



Red Flag 2017

Individual Freestyle Category

10 – 15 Pilots Invited

Objective:

To create a highly competitive class of Jet flying that promotes choreography & individuality, with showmanship and entertainment being paramount. This class may be viewed as the “best of the best” pilots attending Red Flag 2017. *New for the 2017 event will be the separation of thrust vectored jets from non-thrust vectored jets.*

Overview:

Each invited pilot’s demonstration is *required* to be a minimum of 4 minutes maximum of 5 minutes synchronized to music or narration. Each scored flight will start when signaled by the pilot’s spotter. Any flight which falls short of 4 minutes or exceeds 5 minutes will not be scored. Each pilots overall demo time not to exceed ten minutes. This includes start-up, taxi out, landing and the taxi back to the startup area. Any pilot that exceeds the allotted 10 minute flight presentation will receive a 5% deduction from his/her final score for each minute over 10 minutes, starting at 10:01. Pilots will fly one at a time to take advantage of the complete airspace and field amenities. It is *required* that their flight be choreographed with individual music or professional narration throughout the flight. The use of smoke, colored smoke, ribbons or other inflight enhancements is recommended and would result in a higher “presentation” score. All flying will be conducted with safety being paramount, at a minimum altitude of 10 feet AGL. No maneuvers will be allowed that carries the momentum of an aircraft in the direction of the pit/spectator area. Once airborne, all flying will remain outside of the far edge of the paved runway. Each pilot will fly his Freestyle routine once daily, with scores accumulating over the course of the event. Final scores *may* be kept confidential until the awards banquet Saturday evening.

It is the goal of Red Flag to reward both forms of Individual Freestyle flying equally preventing 3D Jet flying from dominating the Freestyle Class. With that in mind we will award equally trophies for the top three performers flying in the 3D Jet Class and the Standard Jet Class.

Judging:

Judging will be done by a panel that changes on a daily basis. Each judge will score flights based on the following criteria: Execution, Maneuvers Variety & Flow, Positioning, Presentation and Choreography. A brief explanation of these criteria as follows:

Execution is defined as the precision elements applied to maneuvers flown. For example, if a four point roll is performed, judges will view and score the pilot’s tendency to make crisp, precise 90 degree points, with equal timing between points. If a looping maneuver is chosen, a smooth, consistent radius should be flown.

Although individual scoring of each maneuver is not done, overall tendency of the pilot to define points and apply proper geometry will be considered and scored accordingly.

Maneuver Variety & Flow rewards those that execute a vast array of maneuvers and how those maneuvers flow together.

Positioning judges each pilot's ability to plan his/her overall flight to maximize time at show center. A well balanced flow of maneuvers, which allows all quadrants of an aerobatic box to be utilized, receives maximum scoring. Alternately, long turnaround legs resulting in "dead time" would be subject to a reduction in the positioning score.

Presentation will be the overall consideration of airmanship vs showmanship. Pilots should approach their freestyle routine as the opportunity to "strut their stuff," in balance with safety and entertainment. High speed, low level, flying will not be rewarded. A pilot's presentation score can be enhanced with the use of smoke, colored smoke, ribbons etc. All narration should be done in a professional manner with a goal of enhancing entertainment value. Although not restricted, it is recommended that commercial narration during individual freestyle be limited. The Freestyle class is intended to promote individual piloting talents and not be used for commercial purpose.

Choreography will, in most cases, be the biggest challenge for pilots new to freestyle competition flying. The Individual Freestyle category requires participants to fly a practiced flight routine synchronized to music or professional narration. Combining both narration and music may be used for maximum scoring. Changes in music rhythm are recommended and would help to enhance the choreography score. A well-choreographed freestyle routine would present as the airplane dancing in harmony with music being played.

Each of the five (5) judging criteria above will be scored equally on a scale of zero (0) to ten (10) in ½ point increments, with a perfect score of fifty (50). All judges will render a score for each of the 5 criteria listed. Individual judge's scores will be totaled with the single high flight score total and single low flight score total discarded. Pilots scored total for each flight will be the accumulated score of the three remaining judge totals. Final score for placement will be the total of the three best flight scores accumulated over the course of the four days of competition. In the event of a tie the fourth flight score will be used as the tie-breaker.

Conclusion:

Most competitors participating in Red Flag 2017 would likely find the Individual Freestyle Class the most intriguing and clearly the most challenging. There is a great deal of preparation required to put on a fluid, choreographed, polished routine...if you want to be considered a contender for this category, you're going to want to put in a great deal of practice in advance. Our goal for the second year event in 2017 would be to have a class of 10 – 15, pilots with a minimum of 8 pilots pre-registered to participate.