

Rule Change Proposal - Aircraft Preflight Inspection Event

Change Red Book IV.A (changes/additions in red):

A. *Aircraft Preflight Inspection*

1. A light, single-engine general aviation airplane shall be “bugged” with at least 30 discrepancies. Discrepancies must be of such a nature that it is reasonable to expect them to be detected by a competent Private Pilot during a normal preflight inspection. The discrepancy list will be reviewed by both the Preflight Judge and Chief Judge prior to the start of the event.
2. A discrepancy is defined as a condition of the airplane that makes it unairworthy, unsafe or illegal for the intended flight. Prior known conditions of the airplane to be excluded from the event will be determined by the Preflight Judge.
3. If two airplanes are used, they must be identical.
4. If time and staffing allow, the airplane should be put on display prior to the event in its current condition (which for the purposes of the event will be considered airworthy) to allow contestants to become familiar with the airplane. If necessary, a “List of Exclusions” will be posted for all teams to see discrepancies that are not part of the event and will not count as an additional discrepancy, either for or against, a contestant.
5. The airplane must be hidden from view of spectators and other contestants after it has been “bugged” for the event.
6. Prior to the event, each contestant will be briefed on the event scenario from the Preflight Judge. The scenario must be the same for each team.
7. Contestants from the same team must immediately follow one another in the contest.
8. Contestants shall be given not more than 15 minutes to perform the inspection.
9. Scoring:
 - a) Each contestant will earn one point for each discrepancy detected from the discrepancy list.
 - b) Each contestant will lose one point for each invalid discrepancy detected.
(Examples: “Controls rigged backwards” when they are not, “Compass fluid drained” when the fluid is full)
 - c) An additional point may be awarded for each discrepancy discovered by the contestant that is not listed on the discrepancy list or the List of Exclusions. Before the scores are officially submitted, the Preflight Judge will review with the Chief Judge that all such point adjustments are consistently applied between contestants.
 - d) Preflight technique will be scored in two categories: Method and Thoroughness. A maximum of 10 technique points is possible, with 5 as the maximum for each category.
 - e) In the event of a tie, the contestant taking the least amount of time to complete the inspection shall be declared the winner.
 - f) Immediately after completing their individual preflight inspection, each contestant shall have an additional two (2) minutes to express comments and/or concerns to the Preflight Judge.
 - g) High score wins.
 - h) The following will result in disqualification:
 - (1) Rough handling of flight controls or other aircraft components
 - (2) Running or erratic movements during the preflight
 - (3) Slamming cabin or baggage doors

Change Red Book V. A. to read:

POINTS AWARDED	
A contestant will earn one point for each discrepancy detected from the discrepancy list.	1
An additional point may be awarded for each existing discrepancy discovered by the contestant that is not listed on the judge's discrepancy list	1
One point will be subtracted for each call made that is not a valid discrepancy.	-1
Technique will be scored in two categories: Method and Thoroughness. Each category has a maximum of 5 points. Point distribution is described on each scoresheet.	up to 10
DISQUALIFICATIONS	
Rough handling of the flight controls	DQ
Running or erratic movements during the preflight inspection	DQ
Slamming or jamming of cabin or baggage doors	DQ

Explanation:

Student representatives brought feedback to improve the event. The Safety Committee added their suggestions based on experiences at Regional and National SAFECON and the Judges Committee sought input from past National SAFECON event judges and most recent Regionals scoresheet comparisons. As part of this rule change proposal, expanded guidance will be provided in the Judges Manual for what to expect with discrepancies, both valid and invalid, so students benefit from year over year continuity in the event. The biggest addition is to define a discrepancy and outline what may be excluded from a particular event. Disqualifications were added to align with what has been used for a number of years on the score sheet.