

PROTEST:

Based on the Ken Walter's reply to my complaint I would like the following things to be taken into consideration and reviewed by the Jury.

A) WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE WOMEN'S RULES

In the Women's Rules emailed to the competitors on 7/3/2018

Per Section 3 rule 1.2.1

- **1.2 DEFINITION OF CHAMPION** 1.2.1 The Champion shall be the competitor who has the highest aggregate score at the end of the event.

There is NO mention of minimal numbers of flights or tasks, only who has the highest aggregate score. Also there is no cross-reference in the women's rules or any other documents related to the event.

B) WHAT WAS COMMUNICATED AT THE MASTER BRIEFING

At the Master Briefing it was indicated that 1 flight and 3 tasks would be sufficient for the championship. I along with one of the scoring officials requested clarification, given the customary understanding of a championship is 2 flight and 3 tasks. It was stated in the Master briefing that was NOT the case by Harold Cliver who then referred to Ken Walter. Ken did mention 1 flight and 3 tasks and then seemed to waiver, however NO CLARIFICATION was provided to the group of competitors at that time nor at the next briefing.

C) SUPPLEMENTAL PILOT MEETING

On Friday 7/20 All of the competitors were asked to then meet with Ken Walter and Bubba Cliver and asked if they could stay longer to add a flight. At no point did either Ken Walter or Harold Cliver acknowledge there was a change in the written rules.

D) WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE STANDARD BFA RULES

It is my understand that the HACD and per Ken Walter's reply above that Jason Jones is indicating that 2 flights AND 3 tasks are the requirements for a valid Championship. Please review the following ambiguities and or issues as copied from the 2018 BFA RULES and REGULATIONS (NOT from the simplified weekend rules)

Jason stated:

“I would like to be clear that discussion regarding the valid number of flights has only come about as a result of being informed from the BFA HACD Board President that a US National Championship is required to have completed two flights **And** three tasks at a minimum to be considered a valid championship. This notification was presented to me by HACD President Jason Jones, after a phone conversation and subsequently followed-up with a text message at approximately 9:00 pm on Wednesday, July 18th, after the master briefing and before the first flight”

However if one reads what is stated in the rules that can be considered to apply to this situation see below:

SECTION III RULES

1. 2 DEFINITION OF CHAMPION

1. 2.1 The Champion shall be the competitor who has the highest aggregate score at the end of the event.

1. 2.2 To be recognized as a Champion and for a Champion to be declared for State or Regional Championships, at least three tasks must be completed.

The above states that “to be recognized as a champion... at least three tasks must be completed” In the written rules is DOES NOT STATE that 2 flights must be completed.

If you look later in the BFA 2018 RULES and REGULATIONS in section 6 sup part d.

SECTION VI – APPLICABILITY TO NATIONALS ELIGIBILITY LIST AND US NATIONALS

d) The determination of the US National Hot Air Balloon Champions, and all runner-up positions, shall be determined by the results of tasks held during the National Championship, except when fewer than two (2) flights or three (3) tasks are held during the National Championship. If fewer than two (2) flights are flown or three (3) tasks are completed, no National Champion shall be declared.

The above directly copied from the BFA rules states that: “

“except when fewer than two (2) flights or three (3) tasks are held during the National Championship. If

fewer than two (2) flights are flown or three (3) tasks are completed, no National Champion shall be declared.

It does NOT state **AND** as indicated per Jason Jones’ communication above. to Ken Walter.

E) THE RULES HAD BEEN PREAPPROVED BY THE HACD PRIOR TO THE EVENT AND CAN NOT BE CHANGED AFTER THE MASTER BRIEFING

SEE RULE 8.5

8.5 MODIFICATION OF RULES

8.5.1 The rules can change up to the Master Briefing with approval of 3/4 of HACD Board. No further modification, after approval by the BFA/HACD Board, shall be permitted during the Event unless approved by the Jury President. No such rule addition or modification shall be retroactive.

8.5.2 The **task rules** of Section I, II, and III, Chapter 15 are defined as variable rules and changes to those may be made without authorization.

8.5.3 Variations to **task rules** shall be provided individually to each competitor in writing.

IN CONCLUSION

The Women's rules had been preapproved by the HACD prior to the event; it is my understanding that modifications were made prior to being given to the competitors. If there was in fact an issue with either omission or specific language about what constitutes a champion it should have been addressed prior to the rules being officially approved and distributed.

In conclusion based on the above written rules, what was communicated at the master briefing coupled with no written change in rules provided to the competitors, my initial request still stands.

To reiterate I am requesting 1) that the possibility of extending the event and adding flights is withdrawn and 2) a women's national champion be crowned at the end of this event even if we have no more flights as per the written rules this championship is already valid.

Thank you for your consideration.