

**OB SERIES AND YB SERIES NOW CAN BE FLOWN ANYTIME IN A CALENDAR YEAR  
CUTOFF FOR BOTH OB AND YB NDB UPLOADS  
IS FEBRUARY 1ST OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR**

In February 2020 a Board Action Request (BAR) was submitted by NDB/eWinspeed Administrator Stierlin to keep both OB and YB series open for uploads to the NDB all calendar year and allow both series to be flown concurrently if desired (but not merged together into one OB/YB series). The purpose was to allow maximum flexibility in scheduling the two series for economy of transportation and also to accommodate different weather patterns across North America. With COVID restrictions now in place it is also imperative to deal with postponed OB series.

The BAR has been approved by the AU Board. AU Race Rule 7.10 now reads:

“Organizations may fly Old Bird and Young Bird races at any time during a calendar year. The two series may be flown concurrently but Old Bird releases must be separated from Young Bird releases by at least 30 minutes or 35 miles. Also see AU Race Rule (10.06).

Only birds born in the current calendar year may be entered in a Young Bird race. Only birds not born in the current calendar year may be entered in an Old Bird race.

Special races such as club futurities may be released within an A or B race. A race within a race.

Cutoff for both OB and YB races to be uploaded to the National Database is February 1st of the following year.”

This means there will still be two separate series (OB and YB) uploaded to the NDB for each calendar year but some/all races for each of those series can be shipped on the same transportation vehicle and scheduled for release from the same station or another station. OB's and YB's cannot be released together or compete in the same race.

**Background:** Many organizations had discussed this possibility with AU National Race Secretary Jeff Life and with their Zone Directors last year to save on skyrocketing transportation costs. Also by extending the deadline to upload OB results to the NDB, clubs will be able to race OB's past the old August 1 deadline, which they have been able to do in the past though those race results were not able to be included for NDB awards because of the August 1 cutoff. Some Canadian members' OB series is May-Aug and YB series is July-Sept.

In mid-January 2020 some organizations were still compiling results from 2019 YB's prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for upload to the NDB. Others had started 2020 OB's

so eWinspeed was modified to allow results calculation/upload to the NDB for more than one series at a time. Deadlines for NDB uploads, however, remained at February 1<sup>st</sup> for last year's YB series and August 1<sup>st</sup> for the current year's OB series.

Along came COVID restrictions on gatherings/travel and resulting inability of our members to train and fly their normal OB schedule. With the end date of restrictions unknown, organizations are considering various ways to complete their 2020 OB schedule within calendar year 2020. To be proactive in helping our members deal with the situation and give maximum latitude for rescheduling as needed it was decided to accelerate AU Board voting on the BAR instead of waiting until the June AU Board meeting. The new Rule 7.10 gives maximum flexibility to deal with COVID restrictions and race postponements and also provides latitude for transportation economy.

A race schedule can be set up or modified to fly some of the schedule and then the remainder of the races later in the year. For example, if a planned OB series or part of a series has to be postponed and it is not advisable to fly the longer races in the heat of the summer, those long races could be rescheduled to the Fall when temperatures are more moderate.

Another example is reduction of transportation costs by intentionally overlapping OB and YB schedules so the OB series can be shipped on some or all of the YB series transportation dates.

Discussion about keeping OB races for old birds only and YB races for young birds only included comments from Awards Chairman Bob McKenna that separation of OB and YB releases is imperative. OB's and YB's combined in a race would be like having trainers mixed in the race. YB's could follow OB's home, thus affecting their performance. If mixing of OB's and YB's were an option, flyers in different parts of the country would have a different chance at AU Awards and thus the national results would be tainted. Or a new flyer who only has YB's is at a disadvantage competing against others who could enter both OB's and YB's in the same race.

Due to the urgent need to adjust OB 2020 schedules, the change to Race Rule 7.10 goes into effect immediately. Please note that there is only one deadline for NDB uploads: February 1<sup>st</sup>.