

F5J USA Tour – FAA Poll Results

Chris Bajorek March 28, 2022

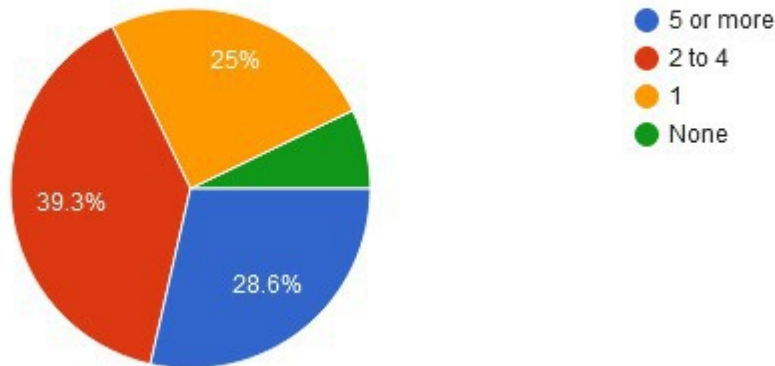


In the March 2022 Tour newsletter ([PDF link](#)) an article “*FAA regulations and enforcement affecting F5J*” was included that discussed the fact that one western region Tour club is now requiring pilots to comply with FAA registration and the TRUST test. This article provided links to follow for those who wish to comply with these requirements. The article also gave a link to a Tour FAA Poll that asked if requiring FAA compliance would affect your plans to attend Tour events.

The poll ran for 9 days at which point it seemed pretty clear how the respondents felt. During those 9 days we accumulated 28 responses. Full disclosure: One response is from a Tour Advisory Group member and two responses are from individuals who did not fly in any Tour events in 2021 or 2022. Below, then, we present the results of the poll.

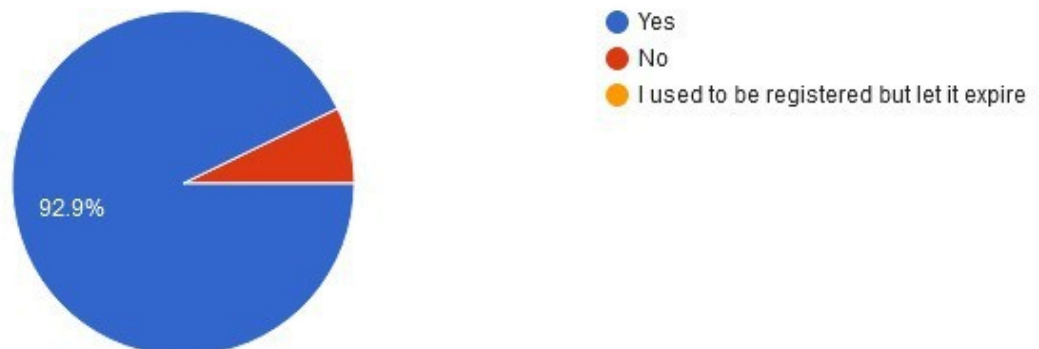
How many Tour events did you fly in during the 2021 and 2022 seasons combined?

28 responses



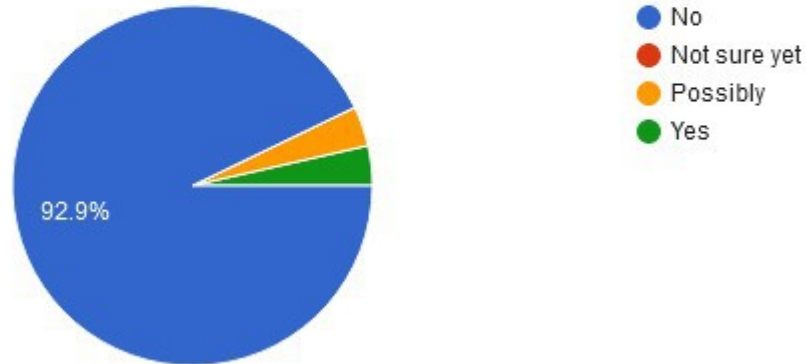
Are you currently registered as an RC pilot with the FAA?

28 responses



Will clubs that require FAA registration and the FAA TRUST test keep you from attending F5J Tour events?

28 responses



Possibly: 1 vote

Yes: 1 vote

Geographical Distribution of Responses

While we did not ask for specific locations since all but 2 pilots responded with their full names we have a pretty good idea where they live. Here is an approximate breakdown FYI:

Western (west of Rockies + Colorado): 19

Eastern (east of Rockies): 6

Unsure: 3

Pilot Comments

When we ran the poll the explanatory text at the top of the poll page stated:

“PLEASE ANSWER TRUTHFULLY. WE WILL PUBLISH OVERALL ANSWER PERCENTAGES BUT WE WILL NOT DISCLOSE YOUR NAME OR YOUR SPECIFIC RESPONSES.”

Because of this we will not be sharing all the comments. A rough summation of all the “pro” comments is that it's cheap and simple to do both FAA registration and the TRUST test so everyone should just do them. The “con” comments revolve around the feeling that forced FAA compliance is another example of unnecessary regulation.

Here are just a few full comments to think about:

From a pilot who agrees with doing the FAA registration and TRUST test: “If the AMA isn't requiring CDs to check this I would need a good reason why I would expect a club to check it.”

From another pilot who agrees with doing the FAA registration and TRUST test: “AMA does not require clubs to enforce FAA regulations. However, clubs are free to do so if they see fit. If the club site is in a potentially sensitive location it might be a worthwhile CYA action to require registration & TRUST.”

Poll Conclusions

While in casual conversations I hear some criticisms of the FAA registration and TRUST test process when it comes down to flying at Tour events FAA-based pilot requirements are accepted by a clear majority of Tour pilots who responded to our poll. Bottom line: if you believe this poll contains a fair cross-section of USA Tour pilots then clubs that require explicit FAA compliance may suffer only a small loss of pilots that normally attend their events.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bajorek, for the F5J USA Tour