



**NOTICE TO ALL PILOTS
3rd July 2020**

It has been confirmed that “Recency” flights are now permitted, following the submission of a simple on-line application and approval process.

These flights are required to be solo flights, however, a senior or safety pilot may accompany the pilot (note details on application).

The Aero Club of South Africa website will have all the required application processes live this afternoon.

All other typical Covid-19 restrictions remain valid and in place.

Please send attached document as submitted to Aero Club/CAA in support of this process as guidance.

Be well and keep safe.

Enjoy your flying if you are able to arrange same.

BAFSA COMMITTEE 2020



BALLOON AND AIRSHIP FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Re-introduction of limited ballooning activities during Lockdown Level 3, for the purposes of pilot proficiency and currency

1. Introduction

SA government has implemented a Level system for exiting the lockdown where Level 5 is the most severe down to Level 1, the least severe. The current definition of levels allows for sporting activities to be introduced at Level 1.

There are a vast number of sport types in South Africa and many of them involve large teams and close contact with participants as well as spectators. Ballooning, however, can be conducted in a safe and controlled manner during Level 3 by implementing thorough mitigation measures to combat the spread of viruses, as noted below.

BAFSA has control over the safety and training procedures of all the ballooning activities in South Africa and self-regulates on matters of administration, operations and safety. BAFSA is capable and mandated to prescribe and exercise control over additional and extraordinary safety rules at for ballooning activities in order to combat and prevent Covid-19.

BAFSA wishes to demonstrate to government how we can employ a mitigation strategy to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, while providing the opportunity to maintain pilot proficiency and currency, albeit at limited capacity.

2. Safety measures specific the prevention of Covid-19

2.1 BAFSA Administration & Control

It should be noted that to perform ballooning activities in SA, all balloonists are required to be BAFSA members. Membership requires the payment of a membership fee and a registration process inclusive of full disclosure of identity. Each member has a membership number, license number and (if applicable) rating types.

BAFSA has an accountable manager and a Quality Assurance Officer.

2.2 Balloon & Crew Limitations

.1 Under Covid-19 Level 3 lockdown requirements, we provide the following restrictions on ballooning operations for pilot proficiency and currency:

- Balloon size be limited to 120 000ft³
- Only pilot +1 crew member during flight
- Maximum of 2 persons in retrieve ground crew

3. Launch Site

3.1 Arrival at the Launch Site

.1 Ballooning is not required to use any specific or approved launch site. Compliance with all CARS, controlled airspace and landowner permissions are required.

.2 Each launch site is the pilot's responsibility and under Covid-19 lockdown Level 3, we would propose that remote launch sites are selected.

.3 No spectators are permitted.

.4 On arrival, hand sanitizing provided and confirmation that they have completed and received permission for the flight in accordance with this procedure;

.5 A register shall be kept of activities;

.6 The responsibility of the above remains that of the pilot.

3.2 Procedures during balloon flight

- .1 Masks, a buff pulled down over the mouth and nose or full-face helmet with visor down shall be compulsory in the aircraft.
- .2 Talking to the pilot is discouraged unless essential to safety.
- .3 Pilot should wear a mask if he can still complete coms unaffected.
- .4 Basket to be sanitised inside before start of each flight.
- .5 Nobody permitted to board without wearing a mask, a buff pulled over their mouth and nose or closed full face helmet.

3.3 Post Flight

- .1 Activities to be restricted to deflating and packing up of the balloon equipment.
- .2 No socialising or meals are permitted.
- .3 Retrieve vehicle and balloon equipment to vacate the landing site as soon as practical, to return home.
- .4 No spectators permitted.

4. **Summary**

Given the proposed guidelines above and compliance with all current national restrictions relating to Covid-19 regulations and considering the proposed remoteness, time of day operations (06:30-10:30), it is deemed achievable that any increased risk of Covid-19 spread will be mitigated, whilst fulfilling the need for maintaining pilot proficiency and currency.

Balloon and Airship Federation of South Africa Website: www.bafsa.co.za

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