



## Frequently Asked Questions Remote Control (RC) Blimps

### 1. Are blimps safe to fly?

- Aeroblimps have logged thousands of flying hours in arenas and stadiums around the world with no injury related accidents.
- The helium required to inflate the blimp is a totally inert, non-flammable gas.
- The electric motors used to power the blimps are shielded with prop guards.
- The envelopes are manufactured using a strong rip-stop urethane coated nylon fabric and includes a pressure relief valve to virtually eliminate the possibility of a hull "blow-out".

### 2. How much income can be generated by the operation of a RC Blimp?

- The income produced by a blimp will depend on the venue size in which it is operated and the contract which is negotiated with the sponsor.
- The typical range from smallest venue to largest is \$600 - \$6000 per game.
- The most common type of contract is a multi-year which guarantees income for several years.

### 3. What are the costs of operating a blimp?

- Operating costs are nominal; helium can be obtained from a local welding supplier and is sold by the cubic foot.
- After the initial fill of the blimp, the envelope will periodically need to be "refreshed" with more helium and over time some air will displace a portion of the helium causing the blimp to fly "heavy" at which point the air will need to be purged
- The motors run off of rechargeable NiCad battery packs needing only a 120-volt outlet to recharge
- Pilot fees range from \$40-\$100+ per game and compensation for pilots sometime includes other amenities

### 4. Can anyone fly a blimp?

- Aerostar strongly recommends the hiring of an experienced RC pilot to fly your blimp
- A pilot's knowledge of the mechanics and electronics used on the blimp is invaluable, especially as it is a revenue generating vehicle
- Experienced RC plane or helicopter pilots have acquired the technical skills necessary to effectively maneuver a blimp through the fickle air currents created by ventilation systems in indoor venues

### 5. How long can a blimp continue to fly without changing the batteries?

- It is designed to fly a minimum of 20 minutes at a time on one charge of the NiCad batteries
- The NiCad battery packs only take 15 minutes to fully recharge and the discharged battery packs can be replace by new packs in less than one minute
- The amount of paint on the blimp and weight of the payload carried will effect the continuous flying time



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**6. How does the altitude of an arena affect the blimp?**

- The greater the elevation of the venue above sea level, the less lift a blimp will have
- Aerostar can recommend the proper size of blimp for your venue

**7. What about graphics and banners for the blimp?**

- Graphics can be added as painted logos and imagery on the blimp body or on banners
- Banners are digitally printed for the clearest quality and are interchangeable and replaceable

**8. Can my blimp be repaired if damaged?**

- All Aerostar helium products, including our RC Blimp line, are repairable
- An initial repair kit containing glue and fabric is included in the purchase price
- If a repair is beyond your ability and skills, the blimp can be returned to the factory for repair