



66th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett
FAI World Long Distance Gas Balloon Championship
Albuquerque, NM – USA, 7th-14th October 2023

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO NATIONAL AERO CLUBS

Dear Mr. / Mrs. President,

Under the sanction granted by the Commission Internationale d'Aerostation (CIA) of the FAI, Aeroclub of the United States and Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta would like to invite your competitors to the 66th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett FAI World Long Distance Gas Balloon Championship 2023 to be held in Albuquerque, NM from 7th -14th October 2023. The invitation procedure will be carried out in accordance with Chapter 5 of Section 1 of the FAI Sporting Code.

Name of the Event: 66th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett FAI World Long Distance Gas Balloon Championship 2023

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico – United States of America

Dates: 7th – 14th October, 2023

Entry Fee: \$500.00 USD.
\$250.00 refunded with the return of the race tracker to Race Headquarters.

The entry fee will include:

- Hydrogen gas for one fill
- Each pilot will receive a Gordon Bennett jacket with event embroidery on the back.
- Each pilot will receive a pilot pack including Gordon Bennett pin and patch.
- Each International team will have the option to choose between two Shipping/Lodging opportunities:
 - Option A: Team receives \$2000.00 USD and 14 hotel nights at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel
 - Option B: Team receives \$4000.00 USD Shipping & Lodging* allowance
*(*Discounted hotel rooms are also available through Balloon Fiesta prior to August 1, 2023)*
- Each USA based team will have the opportunity to choose between two lodging opportunities:
 - Option A: Team receives 14 hotel nights at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel*
 - Option B: Team receives \$1000.00 USD Lodging allowance*
(Lodging options are available for pilots who are residing more than 50 miles from Albuquerque, NM – USA)
- Each team will receive five tickets to the Welcome party.
- Each team will receive five tickets to the Black-Tie Awards Banquet.
- Each team will receive two VIP/Sponsor Hospitality passes valid during all 2023 Balloon Fiesta events.

NAC's Invited: All eligible National Aero Clubs are invited.

The attached 'ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION' must be received by 31st March 2023 by email to the address indicated.

Invitation	Sent Out	Deadline for acceptance & Payment NAC
NAC	01/03/2023	31/03/2023
Invitations	01/04/2023	30/04/2023



INVITATION PROCEDURE

According S I 5.6.1.1, the invitation to NACs will be distributed to all:

1. Eligible NACs (as per FAI list)
2. CIA Delegates (as per FAI list)
3. National Balloon Federations (as far as the addresses are known)

Any of the three entities may answer. In case of conflicting answers received by more than one entity, the Organizers will consult the CIA Bureau.

Note:

In order to ensure reaching all eligible NAC, the invitation will be sent to all NAC and CIA delegates of the current FAI mailing lists. If you are uncertain, if your NAC qualifies for the World Championship, please contact the organizers or the FAI Office.

NAC Invitations and Result List Invitations:

The NAC shall return the complete 'Acceptance of Invitation form' by **31st March 2023** nominating the competitors they want to send.

According to the CIA approved bid the number of competitors to be invited is **3** per NAC up to a total of 20 competitors.

After the 31st March 2023 initial invitation deadline, the Organizers will send the individual pilot applications to the competitors nominated. The deadline for their acceptance, which must include a completed application and full payment of entry fees is **30th April 2023**.

The progress of the invitation process will be published on the event website where all event news will be posted. Invitation documents are also online at www.balloonfiesta.com.

We look forward to welcoming the gas aeronauts from across the world to compete in international competition, in our beautiful city of Albuquerque, New Mexico – USA.

Sincerely yours,