

# USE OF CAMERAS FOR FAI SOARING AWARDS & RECORDS

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The following is an explanation of the procedures to follow when using cameras for obtaining FAI soaring awards or when attempting record flights. This procedure has been approved by both the National Aeronautic Association and The Soaring Society of America, Inc.

In general, the camera takes the place of an official observer or witnesses at a turning point of a course being flown. As such it must have the same integrity and offer the same proof of accomplishment as the witness. This means that the camera must be sealed during the flight as required by paragraph 3.2.8 of the FAI Sporting Code (Section 3 — Class D).

1. Before the take-off an SSA Official Observer shall load the camera with an unused film.

2. The observer must then seal the camera or place it in a perforated box which can be sealed and would prevent the camera from being opened.

3. The observer then takes a photograph of a printed notice giving the following information:

- (a) Date.
- (b) Time.
- (c) Flight, type to be attempted.
- (d) Description of point(s) of turn (geographical coordinates, name on a map, etc.).
- (e) Pilot's name.
- (f) Pilot's signature.
- (g) SSA Official Observer's name.
- (h) SSA Official Observer's signature.
- (i) Make, model and FAA registration number of sailplane.

4. Photographs must be taken by the pilot of each turn point such that proof is obtained that the pilot turned over or outside the point (Para. 1.5.3 of the FAI Code). This proof ordinarily requires three photographs of each turn point so that it may be determined that the pilot flew *around* the point and not merely to one side.

5. After the flight the sealed camera is handed back to the observer who again photographs the start notice modified by the addition of the later time.

6. The observer then breaks the seal on the camera, removes the film and has it developed, making sure that the film (negative) is kept in a continuous roll.

7. The film (negative) and photographs as submitted with an application for an FAI soaring badge or record report must be supplemented with a certificate for each turning point involved, signed by a reliable witness who is familiar with the aerial features of the terrain in question, stating that the film shows that a simple turn was made outside the turning point of the declared course. This is best done on the backs of prints made from the film.

8. In all cases where a camera is used to substantiate a record flight, there must be a detailed description in the record report of the camera technique involved.

9. A sealed barograph must also be carried on all flights for an FAI soaring badge or record (except duration for a badge where the flight may be under continual observance of an SSA Official Observer).

10. Sealing requirements for cameras are the same as for barographs. The seal must be initialed by the SSA Official Observer prior to the flight and checked by him before breaking the seal after the flight. Lead light meter seals are preferred although split shot fishing sinkers used with braided wire should be satisfactory. Pliers with smooth-faced jaws may be used to effect the seal.

It should be noted that the altimeter-camera procedure as a substitute claim as outlined in an article in *Soaring* four years ago is no longer approved and will not be accepted under any circumstances.

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