

BALLOON CROSS CHANNEL 2026 Terms and Conditions

Our Terms and Conditions were last updated in November 2025.

Please read these Terms and Conditions carefully before accepting your invitation to participate in the Cross Channel Hot Air Balloon Flight.

Your attendance to the event is conditioned on your acceptance of and compliance to these Terms and Conditions.

1. The registered Pilot in Command and/or applicant, will advise Exclusive Ballooning of any and all changes to the application, most significantly any requested change of balloon or pilot in command.
2. The applicant may not transfer the application to another pilot without the express written permission of Exclusive Ballooning and only upon the substitute pilot satisfying all of the entry requirements.
3. The pilot in command will be flying the balloon with the relevant registration and artwork that has been submitted to Exclusive Ballooning. No additional basket or envelope branding, flags other than that of the participating nations or EU flag, maybe flown without prior approval from Exclusive Ballooning.
4. The registered Pilot in Command will be the only person permitted to operate the burners throughout the entirety of this flight. No training flights of any kind will be permitted.
5. Every pilot must hold original and valid copies of Pilot Licence, Class 2 Medical Certificate, C of A, ARC, C of R and appropriate insurance, including coverage for flying over water, with them on the day and provide these at any point if requested.
6. For clarity, all participating pilots must have a valid Class 2 Medical Certificate.
7. All pilots, crew members and passengers will hold a valid passport.
8. Exclusive Ballooning reserve the right to refuse entry to the launch site to any pilot or crew member and/or ground any pilot from flying.
9. All pilots and crew will follow instructions as provided by Exclusive Ballooning, the safety team, the flying committee and/or the CAA throughout the event.
10. Pilots will read and adhere to briefing notes as distributed, changed or amended up to the event date.
11. Pilots will not distribute briefing notes to any persons outside of their own team attending the event.
12. The Pilot in Command will have a minimum of 50 P1 hours. Pilots with between 50 and 100 hours may fly at the discretion of Exclusive Ballooning, subject to recency and experience.
13. The entered balloon is between 65,000 and 120,000 cubic feet. If there is room on the launch site, we may approve the use of 140,000 cubic feet.
14. All balloons must have a minimum of three hours duration in flight on the day.
15. Life jackets are mandatory for all persons in the basket.
16. Immersion suits are strongly recommended for all persons in the basket.
17. All valid passports for all persons flying in the balloon are taken in the basket and can be shown upon request.
18. The Pilot in Command and/or Crew Chief must speak English or a translator must be present at all briefings and in the basket during the flight.
19. No pilot or passenger will drop anything from the basket.

20. No passenger spaces of any kind will be sold for this flight, under any circumstances.
21. No balloon will attempt to splash and dash. Balloons must not fly lower than 100 feet over the water. The exception is upon reaching France (or Belgium) and flying low on approach to a beach etc.
22. The formal entry invitation must be accepted within 48 hours or your space will be given to another pilot.
23. The entry fee payment must be made within 48 hours of your invitation. For overseas pilots, payment must be received within five days of your invitation.
24. If the cross channel flight does not proceed within the agreed weather window of 12th January to 2nd April 2026, the flight will roll to the winter of 2026/2027 and your confirmed place and fee will be carried forward.
25. However, at this point, you will have an option of a partial refund of your entry fee, minus a £125 plus VAT admin fee, should you not wish to carry the flight forward.
26. If the cross channel flight proceeds on a suitable date within the agreed weather window of 12th January to 2nd April 2026, and you are unable to attend, you will receive a refund of your entry fee, minus a £125 plus VAT admin fee. In order to receive this refund, you must have advised Exclusive Ballooning at the time the flight moves to Amber Alert, that you cannot attend on the intended date. If you fail to advise Exclusive Ballooning of this and simply do not take up your space on the flight, then no refund is due.
27. If the cross channel flight is called on, on a suitable date within the agreed weather window of 12th January to 2nd April 2026 and is then subsequently cancelled on the launch site, no refund is due.
28. If the cross channel flight is called on, on a suitable date within the agreed weather window of 12th January to 2nd April 2026 and the pilot has not advised Exclusive Ballooning that they cannot attend or the pilot has not uploaded any documentation or responded to any communication, directly or via pilot WhatsApp group or mail outs and then does not take up their space, no refund is due.
29. If a pilot has not uploaded any documentation to their application and/or has not responded to any communication from Exclusive Ballooning, direct or via pilot WhatsApp group or mail outs, to advise that they cannot participate prior to the window opening on 12th January 2026, then Exclusive Ballooning reserve the right to remove the pilot from the flight with no refund due. Any refund due at this point will be at the discretion of Exclusive Ballooning.
30. Any information or meteorological forecast will be given in good faith and is intended for briefing purposes only. Pilots will fly at their own discretion and are responsible for the well being of their crew, guests and passengers at all times and should ensure everyone in the launch field is appropriately briefed. For clarity, all pilots hold their own liability for any damage to property, land or incident whilst at the event.
31. It is not mandatory to carry a marine radio but we strongly advise this in case of needing to contact the coastguard.
32. It is mandatory to carry at least one airband radio capable of listening watch on 122.480. This is not for general crew chat but for urgent safety and MET broadcasts.
33. It is mandatory and a legal requirement to have submitted a General Aviation Report prior to launching.

