5.1 Except as provided in the video review panel paragraph of this section, any principal judge observing a circumstance that obviously merits a rejump for a competitor or team will inform the Event/Chief Judge.
 - 8.5.1.1 The competitor or team will be immediately informed of an awarded rejump after a favorable decision by the Event/Chief Judge.
 - 8.5.1.2 Individual competitors or teams may refuse a rejump and take the original score.
 - 8.5.1.3 Officially awarded rejumps, if not declined, must be made as soon as possible after the incident causing the rejump.
- 8.5.2 The cost of all officially awarded rejumps will be borne by the competitor or the team.
- 8.5.3 Excessive wind speed during a jump is not grounds for a rejump, except in the Accuracy Landing and Canopy Piloting events.
- 8.5.4 Problems with a competitor's equipment, including video equipment, are not grounds for a rejump.
 - 8.5.4.1 Contact or other means of interference between the team and videographer are not grounds for a rejump unless specified in a specific chapter of these rules.
 - 8.5.4.2 Once the team leaves the aircraft, the jump will be scored unless video evidence is insufficient.
- 8.5.5 Specific conditions or situations warranting rejumps will be described in the section of this Manual governing the competitive discipline.

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8.5.6 Video Review Panel

- 8.5.6.1 A Video Review Panel, consisting of the Chief Judge of the event, the President of the Jury, and the Video Controller, will be established prior to the competition.
- 8.5.6.2 In the event that the Video Review Panel determines that the team's video has been deliberately tampered with or there has been an intentional abuse of the rules, no points for all competition rounds involved. Chapter 1, 6.1 will be applied (sports-manlike conduct)
- 8.5.6.3 Except where discipline-specific rules provide alternative procedures, if the Video Review Panel determines the insufficiency of the video evidence is due to a factor that could be controlled by the team, no re-jump will be granted, and the team will receive a score based on the video evidence available.
- 8.5.6.4 Except where discipline-specific rules provide alternative procedures, if the Video Review Panel determines the insufficiency of the video evidence is due to weather conditions or a cause beyond the control of the team, a re-jump may be given.

8.6. Transgender Athlete Policy

- 8.6.1 USPA seeks to establish and maintain an inclusive environment that fosters fair and equitable competition for any member. For the purposes of competition and record setting, gender is determined by the athlete's government-issued ID.
- 8.6.2 Should an athlete have a concern that another athlete is misusing this policy to gain a competitive advantage, that athlete may file a formal complaint as described in 8.4 or Chapter 3 - 2.11. Any such complaints will be treated confidentially to protect the privacy of the athlete(s).
- 8.6.3 For sporting purposes, gender can only be changed once per 24-month period.
- 8.6.4 This policy should not be construed to supersede the policy of another organizing body when athletes compete in an event that is not under the auspices of the USPA
- 8.6.5 Transgender athletes who have qualified for the US Team in a male or female category or classification must provide proof of eligibility per the current FAI Transgender Policy prior to the US Team's internal final registration deadline for the international sporting event.
- 8.6.6 Transgender athletes who are claiming international records in a male or female category must include proof of eligibility at the time of the record performance per the current FAI Transgender Policy when filing the claim to USPA Headquarters.

8.7. Competitors with disabilities

- 8.7.1 In the event of one or more competitor(s)/team(s) have a physical disability which would, under normal circumstances, preclude their participation in an event due to an inherent conflict with the rules (e.g. amputee(s) entering Formation Skydiving), the competitor/team shall present to the Chief Judge a declaration of the method they intend to use to overcome the conflict to provide an equitable demonstration of their abilities.
- 8.7.2 This/these plan(s) may be the basis for amended judging criteria for this competitor(s)/team(s) performance.
- 8.7.3 This/these plan(s) must be submitted with sufficient time to allow for examination and approval.
- 8.7.4 The President of the Jury and Chief Judge will exercise due diligence in examining the team/competitor's plan(s) and shall approve any such plan that they believe is consistently applicable and falls within the Spirit of the Rules

8.8. Completion of the Competition

- 8.8.1 Should circumstances require, the Meet Director may employ an elimination cut to ensure completion of a valid championships.
- 8.8.2 Minimum requirements for a valid event or championships are enforced according to the section of this Manual governing each discipline.
- 8.8.3 Prior to each ceremony, the Jury meets to declare the events being awarded complete and valid and to officially certify the results.
- 8.8.4 At the conclusion of the championships, the host must provide the USPA Controller with suitable electronic data files/scoresheets and any other pertinent data (participant lists to compute sanction fees, etc.).

8.9. Classification of Final Results

- 8.9.1 Classification of final results for each competitive discipline is described in the appropriate section of the governing Skydiver's Competition Manual.
- 8.9.2 A competitor must complete a jump and be scored in one round in order to be listed in the official standings.
- 8.9.3 Guest teams/competitors will be listed in the standings. Such guests will not be given a rank. Instead, they will be marked (G). Under no circumstances will guest scores be allowed to have an effect on other scores in the standings.

8.10. Recognition of Winners

- 8.10.1 For all USPA competitive disciplines, appropriate medals or other suitable recognition are presented annually for places first through third to each individual titlist in the individual events and each team member in the team events, not including guest competitors.
- 8.10.2 Guest competitors invited by USPA may be given separate awards at the Host's expense.
- 8.10.3 Ted Strong Award for Extraordinary Sportsmanship
 - 8.10.3.1 May be awarded from time to time for extraordinary sportsmanship displayed by teams or individuals at a USPA National Championships.
 - 8.10.3.2 Awarded by unanimous agreement of the Meet Director, Chief Judge and USPA Controller or by unanimous agreement of the USPA Competition Committee.

8.11. Combined Vertical Freefall National Champions

- 8.11.1 A special multi-disciplinary award is given to those who demonstrate excellence across vertical freefall events in FS, AE, and Speed Skydiving.
- 8.11.2 For each individual competing in the Open class of MFS-2way, VFS-4way, AE-Freestyle, AE-FreeFly, & the Speed Skydiving individual event at the USPA National Skydiving Championships in any given year, points are awarded to the individual's team or solo placement in each event (1st place = 1 point, 2nd place = 2 points, etc.). A placement of 5th or higher always earns 5 points.
- 8.11.3 An individual must compete in at least 3 of the events. For a competitor who has competed in more than 3 events, their best 3 placement point values per 8.11.2 are added.
- 8.11.4 The individuals with the lowest cumulative placements are the winners.

9. Awards Ceremony Conduct

9.1. Participants

- 9.1.1 The awards ceremony is a formal part of the competition and is intended to honor the achievements of all competitors. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner.
- 9.1.2 Competitors shall attend dressed in a manner that shows respect for the USPA, the event, and fellow competitors. Attire must not display language or imagery that is insulting or degrading. There are no restrictions on sponsor promotion in a competitor's attire.
- 9.1.3 Only medal recipients, including team alternates, may be present on the stage during the awards presentation.

Appendix A: Protest Procedures

Note: The guidelines in this section are not grounds for protest.

Operation of the Jury

1. The President and Jury members are announced during the competitor's briefing.
2. Jury meetings are to be held at least once a day, normally toward the close, and as called by the Jury President.
3. The Jury President or his or her designee attends all briefings.
4. It is recommended that these briefings be recorded.
5. The Jury should require that all subsequent briefings or changes be posted.

Decision Process

6. The Jury President votes only in case of a tie.
7. When considering a protest, the Jury will make one of three findings:
 - Protest granted (return filing fee to the petitioner).
 - Protest denied (place filing fee in the U.S. Team Trust Fund, in the name of the team or competitor when possible).
 - Protest rejected; it is not a matter for jury consideration (return filing fee to the petitioner).

Procedures

8. Protests must follow the format of the USPA Form, "Protest to Jury," contained in the Skydiver's Competition Manual, stating the rule or rules to be considered.
9. Jumping should not be discontinued pending a Jury decision unless absolutely necessary.
10. The Jury President reads the protests or appeals and makes sure that they are fully understood by all Jury members.
 - He or she invites the person submitting the protest to add any explanation or information needed to clarify his or her petition to the Jury.
 - The President may then query the appropriate individual, the person submitting the protest, and any others designated as witnesses.
11. When the person submitting the protest and all other parties have been heard, the President asks the jury if they require further information.
12. The President instructs all Jury members not to express, orally or otherwise, a personal opinion and will not permit any discussions to take place in the presence of the parties concerned.
 - The Jury, in closed session, discusses questions pertinent to the specific issues.
 - Parties concerned may be called or recalled to provide relevant information to the Jury.
13. When the President decides that the Jury has discussed the issues sufficiently, he or she calls for a ballot to determine the outcome of the petition.
14. Results of the ballot are revealed to the parties concerned as soon as practical.
 - Jury decisions must be in writing and presented via the Jury Notice form, giving the reasons for the finding.
 - The original petition and Jury decision are to be posted on the bulletin board.
15. The President of the Jury will retain all possible documentation of any protest or petition, to include, but not limited to, the original protest or petition and the Jury Notice of the finding.
16. It is the Jury President's duty to submit a report to the USPA Competition Committee on the Jury operation and make suggestions for additions or changes to this section.
17. The committee should also receive a copy of all petitions and Jury findings and any recommendations for changes to the competition rules based on the petitions presented.
18. All documentation will be retained by USPA Staff for the minimum of 10 years.

Appendix B: Protest to Jury

Name of official, competitor, or team: _____ Date (Month/Day/Year): _____ Time: _____

Discipline and Event: _____ Round: _____

Particular rule or rules about which the protest has been made:

Description of situation:

Reasons for protest:

Names of pertinent witnesses and availability of witnesses:

Signature of Official, Competitor, or Team Representative: _____

(Below For Jury Use Only)

Date Received: _____ Time Received: _____ Received By: _____

Amount Collected (\$100 fee must accompany the protest): _____