USPA NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERAL COMPETITION RULES
The competition will be conducted under the authority granted by the United States Parachute Association, according to the regulations of the Skydiver’s Competition Manual, as approved by the Board of Directors. All participants accept these rules and the USPA regulations as binding by registering in the competition.
CHAPTER 1: USPA NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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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 Parachuting Commission (FAI/IPC); 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:

- Accuracy Landing
- Artistic Events
- Canopy Formation
- Canopy Piloting
- Formation Skydiving (includes Mixed Formation Skydiving and Vertical Formation Skydiving)
- National Collegiate Skydiving Championships
- Wingsuit Flying
- Speed Skydiving
- Test Events

1.2.2 Reference is made to the FAI/IPC 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/IPC.

1.3.3 USPA is responsible for selecting a delegation to participate in all meetings conducted by the FAI/IPC 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 IPC.

1.5 **Changes**

1.5.1 From time to time, the SCM requires revision to reflect the latest IPC 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](http://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
- 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 Wingsuit Flying Championships Competition Rules
- Chapter 14: USPA National Speed Skydiving Championships Competition Rules

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), Mixed Formation Skydiving (MFS), Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS), 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.
- An event that has fewer than four teams/individuals for the second consecutive year may be eliminated.

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 date and 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.

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 beginning of round one, 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
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 selected from a list of qualified judges provided by the USPA Competition Committee.
4.2.2 The Chief Judge will select the judging staff.
4.2.3 All judges must be National or International Judges rated in the discipline for the panel on which they serve.
4.2.4 The panel of judges for a discipline will comprise of an event judge plus at least three other judges.
4.2.5 For the purposes of this section, the following are considered one discipline:
- Accuracy Landing
- Artistic Events
- Canopy Formation
- Canopy Piloting
- Formation Skydiving including Vertical Formation Skydiving, Mixed Formation Skydiving
- Wingsuit Flying
- Speed Skydiving
4.2.6 Accuracy landing requires at least five judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
4.2.7 Canopy piloting requires at least eight judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
4.2.8 Wingsuit flying requires at least eight judges (including the Chief and Event judges).
4.2.9 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.
4.2.10 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.
4.2.11 The Chief Judge shall be responsible for determining a competitor’s/team’s final score and placing.
4.2.12 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.

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—

- Acting as president of the Jury
- 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
- Reporting to the jury the state of organization before the jury gives its approval to start the competition
- Ensuring that a USPA Safety & Training Advisor is present during the competition or assuming those duties if no local S&TA is present
- 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

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.

4.4.3 The maximum number of jury members, not including the Jury President, is four and the minimum is two.

4.4.4 At least two jury members, including the Jury President, (a quorum) will be physically present and officially convened to perform its duties which include:

- Approving the start of competition
- 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

4.5 Video Controller

4.5.1 The Meet Director, with the approval of the Chief Judge, 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
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- 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.

4.6 Video Review Panel

4.6.1 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.

4.6.2 In the event that the Video Review Panel determines that the team’s video has been deliberately tampered with, the team will receive the maximum penalty for the jumps in question.

4.6.3 In a case where part of a team’s performance is not able to be judged from lack of video evidence, or where the quality of video image is considered insufficient for judging purposes, the Video Review Panel will assess the conditions and circumstances and may award a re-jump.

4.6.4 The Video Review Panel’s decisions are final and are not subject to protest or appeal to the Jury.

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 Foreign 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.
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have at least 100 freefall skydives
- Hold a current, valid USPA license or FAI Certificate of Proficiency appropriate for the discipline or event as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Mixed Formation Skydiving (Advanced)</td>
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5.2.2 Canopy Piloting

- 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:

- Foreign and guest competitors
- Competitors ineligible to hold an FAI sporting license issued by the U.S.
- 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.

6 Duties and Conduct of Participants

6.1 General Rules

6.1.1 Competitors and officials must comply with these rules throughout the competition.

6.1.2 Lack of knowledge regarding any subsection of these rules will not be grounds for protest or appeal of any judgment made by the judges or Meet Director.

6.1.3 Competitors and officials must honor the basic rules of good behavior and sportsmanlike conduct, 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.

6.1.5 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.

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 re-jump.

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.

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.

7.1.3 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 Except at the discretion of the Meet Director and with the concurrence of the Chief Judge, once a freefall event begins, no competitor or team in that event will be permitted wind tunnel use. Conversely, once a parachuting event begins, no competitor or team in that event will be allowed to make non-competition jumps, but they may use a wind tunnel.

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.

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.

- 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, and battery(ies).
- 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 25 frames per second through a minimum class-10 memory card.
- Each videographer must use the video transmission system provided by the organizer.
- 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.
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- 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.
- 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 score of zero points.

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.

7.4 Jump Order
7.4.1 Before starting the first round of each event, jump order numbers for each team or individual competitor will be drawn by meet management.
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.
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, 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 Ground-to-Air Communication
7.7.1 There will be ground-to-air radio communication.
7.7.2 Emergency and no-jump signals will be confirmed by radio.

7.8 Competitor Refusal to Jump
7.8.1 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).
7.8.2 They must ride the aircraft down unless ordered by the pilot to exit in emergencies.
7.8.3 If a competitor exits the aircraft (except in an emergency), the jump becomes official and will be scored.
7.8.4 The judges may assess the maximum/minimum score, as appropriate, for the round if the reasons for refusal to jump are not considered pertinent.

7.9 Host and Meet Management Responsibilities
7.9.1 The Host is responsible for providing a wind speed-measuring device capable of displaying wind velocity in meters per second.
7.9.2 Meet management is to provide sufficient staff (normally one or two persons) to make up the scoring and recording section of the judging staff.
7.9.3 The host must provide a video slate (or other suitable method) for AE, CF, FS, VFS, and WS events so that videographers can video their team number and round just before exit.
7.9.4 A meet announcement board (or “DZ TV”), where an official clock is visible and official announcements including event holds, releases, scores, and protest results are posted, must be present.
7.9.5 Such announcements, and especially scores, become officially posted when placed on such an announcement board for permanent, continuous public display.

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 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.
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 in the section of the Skydiver’s Competition Manual governing that discipline.

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.
8.4.2 A protest must be filed within three hours of the knowledge of the grounds for protest.
8.4.2.1 The timing of the three 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 at any time before the final decision of the Jury.

8.4.3 The issue must be addressed by the Jury as soon as possible.

8.4.4 A $50 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 Re-jumps

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 re-jump 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 re-jump after a favorable decision by the Event/Chief Judge.

8.5.1.2 Individual competitors or teams may refuse a re-jump and take the original score.

8.5.1.3 Officially awarded re-jumps, if not declined, must be made as soon as possible after the incident causing the re-jump.

8.5.1.4 Re-jumps assigned by the Chief Judge for “UJ” in the Canopy Piloting event are not optional.

8.5.2 The cost of all officially awarded re-jumps will be borne by the competitor or the team.

8.5.3 Excessive wind speed during a jump is not grounds for a re-jump, 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 re-jump.

8.5.4.1 Contact or other means of interference between the team and videographer are not grounds for a re-jump unless specified in a specific chapter of these rules.

8.5.4.2 Teams exiting the aircraft after a videographer informs the team of a non-jump condition will not be grounds for a re-jump.

8.5.4.3 Once the team leaves the aircraft, the jump will be scored unless video evidence is insufficient.

8.5.5 Specific conditions or situations warranting re-jumps will be described in the section of this Manual governing the competitive discipline.

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

8.7 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 At the conclusion of the competition, the Jury meets to declare the championships 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, except:

8.10.1.1 If only one competitor enters the event, no medals will be awarded unless they achieve a performance that is 50 percent or higher relative to the performance achieved by the first place in the event at the USPA National Skydiving Championships held the previous year; if this is the first time the event has been held at a USPA National Skydiving Championships, medal(s) will be awarded.

8.10.1.2 If only two enter the event, only first place will be awarded unless second place achieves a performance that is 50 percent or higher relative to the performance achieved by first place.

8.10.1.3 If only three enter the event, only first and second place will be awarded unless third place achieves a performance that is 50 percent or higher relative to the performance achieved by first place.

8.10.2 Guest competitors invited by USPA may be given separate awards.

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 the USPA National Skydiving 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.

Appendix A: Competition Jury

Note: The guidelines in this section are not grounds for protest.
1  OPERATION OF THE JURY

1.1 The President and Jury members are announced during the competitor’s briefing.
1.2 Jury meetings are to be held at least once a day, normally toward the close, and as called by the Jury President.
1.3 The Jury President or his or her designee attends all briefings.
1.3.1 It is recommended that these briefings be recorded.
1.3.2 The Jury should require that all subsequent briefings or changes be posted.

2  DECISION PROCESS

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

3  PROCEDURES

3.1 Petitions must follow the format of the USPA Form, “Petition to Jury,” contained in the Skydiver’s Competition Manual, stating the rule or rules to be considered.
3.2 Jumping should not be discontinued pending a Jury decision unless absolutely necessary.
3.3 The Jury President reads the petitions or appeals and makes sure that they are fully understood by all Jury members.
   3.3.1 He or she invites the person submitting the petition to add any explanation or information needed to clarify his or her petition to the Jury.
   3.3.2 The President may then query the appropriate individual, the person submitting the petition, and any others designated as witnesses.
3.4 When the person submitting the petition and all other parties have been heard, the President asks the jury if they require further information.
3.5 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.
   3.5.1 The Jury, in closed session, discusses questions pertinent to the specific issues.
   3.5.2 Parties concerned may be called or recalled to provide relevant information to the Jury.
3.6 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.
3.7 Results of the ballot are revealed to the parties concerned as soon as practical.
   3.7.1 Jury decisions must be in writing giving the reasons for the finding.
   3.7.2 The original petition and Jury decision are to be posted on the bulletin board.

4  AMENDMENTS TO THIS SECTION

4.1 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.
4.2 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.
Appendix B: Petition to Jury for National Championships

Name of official, competitor or team:

Competition Number: Event: Round:

Date: / / Time:

Situation in question:

Facts of the situation:

Arguments (use reverse side if necessary):

Signature of official, competitor or team captain:

Date: / / Time: Received By: Amount Collected: