



2026 Saga International Balloon Fiesta Event Information

25th May, 2026

1. Event Name

2026 Saga International Balloon Fiesta

Subtitle 39th Pacific Cup

2026 Hot Air Balloon Honda Grand Prix -3rd round-
Balloon Fantasia 2026

2. Event Dates

Thursday, 29th October 2026 to Wednesday, 4th November, 2026

Competition flights will be from the morning of October 30th to the morning of November 3rd, 2026.

3. Location

The main launch area is located on Kase Riverbank, the western side of Saga City, Japan.

4. Organizer:

Saga International Balloon Fiesta Organization (SIBFO)

5. Officially Recognized by

Japan Balloon Federation (JBF/NKR) , Air-B

6. Administrative Supporters

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Saga Prefectural Government, SAGA City, and others

7. Sponsors

Honda Motor Company Limited, and others

8. Schedule * There might be changed due to

Wednesday, 28th October	07:00~10:00	Official Practice Flight
	13:30~18:00	Check-in for Pilots and Officials
Thursday, 29th October	07:00~10:00	Official Practice Flight
	09:30~12:00	Check-in for Pilots and Officials
	15:00~	General Briefing
Friday, 30th October	06:00~	Task Briefing / Competition Flight
- Sunday, 1st November	14:30~	Task Briefing / Competition Flight
Monday, 2nd November	06:00~	Task Briefing / Competition Flight
	14:30~	Task Briefing / Competition Flight
	18:30~	La Montgolfier Nocturne (Night Mooring)
Tuesday, 3rd November	06:00~	Task Briefing / Competition Flight
	14:30~	Key Grab Race

	18:30~	La Montgolfier Nocturne (Night Mooring)
Wednesday, 4th November	07:00~09:00	Fan Flight
	12:00~14:00	Awards Banquet

9. Headquarters and facilities available

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| (1) General Briefing, Task Briefing | The hall of the Kubota Kaizen Center |
| (2) Competition Operations Center
Scoring Room, and the Competition Head Office | Kubota Kaizen Center |
| (3) Operation Headquarters | Temporary buildings on Kase Riverbank |

10. Number of pilots invited

- a) 75 competitors for the 39h Pacific Cup including the maximum of 15 overseas pilots
- b) 21 Fiesta Flyers including up to 6 overseas pilots

Saga will invite a total of up to 21 overseas pilots for the Pacific Cup and Fiesta events.

11. Entry Qualifications

[Pilot]

- (1) Valid Pilot's License
- (2) Flight experience should be more than 50 hours as a PIC, at the time of your entry
- (3) A Licensing of pilot should be the former of October 29, 2025

[Balloon]

- (1) Valid Registration Document, and Airworthiness Certificate
- (2) Insurance Requirements

Competitors and Fiesta flyers are responsible for having insurance coverage of a minimum of 200 million yen for third parties. A competitor may purchase temporary insurance for the duration of the event from the organizer at a reasonable cost after arrival (at check-in).

12. Prizes for the All-Competitors Category

(1) Pacific Cup Category

1st place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	1,000,000 yen
2nd place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	500,000 yen
3rd place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	300,000 yen
4th place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	200,000 yen
5th place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	100,000 yen
6th – 10th place	Honorable Certificate & Prize	

(2) Rookie Special Award

*Awarded to the rookie pilot (age 29 or younger or within 5 years of obtaining a pilot's license, as of April 1, 2026) with the highest total task points.

Certificate of Commendation and Plaque from Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

(2) Fiesta Flyers

Task Top Prize Prize

13. How to enter the competitions (for pilots)

- (1) Access to our entry website URL: <https://x.gd/fIKIO>



- (2) Complete the entry form and read the participation agreement for the 2026 Saga International Balloon Fiesta. If the agreement is acceptable, please fill all blanks and attach all requested photos and documents.
 (3) It is not necessary to hand in this agreement with a sheet of paper. We will accept your agreement as the written one, when you applied the entry form.

[Attached required document with the form] * Required items are following below

- (1) Pilot Photo <must>
- (2) Pilot License <must>
- (3) The newest page of Pilot Logbook <must>
- (4) Balloon Photo
- (5) The newest page of Balloon Logbook
- (6) Registration Document, and Airworthiness Certificate
- (7) liability Insurance Policy

note 1) Please attach JPG documents and photograph.

note 2) If you have any documents that is no longer valid before the event, please turn in them once. And then, please submit renewed by the pilot check-in.

note 3) At the time of entry, if your balloon is not registered yet, please let us know in the comment box. As soon as you registered, please submit again by the entry form.

In addition, please be sure to contact with us immediately when you change a balloon after the entry.

14. Proposed entry fee and including

Competitors	99,000 Japanese yen
Fiesta Flyers	99,000 Japanese yen

Fuel for balloons during the event will be provided.

Other necessary information for flights, including maps, will also be provided.

15. Entry deadline

30th of June 2026

Upon confirmation by Saga International Balloon Fiesta Organization of their entry being accepted, all overseas pilots are kindly requested to send in their entry fees no later than July 31st, 2026. The bank information will be sent in the acceptance message.

After you receive a message from the organizers regarding acceptance, pay the entry fee to the organizer.

note 1) If there are any documents, which you cannot submit at the time of entry, please be sure to use the entry form that you can renew. We do not accept additional documents by e-mail.

note 2) Once you paid entry fee, please understand it will not be refunded in any case.

16. Note for entry

- (1) All competitors need Balloon Live Sensor (BLS) in task flights. There will not be any observers in the event this year. Competitors must prepare BLS, a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet with

the BLA (Balloon Live App) installed, and a communication environment by themselves. We can rent some BLS for 10,000yen, however there are limited numbers. Please be sure competitors cannot participate without a BLS. Fiesta pilots need not to have BLS.

- (2) The map for the event will be use UTM grid map for 50,000 minutes made in 2024.
- (3) Montgolfier Nocturne will be held from 18:30 on November 2nd (Mon) and 3rd (Tue). We will ask your participation after the submission of entry. 50 balloons can be participated. It might be a drawing if applicants are over 50. Some small rewards will be presented for participants.
- (4) We use the app called "WhatsApp" for the Recall Procedure. We will announce how to download and register before event. Not only pilots but also crew can use it.

17. Travel allowance for Pilots

- (a) 150,000 Japanese yen for pilots from America, Europe, and Oceania
- (b) 100,000 Japanese yen for pilots based outside of Japan, but within Asia.

18. Subsidy Grants for Balloon Shipping Costs

If an overseas competitor brings his own balloon set or envelope from his home country, the competitor will receive a certain amount of money from the organizer to subsidize the shipping costs.

The amounts of these grants to subsidize the cost of shipping balloons are as follows

Shipping cost for a balloon set that includes the envelope, burner, and basket

- (a) 200,000 JP yen from America, Europe, and Oceania
- (b) 100,000 JP yen from Asia

The organizer will provide a fan and 5 tanks free of charge.

Shipping cost for an envelope only, without the burner and basket

- (a) 100,000 JP yen from America, Europe, and Oceania
- (b) 50,000 JP yen from Asia

The organizer will provide a fan and 5 tanks free of charge.

Only certified Japanese cylinders will be accepted to be refueled/ refilled. Non-Japanese cylinders will not be accepted.

19. Rental of a balloon set

The organizer can arrange to have some complete balloon sets available for overseas pilots for rent. In this set, an envelope, a fan, 5 tanks, a basket and a burner will be included. Five balloon sets are available. Each rental charge is blow

- (a) 120,000 JP yen for a complete set.
- (b) 20,000 JP yen for only a bottom end.
- (c) Free for Inflation Fan, Propane Cylinder.

* Helium gas can be purchased during the competition if needed. Prices will be based on Japanese market rates. Please be sure to return the helium tank after the competition. Please return the helium tank after the competition. Prior application is required if you need helium gas.

20. Details of planned social events

- (1) A Parade is planned to be held on the main street of Saga City on October 29th, 2026. All teams and officials are invited to participate.
- (2) The Mayor's Reception is scheduled to be on the second day of the event. Pilots, chief crews, all overseas participants, and officials are invited to attend free of charge.
- (3) The Awards Banquet will be held from 12:00 (noon) until 14:00 on November 4th, 2026. All Pilots and Officials are invited to attend free of charge.

【Office and useful contacts for inquiries】

Masayuki IKARI (General Manager)

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