



NAA MEDIA KIT: AEROSPACE RECORDS & INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION

Overview

Since 1905, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) has served as the sole national authority for all aviation and space record-setting activity in the United States. As a founding member of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the international body governing air sports and aviation and space records, the NAA provides impartial, independent validation for domestic and international aerospace achievements.

Key Terms & Definitions

- **Sanction:** Official advance authorization granted by the NAA giving an applicant exclusive rights to attempt a specific U.S. record within a set time window (typically 90 days).
- **Sporting Code:** The standardized set of rules and technical regulations established by the FAI governing aviation record attempts across all aircraft classes.
- **Sporting License:** A credential issued by the NAA (on behalf of the FAI) authorizing an individual pilot or crew member to participate in sanctioned record attempts and international competitions.
- **Official Observer:** A qualified, neutral representative appointed by the NAA Contest & Records Board to oversee the attempt, verify technical compliance, seal recording devices, and certify physical evidence without conflict of interest.
- **Margin of Improvement:** The FAI requirement that new claims exceed existing records by a specific percentage margin (typically 1% for speed/distance) to be officially recognized.
- **Preliminary Record Claim:** The initial notification filed within 72 hours of an attempt's completion to officially register initial performance figures before final verification.
- **Embargo & Status Guidelines:**
 - Claimed/Preliminary Performance (unverified)
 - Certified U.S. National Record (NAA approved)
 - Ratified World Record (FAI approved)



- **Certification:** The formal validation process verifying an attempt's raw data, calibration logs, and observer reports to establish an official U.S. National or World Record.
- **National Record:** The best officially recognized performance achieved by a qualifying U.S. participant in a defined aircraft record class, conducted under the applicable Sporting Code and certified by the NAA.
- **World Record:** The best officially recognized performance achieved worldwide in a defined aircraft record class, conducted under the applicable Sporting Code, certified initially by the appropriate national authority, and formally ratified by the FAI.
- **"Record" vs. "First":** NAA/FAI certifies measurable performances (speed, distance, altitude, payload, time-to-climb) under strict technical criteria, not subjective terms such as "first."

Where to Check Current & Pending Records

- NAA Official Record Database: naa.aero/records/search
- FAI International World Record Database: fai.org/records



Governing Entities

FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FAI)

World Governing Body (Lausanne, Switzerland)



NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION (NAA)

Sole U.S. National Authority (Washington, D.C.)



NAA CONTEST & RECORDS || U.S. AIR SPORT ORGS



BOARD

Independent Observers
Technical Panel



(SSA, AMA, USPA, etc.)

Designated discipline-
specific oversight

- **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI):** Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, the FAI is the world governing body for aeronautical and astronautical records and air sports.
- **National Aeronautic Association (NAA):** The official FAI Active Member for the United States. The NAA holds exclusive jurisdiction to sanction, observe, and certify U.S. National records and submit claims for World record recognition.
- **NAA Contest & Records Board:** The NAA's technical panel of experts responsible for setting policy, appointing observers, and reviewing evidence to validate records.
- **Air Sport Organizations:** Designated national bodies (such as the Soaring Society of America, Academy of Model Aeronautics, and United States Parachute Association) authorized under NAA oversight to administer record attempts in specific sporting disciplines.



Aircraft Classification System

Airplanes are categorized according to **FAI Class C** rules to ensure fair competition across similar aircraft types:

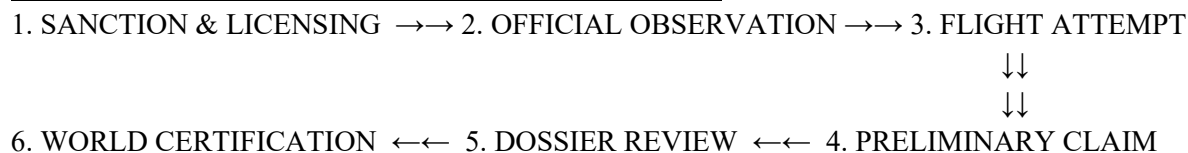
- **Propulsion Group:** Categorized by engine type (Internal Combustion/Piston, Turboprop, Jet Engine, Rocket, Scramjet, or Electric).
- **Weight Class:** Categorized by actual gross takeoff weight during the attempt.

Note: Class C records are not separated by engine configuration or crew size. A single-engine aircraft competes in the same category as a multi-engine aircraft of equivalent weight and engine type.

Other classes include: Class K (Spacecraft/Astronautics), Class E (Rotorcraft), Class A (Balloons), and Class U (Unmanned Aerial Systems/Drones)



Step-by-Step Validation & Certification Process



Step 1: SANCTION & LICENSING

1. Licensing: Participants must hold a valid NAA membership and FAI Sporting License.
2. Sanction Application: The applicant submits an NAA Sanction Application specifying the targeted record task (distance, speed, altitude, efficiency, etc.), aircraft details, and location.
3. Approval: Upon approval, the applicant receives a 90-day window to attempt the record in strict compliance with the applicable FAI Sporting Code.

Step 2: OFFICIAL OBSERVATION

1. Observer Appointment: The NAA assigns a qualified Official Observer independent of the pilot and aircraft manufacturer.
2. Technical Pre-Flight: The observer verifies aircraft registration, pilot credentials, weight parameters, and installs and seals secure recording equipment (such as GNSS flight recorders).

Step 3: FLIGHT ATTEMPT

1. Execution: The record attempt is conducted under the approved sanction parameters.
2. Post-Flight Verification: Upon landing, the observer unseals the recording devices, verifies takeoff and landing times, and secures the raw flight data files to maintain a strict chain of custody.

Step 4: PRELIMINARY CLAIM

1. 72-Hour Notice: The preliminary claim must be submitted to the NAA within 72 hours after completion.
2. Initial Notification to FAI: The NAA logs the claim and issues formal preliminary notification to the FAI if World Record status is being pursued.



Step 5: DOSSIER REVIEW

1. Dossier Compilation: Within 30 days, the applicant and observer submit all original documentation, instrument calibration sheets, witness statements, and flight logs to the NAA.
2. Technical Audit: The NAA Contest & Records Board audits all evidence against FAI technical standards (processing typically takes 30–60 days).
3. U.S. Certification: Upon verification, the performance is officially certified as a U.S. National Record.

Step 6: WORLD CERTIFICATION

1. Dossier Submission: The verified dossier is transmitted to the FAI in Lausanne, Switzerland.
2. Final Ratification: FAI technical commissions complete a secondary audit (typically 30–60 days) and issue the official international *Diplôme de Record*.



Notable Historical Records Certified by the NAA

#14842 (1927)

- Charles Lindbergh *Spirit of St. Louis*
- Distance: 3,610 miles (5,809 km)
- First solo, non-stop transatlantic flight (New York to Paris).

#8879 (1976)

- Elden W. Joersz *SR-71 Blackbird*
- Speed: 2,193.2 mph (3,529.6 km/h)
- World absolute speed record for an air-breathing jet aircraft (still stands today).

#8389 (1986)

- Dick Rutan & Jeana Yeager *Rutan Voyager*
- Distance: 24,986 miles (40,212 km)
- First non-stop, unrefueled flight around the world.

#2320 (1969)

- Apollo 11 Crew *Saturn V / Command Module*
- Greatest mass landed on a celestial body: 16,153.0 lbs (7,326.9 kg)
- First Moon landing.

#16669 (2012)

- Felix Baumgartner *Red Bull Stratos*
- Freefall Speed: Mach 1.25 (843.6 mph); Exit Altitude: 127,852 ft
- First human to break the sound barrier in freefall without a vehicle.

#18704 (2018)

- Jim Payne & Tim Gardner *Perlan II Glider*
- Altitude: 74,334 ft (22,657 m)
- World absolute altitude record for an unpowered sailplane.



NAA Logo



Usage Note: Use the primary blue logo on light backgrounds; use the white knockout variant on dark backgrounds.



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About the National Aeronautic Association (NAA)

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA), a non-profit membership organization, is the official record-certifying body for U.S. aviation and spaceflight. Established in 1905, the NAA is the oldest national aviation organization in the United States and is dedicated to advancing aerospace progress, promoting public understanding of aeronautics, and administering America's premier aviation recognitions.

Our Mission: *Advancing the art, sport, and science of aerospace by inspiring innovation, recognizing achievement, and shaping the future of flight.*

Our Vision: *Defining the excellence that powers the next century of flight.*

Learn more at naa.aero.

NAA Press: <https://naa.aero/category/press-releases/>