

How to Become an Observer 2021 Update

Observers: Observer is not an instructor; they must not provide instruction to pilots. Observers observe pilot flying skills for advanced ratings and special skills. Observers must be USHPA members, with an advanced pilot rating P4/H4. Observer duties require in person observation of flying skills for intermediate ratings, advanced ratings, and special skills. For a Pilot rating, applicants will need to complete USHPA online rating test, along with observer skill sign-off to achieve the new rating. Observers cannot assist in observation for Novice and Beginner ratings. Observers may also serve their communities as observer for P2-P3/H2-H3 wishing to fly higher rated sites, that require instructor/observer for flights occurring there. Observers may write letters of recommendation for Master Rating applicants to indicate they have known of the applicant's good judgement, safe practices, for a period of at least 3 years. Observers are to actively work to establish proficiency ratings for any flying site in their area which are not presently rated if necessary.

Administration of Ratings by Observer:

- 1) Observer may provide skill sign off for Intermediate, Advanced ratings and special skills.
- 2) Pilots being observed must be Full USHPA members or be in the process of obtaining USHPA membership and must have a previous rating one level below the rating being observed. No special skills or new ratings can be issued until USHPA membership is completed.
- 3) The Pilots flying skill as required by FAR part 104, must be observed in person by the observer. Failure to do so will result in loss of observer status.
- 4) Observers may sign off any special skills they themselves hold, by completing a rating skills form which applicant may send directly to USHPA with appropriate rating fee.
- 5) For intermediate and advanced pilot ratings, applicant must also complete the proper rating Online test with a passing score, before the new rating will be issued. Applicant will have 3 attempts to pass test, before being locked out and having to seek a USHPA instructor for further training to obtain their next rating.
- 6) For Intermediate and advanced ratings, the Observer will complete the ratings application form for applicant to send in. The Observer signature on the rating application designates the Pilot/Applicant has completed the in the person skills flying. The online test will complete the internal process for the ratings to be issued. The pilot skills portion of the rating application is valid for 30 days, so the pilot should be informed if they have not already taken the online test, they must do so and have the skills form sent in within those 30 days, with the proper rating fee included.
- 7) Observers may also issue Foreign Pilots ratings, so long as the Observer holds the ratings themselves. Foreign Pilots may be rated at any level deemed appropriate. (See foreign pilot rating policy)
- 8) Observer must advise Foreign pilot of USA FAA airspace regulations.
- 9) Specific foreign equivalent ratings are accepted for conversion to the USHPA system, as noted in SOP 12-6
- 10) Observers may not rate themselves for any rating level or special skill.

How to become an Observer

To become an observer, you will need to have an admin of the same discipline submit into the disciplines USHPA Training and Certification Committee a request for an Observer Appointment. Committee will review the request and if deemed appropriate will submit request for appointment to the board for approval. Rating will be good for 2 years, before needing to repeat this process.

Observer is not an instructor; they must not provide instruction to pilots/applicants. Observer is a special and important function of helping the USHPA membership evolve and grow in their flying skills. You are given the privilege to assist your fellow members in the skills assessment part of the USHPA Pilot Proficiency Program without having to undergo formal instructor training. USHPA relies on your good judgement and presence in our communities to keep our pilots exceling in safe, responsible free-flight practices. Abuse of this privilege, such as not adhering to USHPA Rating Skill Requirements, or conducting non-in person signoffs can and will result in loss of the observer privilege. Observers should recommend to the pilot/applicant if pilot skills are deficient, that the pilot keep flying and learning or seek further instruction from a USHPA Certified Instructor. Our goal at USHPA is to keep free-flight alive in the USA, by creating safe, responsible pilots in our communities as an observer you agree to support and uphold that message and integrity.

Qualification for becoming an Observer:

- 1) Be a current USHPA or Rogallo Member
- 2) Pilot for a minimum of 3 years in the discipline you intend to observe
- 3) Hold a P4/H4 rating
- 4) Served as a USHPA Mentor for a minimum of 1 year
- 5) Letter of recommendation from local chapter officer (if there is one)
- 6) Be familiar with USHPA rating requirements, and willing to uphold them

Steps to get Observer Status:

- 1) Be a current USHPA or Rogallo member
- 2) Meet all observer qualifications
- 3) Obtain appointment request from any Admin of your discipline
 - a. Admin will need to verify your qualifications so have materials ready
- 4) Admin will submit request for appointment to Training and Certification Committee
- 5) T&C will review qualifications and submit request to the BOD for approval
 - a. Board meets monthly, observers can expect 30 to 60 days max for Observer status to be in effect from time of applying with a USHPA Admin if qualified

Duties of Observer:

- 1) Observe special skills in person/flight for USHPA members needing skill signoffs
- 2) Observe pilot skills for skill signoff on intermediate and advanced pilot ratings.
- 3) Act as observer for pilots in your community who are skilled and ready to fly a higher rated site then their current pilot rating allows.
- 4) Write letters of recommendation for Master pilots they have observed for a minimum of 3 years.
- 5) Assist local chapters in establishing site proficiency ratings for any un-rated sites
- 6) Assist foreign rated pilots in becoming USHPA rated pilots