



Thank you for helping put America's ultralighters on the aviation record map! Your role is to be the watchful eye over record setting attempts while helping pilots ensure that their efforts meet the rules.

Observers must:

1. Above all else, be honest, impartial, and willing to make sure that any observed attempt follows the intent and letter of FAI and NAA rules. An observer may rightfully trust the applicant, but must ask “how would a skeptical person view the evidence presented.” That means be willing to report something even if it jeopardizes the attempt.
2. Become familiar with the FAI rules applicable to the record being attempted to help ensure success and that everything is being done correctly.
3. Follow up with the required paperwork to ensure that all necessary forms are filled out and submitted within required time limits.

Structure: **FAI – NAA – USUA**

The *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (FAI) is the world body that recognizes aviation competitions and records, sets rules, and establishes categories, including ultralights, which fall under microlights. Note that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is not involved except if waivers from FAA rules are required. All flights must, of course, operate within the applicable FAA rules—Part 103 for ultralights, Part 61 and 91 for Light Sport Aircraft.

The FAI gets input from national aero clubs all around the world which also administer the records and competitions in their respective countries. In the U.S., that organization is the *National Aeronautic Association* (NAA) which itself has partnered with various, more specific, organizations to administer records and competitions. For paragliders and hang gliders it's the *United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association* (USHPA); for ultralights, including powered paragliders, it's the *United States Ultralight Association* (USUA).

NAA forms, including the Sanction Application (approval of your attempt) and fee schedule, are here:

www.naa.aero/html/appsDownloads/index.cfm or www.NAA.aero then click on “Records.” Forms are available on the right side of the screen. There is also a very informative “Records FAQ” under Records.

Rules: Classes of Ultralights, Categories of Records

Ultralights fall within FAI's Microlights code which includes many classes. The FAI General Section (link below) defines all the Sporting Code sections from Balloons to Spacecraft. Your observer status is for Microlights, Sporting Code 10, which is Class “R” and includes Microlight Aircraft, Powered Hang Gliders, and Powered Paragliders. This may include some Light Sport Aircraft which you are authorized to observe.

Go to <http://www.fai.org/fai-documents>. Select the *FAI Sporting Code, General Section*, and *Section 10: Microlights* which describes most of what you need, including general information and definitions. It also contains the latest “Annexes” that apply, such as Annex 4 with the task catalog and Annex 6 on GPS (GNSS Flight Recorders). Most important is the FAI's “**Microlight Record Claim Form**,” Besides being the official record claim, it serves as a checklist of what must be accomplished. Look at it well before observing the record flight.

These documents change periodically so download the current version before working as an observer on any record attempt or competition.

There are many classes of Microlights defined in the table on Section 10, 1.5.2 (S10 1.5.2) including what the abbreviations mean. For example, *Weight-shift / Landplane / Flown solo / Thermal engine* is RWL1T. A solo paramotor is *Paraglider Control / Foot launched / Flown solo / Thermal engine / Male* is called RPF1Tm.

There are 11 Record Categories defined in S10 3.2. These include Distance in a Straight Line Without Landing, Distance in a Straight Line Without Engine Power and so on.

In addition to FAI Section 10, there are appendices that will likely apply. For example, pilots must have approved flight recorders. Some microlight classes on some records, particularly paramotors, may be able to use off-the-shelf GPS

receivers but must be able to output to a computer.

Record Process

The pilot(s) must be legal to do the attempt. That includes being a current USUA member, having a valid FAI sporting license from the NAA and having the record attempt sanctioned (approved) in advance. Here is a timeline.

1. Read www.NAA.aero's FAQ under "Records."
2. At least 21 days (or as prescribed) before the record attempt, apply to NAA for the sanction and pay any fees.
3. An impartial observer is assigned by the NAA (not chosen by the pilot). Observer's only get paid for expenses.
4. Acquire the scales, measuring devices, appropriate GNSS (GPS) any any other materials required for the attempt.
5. After getting approved, and within the listed dates, accomplish the flight(s). Multiple attempts are fine as long as all proper procedures are followed on each one. Make sure fueling, weighing, time recording, GPS sealing, video/still recording, and other required procedures are followed. The observer must also record serial/model information from the GPS devices.
6. Within 72 hours, complete the online NAA "Submit a Record Claim" or send the Record Claim Statement doc.
7. Fill out the FAI "**Microlight Record Claim Form**" along with all required signatures. Include all supporting documentation, such as photos and videos. Submitted to the NAA within 30 days.

Getting Approved and What is Expected

Observer approval is at the discretion of the NAA which wants to insure that appointees are impartial, of good reputation in the community, are reasonably available", and are willing to study the required materials before each assignment. The test you will take here meets some of the requirements but record observing will require spending some time in the rulebook and understanding the content for each record you work on.

You are the eyes and ears of the FAI through the NAA and USUA. Your observation is crucial to both insuring that records are real and meaningful, and also that successful records are not denied because of procedural or paperwork mistakes. Don't allow anything questionable, but help prevent procedural lapses that may torpedo the pilot's attempt.

Your duties will depend on the record or competition, but will likely include observing and recording weights, sealing and unsealing flight recorders (approved GPS units), ensuring that flight recorders are blank, taking launch/landing times, and observing that required fueling and other procedures are followed. You will be required to supervise downloading GPS data and ensuring continuous track of the data onto a memory storage device that you control for later submission to the NAA.

If you have questions about the rules or process, contact the NAA to get clarification.

Costs and Expenses

Observers are not paid for their services beyond expenses such as travel, accommodations, and meals.

Finally

To become an observer, fill out the USUA Observer application and include your answers to this test on it. An 80% is required to pass. Thanks for your interest and contribution to helping put U.S. Pilots in the record books.

USUA Observer Test

As of 2011-Feb-23

1 Observers are chosen for a particular record attempt by:

- A) *The USUA based on pilot request*
- B) *The NAA based on pilot request*
- C) *The USUA based on impartiality*
- D) *The NAA based on impartiality*

2 Record attempts are governed by:

- A) *The FAI through the FAA's authority*
- B) *The USUA and must be approved by the FAA*
- C) *The FAI, FAA and USUA for U.S. record attempts for ultralights (microlights)*
- D) *The FAI through the NAA and then USUA for ultralights (microlights)*

3 (see section 10, 1.4) A microlight with weight shift control is a

- A) *hang glider where weightshift is at least one method of control*
- B) *flexwing powered aircraft with pilot weightshift as primary method of control*
- C) *flexwing powered aircraft where a control bar is used with the pilot located below the center of lift*
- D) *rigid or flexwing aircraft with pilot weightshift as primary method of control*

4 (see Annex 6 to section 10 from the FAI website) There are three types of flight recorders,

- A) *Type 1, 2 and 3 where Type 1 cannot display flight information to the pilot*
- B) *Category A, B and C where category A requires barometric altitude reporting*
- C) *Category A, B, and C where category C requires barometric altitude reporting*
- D) *Off-the shelf units, aviation approved units, and FAI approved units*

5 An observer's duty is, in this order, to

- A) *1) aid the pilot, 2) be impartial and accurate*
- B) *1) be impartial and accurate, 2) aid the pilot*
- C) *1) be impartial and accurate, 2) have no input into the process during any observed record attempt*
- D) *1) aid the pilot, 2) insure that FAA rules are followed, 3) be impartial and accurate*

6 Regarding expenses and payment

- A) *Observers are allowed to charge a daily stipend not to exceed \$150 and expenses including transportation*
- B) *Observers are allowed to charge a daily stipend not to exceed \$150 and expenses excluding transportation*
- C) *Observers are not allowed to charge anything, it is strictly voluntary and are asked to cover their own expenses*
- D) *Observers are reimbursed for expenses, including transportation, but may not charge for services*

7 The relationship between the various organizations responsible for aviation records is:

- A) NAA, the U.S. Aero Club, operates under authority of the FAA which reports to the FAI
- B) USUA operates under authority of the FAI directly
- C) NAA operates under authority of the FAA and USUA
- D) USUA operates under authority of the NAA, the U.S. active member of the FAI

8 To be legal for a record attempt, before applying for a sanction, the pilot must:

- A) Be FAA certified for record attempts.
- B) Have an FAA endorsement for record attempts
- C) Be a USUA member and have a valid FAI sporting license
- D) Be a USUA member or have a valid FAI sporting license

9 Observers are assigned to record attempts based on:

- A) Proximity to the record attempt and familiarity with the microlight type
- B) NAA selection of those observers who can be considered impartial
- C) Record seeker's request
- D) Recommendation by other observers

10 Regarding forms for record attempts, including those that may be for world records:

- A) The NAA website has all the required forms
- B) The NAA and FAI websites have all the required forms
- C) The NAA, FAI and FAA websites have all the required forms
- D) All forms must now be filled out online at the NAA and FAI website.

11 Microlight rules are:

- A) Found in section 10 of the FAI Sporting Code
- A) Found in Section R of the FAI sporting code
- B) Found in Section 10 and 11 of the FAI Sporting Code
- C) Found in Section 10 and 11 of the NAA Sporting Code

12 If you have questions about record attempts:

- A) Contact NAA.aero or FAA
- B) Contact NAA.aero
- C) Contact the FAA or USUA.org
- D) Contact USUA.org

13 Most basic questions regarding record attempts can be answered here:

- A) www.USUA.org/record/FAQ
- B) www.FAA.org/record/FAQ
- C) www.USUA.org then click on Records then Records FAQ
- D) www.NAA.org then click on Records then Records FAQ

14 Regarding the FAA:

- A) Record flights may deviate from FAA rules if a waiver is obtained from the NAA
- B) Record flights operate under an NAA exemption as required for the specific record being attempted
- C) Record flights must adhere to all applicable FAA rules unless a waiver is obtained from the FAA
- D) Record flights operate under rules established internationally by the FAI