



# Balloon Federation Of America



## HACD Newsletter August 14, 2020



### NEL 2020 Update

The HACD Board of Directors held a meeting August 5th to approve the recommendations of an ad hoc NEL Committee consisting of Board members Jeff Ashworth and Drew Egerton as co-chairs, and HACD members AJ Foelske and Kim Magee.

The report listed several considerations, intended outcomes, and the Board votes to approve the following three recommendations:

- Combine the 2019 and 2020 NEL to provide qualification for the 2021 Nationals.
- Maintain the current rules for qualification using the combined 2019/2020 NEL.
- Provide winning competitors plaques, for both the 2019 and 2020 flying seasons separately for the typical positions of Top Pilot, Top Rookie, etc.
  - Note that the Board voted not to provide the typical \$5,000 prize fund for the 2020 NEL in the July 16 meeting due to the reduce competition season.

More details can be found in [the August 5th meeting minutes on the HACD website](#) (login required) once approved.

### IEL Update

Also during the August 5th Board meeting, an ad hoc IEL (International Eligibility List) committee chaired by Paul Petrehn, International Manager, along with members Joe Zvada and Cheri White presented recommendations for how to handle the IEL list for the 2022 and beyond World Championships given the cancellation of the 2020 Worlds. The 10 recommendations with minor tweaks after discussion during the meeting are summarized here:

1. The 2022 World Championship IEL is based on the 2019 and 2018 US National Championship finishes.
2. The 2024 World Championship IEL is based on the 2023, 2022, and 2021 US National Championship finishes.
3. The 2026 World Championship IEL is based on the 2025 and 2024 US National Championship finishes.
4. If *'US Nationals held but did not meet minimum task requirement'* representatives are selected from applicable completed National Championship finishes.
5. If *'no US Nationals held'* representatives are selected from applicable National Championship finishes.
6. The 2021 Women's World Championship IEL is the same as the 2020 Women's IEL and is based on applicable 2019 and 2018 National Championship finishes.
7. The 2021 Junior World Championship IEL is the same as the 2020 Juniors IEL and is based on applicable 2019 and 2018 National Championship finishes. NOTE: For items 1-7 the NEL would be secondary and used only after all applicable National Championship finishes are exhausted.
8. Modify Section VIII(d) to state: *"Beginning January 1, 2021, for all FAI Sanctioned hot air competitions for which the Balloon Federation of America is invited to select participants, Women and Junior competitors wishing to participate are required to have participated in a National Championship (Juniors, US Nationals, Teams, Women) in order to gain experience in complex tasking, flying in tight quarters and working with team members."*
9. Remove Section VIII (c)(2) of the 2020 HACD Policies and Procedures document.
10. Establish an IEL Committee to conduct a Women's and Junior IEL survey and make necessary recommendations prior to the July 2021 HACD meeting.

It was noted that the HACD Board would need to adopt specific language in its Policies and Procedures (probably at the winter face-to-face meeting) to implement these recommendations. More details can be found in [the August 5th meeting minutes on the HACD website](#) (login required) once approved.

## **US Nationals Director 2021**

The HACD Board would like to take the opportunity to thank Maury Sullivan for his many years of service on the staff of the US National Hot Air Balloon Championship, including most recently serving as Event Director during the event's time in Shreveport, LA and Scottsbluff, NE. Maury works extremely hard and the amount of time Maury has put into making the Nationals successful is unmatched. He set a new standard as a Director when it comes to preparedness and execution. As all of you know, Maury does a great job, but he has some great help. The Board would also like to recognize and thank Lynn Sullivan. Lynn brings her own wealth of expertise, skill set and leadership to the Nationals staff. Maury and Lynn are a team that will be hard to replace, and we hope that they both stay involved and continue to share their knowledge with future directors and staff. We hope you will take the time to thank them as well for the many hours of work they have put into the furtherance of our sport.

As we look to the future, the Board is looking for volunteers who would like to take on the role of Nationals Event Director. To understand the basic qualifications of being a director for the Nationals, please reference the [BFA's Balloon Event Guidelines](#). There is a section of this document that shares skills and experience needed for the job. Please email Jason Jones at [pilot@oldworldballoonery.com](mailto:pilot@oldworldballoonery.com) or [your Regional Director](#) if you have an interest.

## **US Team Nationals 2021**

The HACD Board has been working with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission on a contract for the 2021 US Team Nationals for June 9-13, 2021.

An ad hoc committee led by Maury Sullivan with members Al Nels, Joe Zvada and Drew Egerton have also been working to determine the classification method for ranking pilots as an A, B and C. The intent of the event is to ensure that teams consist of a variety of skill and experience levels to promote learning and shared knowledge, while also striving for fair competition among the teams. Look for more detailed information soon on the ranking system and application process!

As with the US Nationals, the Board is looking for volunteers who would like to take on the role of the US Team Nationals Event Director. To understand the basic qualifications of being a director for the Team Nationals, please reference the [BFA's Balloon Event Guidelines](#). There is a section of this document that shares skills and experience needed for the job. Please email Jason Jones at [pilot@oldworldballoonery.com](mailto:pilot@oldworldballoonery.com) or [your Regional Director](#) if you have an interest.

## **Officials Board Positions**

Chairman Jason Jones reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mike Gilligan in the position of At-Large Officials representative at the end of June. Mike has contributed greatly to the Board in his time of service in this position. Thankfully, Mike will continue to support the sport and the HACD through his role as the Scoring Manager and ongoing support and development of his scoring program.

During the July 16th Board meeting, Robert Wise was selected to fill the remainder of Mike's term as the At-Large Officials Director, which ends in 2021. Robert was previously on the Board by being appointed as the Event Officials Liaison. Robert has contributed greatly to the Board during his time so far and we look forward to his continued input.

To fill the vacancy, the Board appointed Patty Cramer to serve as the Event Officials Liaison for the remainder of the 2020 term (this is a yearly appointment). We are excited to welcome Patty to the Board where she can use her vast knowledge and experience from serving many events throughout the years to provide a great perspective.

## BFA Elections Underway

The annual BFA and HACD Board elections are currently underway. In the HACD elections:

- Jeff Ashworth is running for re-election in the SW Region
- Jim Cusick, Aaron Foelske, and Paul Suttle are nominated for the Great Lakes Region
- Joe Zvada is running for the Pilot At-Large Director

Don't forget to VOTE! The voting window ends August 24th.

## Newsletters Archive

Did you know that the HACD Newsletters are being archived on the BFA website? You can find all of the 2020 Newsletters here (<https://bfa.net/hacd-home/newsletters>) thanks to our website manager Blake Jordan.

## Email Us!

Ideas, questions, comments, anything: [hacd@bfa.net](mailto:hacd@bfa.net)

## HACD Board of Directors

Jeff Ashworth	Gary Britton	Patty Cramer	Ken Draughn	Drew Egerton	Jason Jones
Al Nels	Patrick Nilz	Maury Sullivan	Ken Walter	Ted Watts	Rob Wise

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