



DP003 Revision 6, Changelog/Explanation

5.1 Friday Night Operations (FNO)

- Increased restrictions on single-field FNOs were made, particularly with regards to AAR. VATUSA and the DCC noticed a trend in 2023 of single-field FNOs with AARs of less than 80 experiencing delays, in some cases serious delays. To combat this, only airports with a standard/realistic config¹ VATSIM AAR² of 60 or greater will be permitted, and documentation will be required to support the FNO bid if the field has an AAR of less than 80. While VATUSA and the DCC trusts facilities to plan their FNOs on their own, FNO traffic counts routinely reach extremely unrealistic levels, and airports with low AARs are essentially doomed with delays from the start. While delays are not inherently bad, VATUSA has a duty to the pilot community, and a responsibility to protect the reputation of FNOs.
- With the above AAR restriction, the max slot count for single-field FNOs has been increased to 10. This is after consultation with subdivisions, many of whom asked for more opportunities for single-field FNOs.
- There is a new restriction on AAR for all FNOs. This restriction is not intended to narrow the options for FNOs, but instead be a clarification of the previous rule that used airspace classification to determine what is allowable. This updated provision allows for a much clearer interpretation. The standard/realistic config VATSIM AAR must combine to be at least 100 among the featured fields. This number should allow for most all facilities to feature only two large fields if they wish, with three or four never being a problem.
- Two slots per cycle will, ideally, be reserved for Light Up America-style events. This change was made after a large majority of facilities expressed interest in this style of event.
- Facilities should refrain from canceling FNOs. They should work with other facilities to swap their dates if need be. If a facility must cancel their FNO within 30 days of the FNO date, the facility may lose their guarantee for an FNO in the subsequent cycle. FNOs are highly desired, and it is unfair to the rest of the subdivisions for an FNO to be canceled. Facilities should not bid for an FNO if they do not believe they can staff/run the event.
- The policy is intended to clarify that VATUSA owns Friday Night Operations, and facilities shall comply with directives from ZHQ with regards to their planning and operations. It is not VATUSA's intention to micromanage FNOs, as stated above we just want them to run as smoothly as possible.

¹ Standard/realistic config refers to a config used daily by the airport in real life or on VATSIM.

² VATSIM AAR can be found at <https://perti.vatccsc.org/configs>. They may be appealed by facilities.



5.2 Facility Sponsored Events

- A provision was added to allow Live events to be posted further in advance. Venues are typically booked over 6 months in advance, so it is imperative that facilities can look and see Live events that are already scheduled so that they do not double book. A date must be secured prior to publishing the event to the VATUSA Calendar. This is to ensure that facilities do not block dates from others until they have absolutely secured the Live.
- Rules for posting recurring events were reworded to avoid confusion. The overall intention has not changed. Facilities can post the first two editions at any time, and may not post further editions until 21 days prior to the event date.

5.4 Event Submissions

- Events may no longer be posted within 10 days of the event date. This is to ensure VATUSA complies with the my.VATSIM posting rule, since all events posted on the VATUSA Calendar must be cross posted to the my.VATSIM calendar at least 7 days prior to the event.
- Obvious, but important, rules were added for events themes that are not permitted.

5.5 General EC Responsibilities

- Specifics were added for which events must be supported by Tier 1s. All FNOs must be supported, and any significant events (which is defined in the policy) must be posted to the facility's website to garner staffing.
- A provision was added to encourage all facilities to have individuals with TMU knowledge on their events team.
- A note was added to encourage ECs to be diligent when planning large-scale events. Care should be taken so that facilities do not staff back-to-back days for busy events (i.e. staffing as a Tier 1 for an FNO and then hosting a Saturday night event the following day). The division will do its best to facilitate these conflicts, but it is up to the ECs to communicate and avoid potential problems.

The previous 5.6, Ramp Controllers for VATUSA Events, was removed

5.6 ACE Team

- The practical exam has been removed pending further research and development by VATUSA. Because of the importance of ACE Team, VATUSA hopes to have a complex sweatbox scenario, but at this time only a written exam will be required.



- A provision was added to clarify that only DCC staff may request ACE Team on behalf of a facility, and this can only be done when a representative is nonresponsive or unavailable. This situation does not occur often, but when it does, it is an emergency.
- A reminder that ECs should be filling out the ACE Member Participation Form (5.7.4)
- ACE members can be removed for poor behavior or poor controlling.

5.7 Division Command Center (DCC)

- NTMS applicants now require a letter of recommendation from their EC, TA, DATM, or ATM
- A note was added to encourage delay reporting on the NTML. It is not required if the resources required to report said delays would result in a compromise to ATC operations. The DCC should assist with this process.
- Clarification was added for facility cooperation during FNOs. As stated multiple times above, FNOs are a division event delegated to the facilities, and as such ECs should comply with requests from the DCC. This includes participating in the Hotline, PERTI, and planning. This should be done for all events, not just FNOs, but it is a requirement for FNOs.
- Clarification was added for when the DCC may step in and act as TMU for a facility during an event. This can only occur during FNOs when multiple attempts have been made to contact facility representatives for 15 minutes.
- The DCC is a tool for the facilities. It is not meant to be an annoyance. The DCC should be used for help with posting to the NTML, general event planning, route planning, TMI planning, etc.