



Stay On The Right Track

Strong Communication is Key

- In the F.O.E., think of Compliance as your racetrack.
- A racetrack has boundaries, rules, safety measures, and procedures for a reason. They are there to help everyone successfully reach the finish line.
- The same is true of Grand Aerie Compliance requirements.
- These requirements aren't designed to make operating an Aerie or Auxiliary more difficult. They are designed to protect our members, our officers, our property, and our organization.
- When we stay on the track, we're better prepared for whatever might be around the next turn.

Rules Exist For A Reason

- Nobody wants to spend all their time thinking about paperwork, deadlines, insurance, taxes, licenses, reports, or other administrative requirements.
- But those responsibilities are an important part of operating a successful Aerie or Auxiliary.
- Think about a race.
- The driver may get the attention, but behind that driver is an entire team making sure the car is safe, prepared, and ready to perform.
- Compliance works the same way.
- Taking care of the details behind the scenes allows our Aeries and Auxiliaries to concentrate on membership, charity, community involvement, and fraternity.

Don't Wait For An Accident

- Compliance can sometimes feel unimportant—right up until something goes wrong.
- An unexpected legal issue, property damage, theft, financial problem, or other major event can happen when we least expect it.
- That's not the time to discover something wasn't filed, coverage wasn't adequate, or a requirement wasn't completed.
- Just like we don't put on a seat belt after an accident, we shouldn't wait for a crisis to start thinking about compliance.
- Preparation today can prevent a much larger problem tomorrow.

Compliance Is About Protection

- Sometimes we hear the word "compliance" and immediately think about rules and penalties.
- Instead, think about protection.
- The Grand Aerie's Compliance requirements are intended to help protect:
 - Our Aeries and Auxiliaries
 - Our officers and members
 - Our nonprofit status
 - Our finances
 - Our property and Aerie homes
 - Our charters
 - The future of the Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Compliance isn't simply checking boxes.
- It's protecting everything our members have worked so hard to build.

Veering Off Course Has Consequences

- On a racetrack, getting a little off course can quickly become a major problem.
- The same can happen with compliance.
- A missed requirement might seem small at first, but unresolved compliance problems can become serious.
- They can potentially contribute to financial difficulties, legal problems, loss of nonprofit tax status, loss of property, or even jeopardize an Aerie or Auxiliary charter.
- The easiest problem to solve is often the one we prevent from happening in the first place.

Everyone Has A Role

- Compliance shouldn't be viewed as one person's responsibility.
- Successful racing teams don't depend on one person to do everything, and neither should our Aeries and Auxiliaries.
- Officers should understand their responsibilities, communicate with one another, watch deadlines, ask questions, maintain appropriate records, and make sure required items are completed.
- If you're unsure about something, ask before it becomes a problem.
- Good communication and teamwork keep everyone moving in the same direction.

Make Compliance Routine

- The best way to stay compliant is not to scramble when deadlines arrive.
- Build compliance into your normal operating routine.
- Review requirements regularly.
- Keep good records.
- Know upcoming deadlines.
- Make compliance part of officer transitions.
- Use the resources available from the Grand Aerie.
- And don't assume something was completed—verify it.
- A little attention throughout the year can prevent a lot of stress later.

Protect What Previous Members Built

- Think about everything that has gone into building your Aerie or Auxiliary.
 - Years of volunteer service.
 - Generations of members.
 - Money raised for charity.
 - Community relationships.
 - Aerie homes purchased, maintained, and improved.
 - Memories and traditions passed from one generation to another.
- Compliance helps us protect that legacy.
- We owe it to the Brothers and Sisters who came before us—and those who will come after us—to take care of what has been entrusted to us.

Stay On Track

- Compliance may not always be the most exciting part of being an Eagle, but it is one of the most important responsibilities we have.
- The requirements are not obstacles sitting in the middle of the racetrack.
- They're the guardrails helping keep us on it.
- Know the requirements. Meet the deadlines. Ask questions. Work as a team. Protect your members. Protect your property. Protect your charter.
- And most importantly, protect the future of your Aerie or Auxiliary.
- Focus on Compliance, stay on the right track, and keep your Aerie or Auxiliary racing toward a successful future.