



Bulletin 1 - REVISED



33rd World Aerobatic Championships

Mason City, Iowa, USA

August 23rd – September 2nd 2026

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1. General

This document is a reissuance of Bulletin No. 1, necessitated by a change in the contest venue. Only the location has changed, the dates remain the same. The Revised Bulletin No. 1 also includes information in section 2.2 regarding pilot license conversions necessary for those renting US registered aircraft, which is time-critical. Changes from Bulletin No. 1 are noted by boxed text within the document.

Welcome to the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships, and welcome to the USA. It is a tremendous honor for our aerobatic community to host the world's finest aerobatic pilots and the dedicated teams who support them. We are grateful for the commitment, preparation, and passion that will bring you here from around the globe to be part of this extraordinary event.

Mason City, Iowa, is a cultural hub in north-central Iowa in central USA. Famous as the "River City" that inspired *The Music Man*, it is home to the world's largest collection of Prairie School architecture—including the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world—and the Music Man Square. The area has an abundance of scenic trails, and a nearby popular resort town which offers boating, beaches, and the historic Surf Ballroom, the final venue where famous US musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper held their final performances.

The World Aerobatic Championships stand at the pinnacle of international competition in our sport, uniting nations in a shared pursuit of excellence, discipline, and mastery of the skies. For more than sixty years, the championships have showcased the highest levels of technical skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Each edition adds to a proud legacy, advancing aerobatics while inspiring future pilots and teams worldwide.

We are proud to welcome this storied event to the United States and to share our community, history, passion, and hospitality with you. We hope you enjoy not only the competition but also the opportunity to experience a bit of upper Midwest Americana. On behalf of the organizing committee and the entire US aerobatic community, we wish you safe flights and an unforgettable experience both in the air and on the ground.

1.1 Location and Dates

The 2026 World Aerobatic Championships will be held in Mason City, Iowa, at the KMCW airport from the 23rd of August to the 2nd of September 2026 (note, the venue location has changed from the original Bulletin 1, but the dates remain the same.)

1.2 Airport Information

Airport Identifier: KMCW

Airport Manager: David Sims

Airport Address: 9184 265th St, Clear Lake, IA 50428

Field Elevation: 1,213 feet, (370m)

Hangar: Guaranteed for all competition aircraft

Fuel: 100LL - \$7.00/gal as of May 20, 2026 – Price subject to change

MASON CITY MUNI (MCW)(KMCW) 5 W UTC-6(-5DT) N43°09.47' W93°19.88'
1213 B TPA-2013(800) ARFF Index—See Remarks NOTAM FILE MCW

RWY 18-36: H6501X150 (ASPH-GRVD) S-80, D-110, 2S-140,

2D-180 PCR 610 F/C/X/T HIRL 0.3% up N

RWY 18: MALS. VASI(V4L)—GA 3.0° TCH 39'.

RWY 36: MALSR. PAPI(P4L)—GA 2.9° TCH 62'.

RWY 12-30: H5502X150 (ASPH-GRVD) S-80, D-110, 2S-140,

2D-180 PCR 160 F/C/X/T MIRL 0.3% up NW

RWY 12: REIL. PAPI(P4L)—GA 3.0° TCH 39'. Tree.

RWY 30: PAPI(P4L)—GA 3.0° TCH 51'. Bldg.

RUNWAY DECLARED DISTANCE INFORMATION

RWY 12: TORA-5501 TODA-5501 ASDA-5501 LDA-5501

RWY 18: TORA-6501 TODA-6501 ASDA-6501 LDA-6501

RWY 30: TORA-5501 TODA-5501 ASDA-5501 LDA-5501

RWY 36: TORA-6501 TODA-6501 ASDA-6401 LDA-6401

SERVICE: S4 **FUEL** 100LL, JET A **LGT ACTVT** HIRL Rwy 18-36; MIRL Rwy 12-30; REIL Rwy 12; MALS Rwy 18; MALSR Rwy 36; VASI Rwy 18; PAPI Rwy 12; 30 and 36—CTAF. All PAPIs on durg dalgt hrs.

AIRPORT REMARKS: Attended 1300-2300Z±. Airport operations

641-430-0980. For svc or fuel after hrs PPR call 641-430-9898.

Bird activity on and invof arpt. Class I, ARFF Index A. ARFF Index C

available PPR ctc arpt ops 641-430-0980. Rwy 30 is calm wind

rwy. Due to rwy and twy end elevation differentials and acft height; pilots may lose line of sight of other acft on opposing rwy and twy ends. All departure/arrival acft use CTAF. Ldg fee for all commercial operated acft.

AIRPORT MANAGER: 641-421-3397

WEATHER DATA SOURCES: ASOS 120.300 (641) 255-0381.

COMMUNICATIONS: CTAF/UNICOM 123.0

RCO 122.6 (FORT DODGE RADIO)

® **MINNEAPOLIS CENTER APP/DEP CON** 127.3

CLEARANCE DELIVERY PHONE: For CD if una to ctc on FSS freq, ctc Minneapolis ARTCC at 651-463-5588.

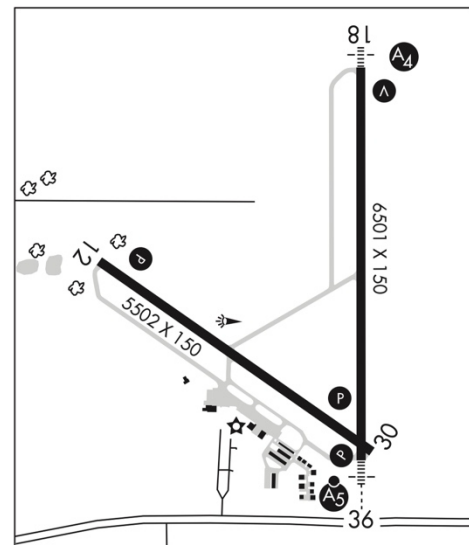
AIRSPACE: CLASS E.

RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION: NOTAM FILE MCW.

(VH) (H) **VORW/DME** 114.9 MCW Chan 96 N43°05.69' W93°19.79' 353° 3.8 NM to fld. 1209/6E.

ILS 109.5 I-MCW Rwy 36. Class IE. LOC unusable byd 27° right of course.

OMAHA
H-5D, L-12J
IAP, AD



1.3 Practice Dates

Official practice will be held from 08:00-18:00 CST from August 18th – 22nd, and 08:00-13:00 CST on the 23rd of August.

The contest site will not be available for unofficial practice prior to the official practice dates due to another event at the site. Contest organizers are evaluating potential alternate practice sites for those desiring unofficial practice prior to those dates, although they will require approximately 1 hour drive by car (short flight) from the contest location. Alternate practice locations will not have box markers.

Teams and pilots are requested to notify the contest organizers of expected arrival date and desired practice availability. All teams/pilots will be given fair and free access to practice on the contest site during the official practice days. The number of practice slots per pilot during official practice days will depend on the number of pilots, weather and available time. More details regarding practice slot reservations will be published in future Bulletins.

Registration and entry fee payment are required to reserve a practice slot(s).

1.4 Schedule

The tentative contest schedule provided below is subject to change due to technical, organizational, or weather-related issues.

August 18th-23rd: Arrival, Registration, and Official Practice

August 23rd:

- 14:30 – General Briefing
- 17:00 – Welcome Reception
- 18:00 – Opening Ceremony

August 24th - September 1st (Programs 1-4)

- 08:00 – Briefing
- 09:00-13:00 – Competition Flights
- 13:00-14:00 – Lunch
- 14:00-19:00 – Competition Flights

September 2nd (Program 5)

- 09:00 – Briefing
- 10:00 – 13:00 - Competition Flights (contingency)
- 13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch
- 18:00 – Awards Closing Ceremony
- 19:00 – Gala Dinner

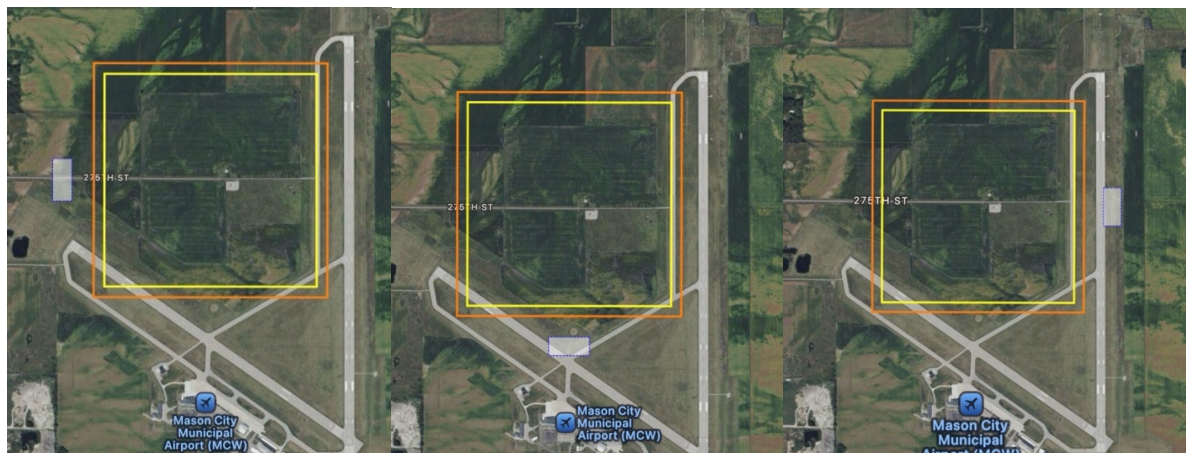
September 3rd: Departures

Note – the schedule above may change due to weather, technical, airport operations or organizational necessities.

The event organizers are also considering two evening social events during the contest period, details of which will be included in future Bulletins.

1.5 Aerobatic Box

The aerobatic performance zone will be over the airport. The organizers are currently evaluating the exact orientation and position of the box, but likely positioning is shown below.



Prevailing winds are typically from the south in Iowa in late summer, so it is anticipated the East and West positions would be primarily used, with the South position available in the case of near or out-of-limit crosswinds determined by the International Jury. Contest officials are evaluating the potential for a Rwy 12/30 orientation to allow more convenient competitor and spectator viewing. More specifics regarding box location and orientation will be provided in Bulletin 2.

2. Registration and Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility

Entries will be accepted in accordance with the FAI Sporting Code, section 6 chapter 1.2.4 and 1.2.5.

Entries for competitors are accepted through the National Airsports Control (NACs) according to the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6, 1.2.4., 1.2.5., and 1.2.6.

Other team members, as defined in the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 Part 1, and 1.2.6, may enter as National team members. Entries are only accepted through the NAC controls.

Admission of observers of National teams are accepted (1.2.6). The entry fee for observers is the same as for non-competitor team members. Entries are only accepted through the NACs (1.2.6).

Event organizers will accept entrants “Hors concours” (H/C) according to Sporting Code, Section 6, so long as they can provide evidence of appropriate and current Unlimited level experience. The organizers may limit the number of H/C entrants depending on the number of NAC competitors at the Championships. Priority given to H/C will be based on the date the fully paid entry fee and entry form are received.

Pilots participating in Program 5 are to be submitted by NAC's and will be selected to fly according to the Sporting Code, section 6, 1.2.6 and 2.1.2.3.

Registration will be valid and complete only after the submitted Official Entry forms are validated, and the full entry fees paid.

Registration will only be accepted online, via the official contest website, which contains other relevant and useful information.

2.2 Pilots

Pilot entry requirements

- Valid pilot certificate for flight in the United States (see examples below).
- Valid pilot medical certificate
- Valid FAI Sporting License
- Valid personal insurance policy

Example 1: A competitor flying (including renting) a U.S. registered aircraft who holds a pilot certificate issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not need further certification.

Example 2: A competitor flying (renting) a U.S. registered aircraft who does not hold an FAA issued pilot certificate, must complete the foreign certificate conversion procedure with the FAA, prior to operating a U.S. registered aircraft. See more information below regarding certificate conversions.

Example 3: A competitor flying a foreign registered aircraft can legally operate within the U.S., without the need for an FAA issued pilot certificate, so long as the country of registration for the aircraft and the country of issuance for the pilot certificate are the same.

The process to obtain a US FAA pilot license conversion requires several steps, which must be completed incrementally in advance. No written or practical test is required, only verification and paperwork. However, the time required to complete these steps takes 45-90 days. Therefore, pilots wishing to rent US registered aircraft are encouraged to begin the process immediately. The first step in the process is to submit a verification request on the FAA's IACRA website. There is no charge for this request. The organizers encourage pilots anticipating or potentially considering renting US registered aircraft to make this submission IMMEDIATELY. Information about submitting the request in IACRA may be obtained at:

https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/foreign_license_verification

The contest organizers have identified several aircraft owners who may be interested in renting aircraft to contestants. Aircraft rental availability is not guaranteed and pricing negotiations would be between the aircraft owners and potential renters. Any rentals would require appropriate pilot certification, experience and insurance. Pilots interested in renting aircraft are encouraged to contact the Contest Director as soon possible to be placed in contact with aircraft owners potentially willing to rent aircraft.

Note - The FAA does not have an aerobatic endorsement requirement. If flying a non-US registered aircraft, all requirements needed to validate the pilot certificate for the country of issuance, including aerobatic endorsement, if required, must be met.

2.3 Aircraft

All aircraft participating in the competition must have a valid Certificate of Airworthiness for aerobatics. A valid aerobatic certificate of airworthiness or equivalent document issued by the appropriate aviation authority (FAA/EASA/Etc.) for the participant's country must be provided to the event organizers for each contest aircraft. (FAI Sporting Code 1.2.7)

Aircraft not holding a valid Certificate of Airworthiness issued pursuant to the ICAO Convention or an FAA permit to fly, cannot operate within the United States until validation of the airworthiness documents can be conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration.

2.4 Insurance

All aircraft using the Mason City aerobatic box, or nearby practice boxes, must be insured for the liability of damages caused by operation of the aircraft to third parties covering a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 USD.

Pilots and teams renting aircraft may be required to purchase additional hull insurance. Specific coverage requirements for hull insurance should be coordinated directly with the aircraft owner.

2.5 Entry Fees

<u>COMPETITORS</u>	<u>Before</u> <u>1 May, 2026</u>	<u>Before</u> <u>1 July, 2026</u>	<u>After</u> <u>1 July, 2026</u>
Single Room	\$3,600	\$3,800	\$4,000
Shared Room	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,400
No Room	\$2,400	\$2,600	\$2,800

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Single Room	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$3,200
Shared Room	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$2,600
No Room	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$2,000

The entry fee covers:

- Accommodation from 23rd of August till 3rd of September (11 nights)
- 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Avgas 100LL – For competition flights
- Engine Oil – For competition flights
- Smoke Oil – For program 5
- Transfers between hotel and airfield for contest Officials
- Opening and Closing ceremonies (including meals) for competitors and contest Officials
- Laundry facility access at hotels

2.6 Payment Options

Entry fee payment can be made via wire transfer or by credit card, Paypal, and Venmo via the 2026 WAC website. Please see the website for details and instructions. Contact the Treasurer for wiring instructions.

2.7 Cancellation & Refund Policy

Event organizers will offer refunds to paid registered participants who subsequently withdraw from the contest as follows: 100% until June 15th, 50% from June 16th through July 31st, and no refunds after July 31st.

If the event organizers cancel the contest before June 15th due to lack of registered participants sufficient for the contest to be recognized as a World Aerobatic Championship, 100% of entry fees paid by registered competitors will be refunded. If the organizers cancel the contest after June 15th, some amount of contest administration costs will have been incurred. In that case, remaining unused funds will be refunded proportionally to paid registered participants.

If a paid registered pilot or team official must cancel their participation, their NAC can substitute another pilot or official with no financial penalty.

3. Free Sequence Submissions

According to the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6, Part 1, 2.2.1.9 a), the event organizers respectfully request the Free Known sequence for each competitor be submitted not earlier than **July 20th** and not later than 12:00 CST on **August 20th** at 14 at the contest site.

Competitors must submit their free sequence via e-mail to registrar@2026wac.com for review and confirmation of validation.

Free sequences are submitted using OpenAero drawing software (seq format). Sequences must be drawn using the latest available software version. The computer file must contain completed pages for the three forms (A, R and L).

Hard copies alone, or hand drawings will not be accepted. The computer file must contain completed pages for the five Forms described in Section 6, Part 1, 2.2.1.9, in a format declared acceptable by the Bureau of CIVA.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure the software used has been updated to comply with the Aresti System (Condensed) and Section 6, Part 1, regulations as currently amended by CIVA. If any pilot submits their Free Known sequence after the registration deadline, they will not be allowed to take part in Program 1.

File Naming Example:

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormA.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormR.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormL.pdf

A confirmation email will be provided acknowledging receipt of your program files. Please contact Mary Beth Rudd at registrar@2026wac.com with any questions or concerns regarding your sequence submissions.

4. Regulations

The FAI and CIVA Regulations for this event are:

- FAI Sporting Code – General Section
- FAI Sporting Code – Section 6 – 2026 Edition
- FAI Anti-Doping Rules
- U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Regulations
- Local airfield Regulations

The official language of the contest will be English.

Participants are responsible for obtaining, as necessary, all authorizations to enter the United States (passport, visa, etc.).

4.1 Anti-Doping Policy

All pilots participating to the contest may be subject to an anti-doping control instructed by the world anti-doping agency. All information and prohibited substances and methods can be found on the web site <https://www.wada-ama.org>

4.2 Protests

Any protests must be submitted in accordance with 3.14 of Section 6, and must include \$100 fee.

5. Accommodations & Logistics

5.1 Airline and Hotels

The most convenient U.S. arrival/departure airport for transit to Mason City is Chicago O'Hare, as there are two daily direct flights between O'Hare and the contest location airport at Mason City. O'Hare is an International airport with daily non-stop flights from London, Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Barcelona, and other European cities. Other international locations also have direct flights to O'Hare, such as Sao Paulo.

Alternately, Mason City is only a 2 hour drive from Minneapolis International airport, which also has numerous daily non-stop flights to/from Europe.

Accommodations will be booked for all contest officials, and paid registered pilots and official team personnel at hotels in Mason City, IA. All hotels have breakfast, air conditioning and coin-operated laundry, and are less than a 10 minute drive to the airport.

Entry fee includes 11 nights of lodging, from August 23rd (check-in) until September 3rd (check out). Teams or pilots arriving earlier will have to pay their accommodation from the first day of arrival until August 23rd.

Shuttles between hotels and the airfield will be provided for contest officials only.

Hotel arrangement and assignments will be done in the month of June for competitors who have registered and paid, allowing those competitors to separately arrange lodging at the same hotels for days prior and subsequent to the contest dates.

5.2 Aircraft Shipping

For support with aircraft shipment please connect directly with our preferred logistics company, ImperativeLogistics.com. Contest organizers are in the process of arranging crane service at the Mason City airport for removing containers from transport trucks. There may be a cost associated for those utilizing crane service. Competitors shipping aircraft are encouraged to contact the Contest Director or Craig Gifford for alternative suggestions regarding aircraft assembly locations and repositioning flights.

6. Fundraising

We welcome and encourage anyone interested in supporting the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships to join our fundraising efforts. Whether you are able to contribute directly or can connect us with a company or individual interested in donating or sponsoring part of the event, your support makes a meaningful difference.

A strong, collective fundraising effort helps ensure the success of the championships while bringing significant enhancements to the overall atmosphere, community, and pride to our sport. Together, we can create an event that benefits not only those in attendance, but the entire community of aerobatic and aviation enthusiasts.

Please contact our fundraising director at support2026WAC@gmail.com for more information.

7. Website & Social Media

Social media will play a key role in promoting the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships by building global awareness and driving spectator engagement. Official event accounts will share

pilot profiles, aircraft highlights, and behind-the-scenes preparation content leading up to the event.

The Contest Organizers anticipate the entire event will be live streamed on the internet. The live streaming will be professionally video'd with professional commentators as well as aerobatic legends providing commentary and interviews between flights and programs.

Official Website: www.2026wac.com

Instagram: @2026wac

Facebook: World Aerobatic Championships 2026

YouTube: @WAC2026USA

8. Contest Officials

8.1 International Jury

- **Tamas Abranyi (President)**
 - Steve Todd (Member)
 - Edward Waasdorp (Member)

8.2 Judges

- **Quintin Hawthorne – Chief Judge**
 - Galyna Suprunenko (UKR) contest judge
 - Esteban Moulin (BEL) contest judge
 - Gilles Guillemard (FRA) contest judge
 - Vytautas Tautkevičius (LTU) contest judge
 - Luca Andraghetti (ITA) contest judge
 - Eladi Lozano (ESP) contest judge
 - Nick Slabakov (USA) contest judge

9. Contact Information

Please feel free to contact the event organizing staff with questions.

CONTEST DIRECTOR

Wayne Forbes

Cell: (720) 253-6080

E-mail: wac2026CD@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

Brittanee Lincoln

E-mail: support2026WAC@gmail.com

REGISTRAR

MaryBeth Rudd

E-mail: registrar@2026wac.com

TREASURER

Craig Gifford

E-mail: craig@craiggifford.com