



DIRIGIBLE DESIGN, RACES AND JOUSTING RULES, HINTS AND TIPS

Registration and Blimp Purchase Info: If you plan to participate in the RC Dirigible portion of the Imperial Games, when you register for the games (or at the very least before the symposium begins) you should contact Caelyn Nagle at caelyn_8@hotmail.com and provide the name of your group, the name of your dirigible, and if you know it yet, the frequency of your transmitter. (most likely to be 27Mhz or 49Mhz) This is IMPORTANT. For if you have a 27Mhz dirigible, you cannot race against someone who also has 27Mhz. If you have a 49Mhz, you cannot race against someone who also has a 49Mhz. If you register before you purchase your RC Blimp, be sure to let us know **as soon as you have your Blimp**, what frequency you are flying.

As dirigibles register for the races, a list of those dirigibles will be added online showing the frequency(ies) they will be using, so you can plan your RC Dirigible purchase accordingly.

IMPORTANT: Currently, we only know of ONE place to purchase something other than 27Mhz, and that is through a “Fly Together” kit that comes with two full dirigibles (one with 27, the other 49). So unless you are able to find another source, you have 3 choices:

1. You can buy a single blimp that is 27Mhz.
2. You can buy two dirigibles for yourself from the Fly Together kit listed below which has a 27Mhz and a 49Mhz (guaranteeing that you can race against anyone)
3. You can split the Fly Together kit with another group.

Here is the link to the Dragonfly Innovations “Fly Together” Blimps kit from its US Distributor: <http://www.rctoys.com/rc-products/K-MACH-3Z-TWO.html> . All other single blimp kits from Dragonfly are 27Mhz, you cannot buy a 49 Mhz by itself.

There is also one other manufacturer that we know of that sells a cheaper model dirigible, but there seems to be only one supplier for it (that has it in stock), and we do not know what frequency it comes in (we have inquired but with no response). That supplier is here: <http://www.fantasytoyland.com/fm-ahc-mtc8304.html> . Bear in mind that this blimp may be out of production, and doesn't have any of the available spare parts and balloons that are available through Dragonfly.

A search on “RC Blimp” will likely return a lot of Amazon.com results. Many of these results come from Dragonfly Innovations and rctoys.com. So know that they have the same stock issues as above.

PLEASE, if you find ANY other source for RC Dirigibles/Blimps that meet the size specifications below, and come in something other than 27Mhz...please share this knowledge with the community to help with dirigible frequency diversity. ☺

DIRIGIBLE DESIGN COMPETITION:

We like to think of these RC Blimps as starting points. There will be a contest for the best design/modification of a stock RC Blimp, or an RC Blimp built from scratch for those that are more adventurous and technically capable. We want to see you make this very modern looking RC Blimps look as steampunk or Victorian as you can! The rules for this part of the competition are simple:

1. Your Dirigible must meet all the same dimensional requirements as those used in the races and jousting events. (see below)
2. Your Dirigible must be capable of lighter than air flight. (Designs that can't fly because they're too heavy will be disqualified)
3. Your Dirigible does NOT have to take part in the races or joust events to be entered in the design competition; it just must be CAPABLE of Remote Controlled flight.
4. Your Dirigible must have a name.
5. Victory Conditions: The design competition will be judged by an objective panel to be chosen from attendees of the event that have no ties to the competitors.

DIRIGIBLE RACES:

The Dirigible Races will be taking place in the big open atrium of the hotel/convention center. The size of the atrium is approximately 70 feet by 90 feet and a little over two stories to the skylight glass roof. There are obstacles in the atrium so the race could consist of a navigation course and/or a simple race around the periphery. Due to the size of the room, we have made a restriction of the physical dimensions of your dirigibles. Any stock RC Blimp mentioned on the first page already fits inside these given dimensions.

1. **Size:** Dirigibles should be no longer than 60 inches from nose to tail (following direction of travel). They should be no wider than 40 inches. They should be no taller than 45 inches.
2. **Type:** All Dirigibles should be of helium filled/lighter than air type. No hot air dirigibles, flammable gas dirigibles (no Hydrogen) or heavier than air vehicles (helicopters or airplanes) allowed. This is to keep the field competitive speed and maneuverability wise, but also for spectator and facility safety.
3. **Propulsion:** Your primary propulsion must be through electric motors and propellers. If you have plans to attempt any kind of "Boosters", they must be reviewed and approved by the event organizers. NO fire or combustion based boosters will be allowed. Pressurized gas boosters must be strictly controlled and must be demonstrated and pre-approved before the event.
4. **Weapons:** During the airship races, no weapons that can cause physical damage to your opponent's dirigible will be allowed. If you wish to build such weapons into your design, during the RACES you must disable them. The only "weapons" you may use during the races include things such as foam darts or dropped object weapons that can knock an opponent off course, without physically damaging the vessel. If you have a ramming spike, it must be removed prior to the race.
5. **Name:** As with the design and joust competition, your vessel must have a name.
6. **Victory Conditions:** TBA – Due to the nature of race pairings caused by the transmitter frequency issue, victory conditions will need to be determined once we know the full number of participating dirigibles. For each race heat, the dirigible who's nose passes the finish line first will win that heat.

DIRIGIBLE JOUST:

Terror in the skies! Let the Dirigible combat commence!

In the grand scheme of things, these little RC Toy blimps aren't all that much, but depending on where you buy them, and how much work you have put into the design and look of your vessel, they could be worth quite a bit of money. The balloons themselves are worth 15-30 dollars on their own. For this reason, our rules for the races do not allow destructive weaponry. But for those brave participants that want to "risk it all", following the races, we give you the DIRIGIBLE JOUST! The rules below **MUST** be followed for the safety of spectators and the facility that hosts our little contest. Please follow them, and don't try to ride the edge of the knife by lawyering your way around them. Thank you for your compliance.

1. **Size, Type, Propulsion and Name:** These rules from the Race section apply in the joust as well.
2. **Ramming weapons are allowed:** The primary weapons you can rely on for damaging your opponent's dirigible will be pointy ramming weapons. Needles, pins, nails whatever. You may have only two pointy weapons, one on the nose and one on the tail of your dirigible balloon. You must demonstrate the strength of the attachment of your "lances" before you can participate. We don't want them falling off over a crowd. To be certain of this, you may only engage your enemy over the central airspace. No engagement on the periphery is allowed.
3. **No hard or sharp dropped or projectile weapons:** This includes pins, nails, bbs, sticks or very small rocks.
4. **Soft or otherwise docile dropped or projectile weapons are allowed:** the kind that can knock your opponent around a bit (and that won't hurt anyone or put anyone's eye out) ARE allowed in the joust, just like those allowed in the races.
5. **No combustion weapons:** Meaning nothing that utilizes fire, gunpowder, or combustive fuel of any kind.
6. **Challenges:** All dirigible teams that decide to join in the Joust competition will have the right to challenge any other team who:
 - a. Have a different frequency than they do.
 - b. Have submitted their entry to the joust.
7. **Victory Conditions:** For each pairing the winner shall be the one that remains sustainably airborne longest. If both dirigibles go down simultaneously, the winner of each joust will be determined by an appointed judge based on "style and tactics". The overall winner for each available frequency will be the last one still able to fly without balloon replacement or repair.

In Summary, we hope to see several groups enter an RC Dirigible into the Steampunk Empire Symposium Airship Races. Please abide by the rules listed above and if you have any questions please feel free to ask. And just remember to keep property damage liability and personal safety in mind when designing or modifying your RC Blimp.