

# **IMAC OFFICAL CONTEST STANDARDS**

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## **A. OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this document is to define what comprises a valid (2) two day or (1) one day IMAC contest in order to ensure that participants in an IMAC contest, wherever it is conducted, find a predictable and consistent environment regardless of the country or Region in which the contest is held. The document provides the guidance for Contest Directors (CDs) to organize and conduct their contests in form and procedure so that they are consistent with all the other IMAC contests conducted around the world.

For IMAC events encompassing three or more days and/or having an unusually large ratio of Known sequences flown to Unknown sequences flown, see Appendix A for the schedule of dropped sequences. The Contest Requirements and Contest Template Sections remain basically the same for events longer than two days

## **B. CONTEST REQUIREMENTS**

In order for a Scale Aerobatics contest to be designated and recognized as a valid IMAC contest and for IMAC Regional Championship (IRPS) points to be awarded the following minimum requirements must be met:

1. The contest must be sanctioned by the AMA or, if the contest is held outside of the United States, sanctioned by the host country's sanctioning body.

2. The current AMA Safety Code and IMAC Safety Code must be strictly enforced at all times during the contest. This includes activities that may occur before and/or after IMAC sequence flying.

3. The contest must be run in accordance with the current AMA rulebook for Scale Aerobatic events. Waivers as approved by the AMA or IMAC Board are allowed.

4. Deviations and Waivers must be published in advance. The preferred method is as part of the sanction. If deviations are not included in the sanction, they must be included in and published in the contest flyer or included in the details for the contest on the IMAC Website. The contest flyer must be readily available on the internet and in local media. However, in no case should any deviation or waiver be published less than 30 days prior to the date of the event.

5. Deviations must be approved by the AMA (as part of the sanction process), or the Regional Director prior to publication.

6. The contest must follow the IMAC approved template detailed below.

## **C. CONTEST TEMPLATE**

### **A valid IMAC contest will consist of the following:**

1. All five competitive classes **MUST** be included on the AMA Sanction request and **MUST** be offered at the contest, with the exception of **BASIC ONLY CONTESTS**, and the U.S. Scale Aerobatics Nationals (NATS). Only these three contest formats will be considered as valid IMAC IRPS contests.

2. Freestyle is not required to be offered. However, if it is, then all applicable AMA and IMAC rules shall be followed.

3. Entry is only open to current AMA members or similar sanctioning bodies.

4. IMAC Members shall be offered a \$20 discount off the entry fee, while non-members will pay the full registration fee. These monies of course remain with the hosting club. IMAC membership should have its benefits. (Two) 2 contests flown pays for a membership.

5. Contests will use the published IMAC Known sequences for each class for the current calendar year as published by the IMAC Board of Directors.

6. Each contest should target flying a minimum of six (6) Known sequences and one Unknown sequence per class. This allows for dropping the two (2) lowest Known sequences for each pilot. However, it is recognized that this may not always be possible due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Each CD should have, as their main goal, the flying of no less than six Known sequences and one Unknown sequence per class at their contests. A ONE DAY (1) contest SHALL consist of a MINIMUM of four (4) known sequences and one (1) Unknown sequence regardless of the weather or prevailing conditions. There shall be NO combination of multiple one (1) day contests on the same weekend at the same venue or within 100 miles. If the above requirements are not met, the one (1) day contest SHALL NOT be counted toward the IRPS.

7. Unknowns can only be obtained from the IMAC Sequence Committee (ISC) through the IMAC website and part of the scheduling of your event. A minimum of 30 days before the contest date the CD must go to the National web site and find the appropriate Regional page and follow the "Schedule Your IMAC Event" button. This process notifies the Regional Director and the International Sequence Committee, and also initiates the unknown request. Note: You must log into the National web site in order to "Schedule Your IMAC Event", i.e., you must be an IMAC member or have a member do it for you. Request and delivery of the Unknowns is all handled by email. The Unknowns for a particular weekend are typically sent out no later than the Monday before the contest weekend. Please note, that if the CD is competing he/she must designate someone else who will not be flying the unknowns (i.e., the CD may choose to use a Basic pilot) to receive, duplicate, and manage the Unknowns. The scheduling function on the National site provides for this.

8. An Unknown sequence for the Sportsman through Unlimited classes during a 2 day contest shall be flown unless prevented by inclement weather or in the case where the IMAC Board or respective Regional Director approved not flying the Unknown.

9. The Basic class will not fly an Unknown at any IMAC contest.

10. In Lieu of an Unknown Sequence, the Basic Class shall fly an additional Known Sequence. Although not an Unknown, the Basic Known Sequence flown in lieu of the Unknown shall be scored in the score program as an Unknown with the Unknown drop schedule.

11. Only one Unknown sequence will be flown at either a two day or a one day event and the score for that Unknown (Known for Basic) cannot be dropped. Events of more than two (2) days may have multiple Unknowns (Known for Basic). In this case, however, each Unknown sequence must be scored separately and calculated into the pilot's score as separate sequences. Multiple Unknown sequences cannot be added together to arrive at a single Unknown score. If more than one Unknown sequence (Known for Basic) is flown, one or more may be dropped at the discretion of the CD. Dropping Unknown scores must be done in accordance with the drop schedule provided in Appendix A of this document.

All sequences, Known and Unknown (Known for Basic), will follow the procedure for normalized scoring and drops as defined in the current AMA rule book for Scale Aerobatics and Appendix A of this document. Given that an Unknown(s) is flown, the Unknown (Known for Basic) sequence(s) will comprise **20%** of the total normalized score.

12. For a two (2) day contest, the Unknown (Known for Basic) may be flown on either the first or second day of the contest. If the Unknown is to be flown on the second day of the contest, the Unknown will be distributed the evening before it is to be flown. If there is to be an Unknown flown the first day, the Unknown will be made available the morning of the first day of the contest (at the pilots meeting is recommended) and may not be flown earlier than the afternoon of the first day of the contest. For a contest longer than two (2) days where there is to be an Unknown flown each day, subsequent Unknowns will be distributed the evening before the day they are to be flown. Flying an unknown on the first day of a contest must be published at least 30 days in advance of the contest. In any case, Unknowns for a contest may not be distributed before the first day of the contest

13. Adjustments required due to inclement weather or other conditions beyond the control of the CD are authorized. This does NOT apply to a one (1) day contest which has a minimum requirement (listed above in rule 6) for the event to count toward the IRPS. Prior to any adjustments, CD coordination with the respective Regional Director is encouraged.

14. Additional events such as surprise Unknowns, etc., are not authorized or recognized as part of official IMAC aerobatic contests. Contests offering these types of events may use the designation of "IMAC-Style" event, in which case it must be included in the advertisement of the event. Such "IMAC-Style" events will not be counted for Regional Championship points accumulation.

## **D. IMAC SAFETY POLICY**

*Aviation in itself is not inherently dangerous. But to an even greater degree than the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect.* - Captain A. G. Lamplugh, British Aviation Insurance Group, London. Circa early 1930's.

All scale aerobatic pilots should dedicate themselves to running their flight operations in the safest possible manner. All radio controlled model airplanes have the capacity to cause personal injury and property damage, if ill attended to. IMAC's official policy is to put Safety as the top priority at every IMAC AMA sanctioned contest. Further, every scale aerobatic pilot should put safety first, every time he or she goes to the flying field, just as full scale pilots do each time that they fly.

The following safety guidelines will be in addition to, and a compliment of, the current AMA safety rules. IMAC requires that all CD's review the safety rules of the host club at every pilot meeting. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that these rules apply not only during the contest but after hours as well. Further, it is IMAC's

position that any flying performed by scale aerobatic model airplanes, during, or after event hours must occur on the Flight Line side of the deadline established by the CD. Additionally, no flying should be allowed above, in, or through the pit area, whether a simple pass, torque rolling or any other intentional maneuver.

IMAC further believes that any failure to comply with either AMA safety rules or the Host Club safety rules should result in the offending pilot's immediate disqualification from the AMA sanctioned event. With respect to the trend of dangerous 3D or Freestyle maneuvers being performed by scale aerobatic planes, IMAC, in the strongest possible terms, does not, and will not, tolerate, condone or endorse maneuvers performed with large scale aerobatic planes such as, but not limited to: hand launching, tail touches of the ground, touching the model while in flight, hovering (or flying) directly over the pilot or other spectators, or any flying at any time on the spectator side of the deadline (as described in the AMA Membership Manual). It is important to note that these maneuvers have never been (nor will be) part of any IMAC competition event. It is IMAC's firm position that these types of maneuvers exceed the margin of safety necessary for large scale aerobatic flight operations by a wide margin and are exceptionally dangerous. It is also IMAC's firm position that, in the performance of these types of maneuvers, the slightest mechanical or system failure leaves no margin for error and can lead to severe bodily injury or death. IMAC will, in no way, be a party to, or endorse these types of dangerous stunts.

## **E. IMAC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Beyond safety, the conduct of IMAC competitors, friends and family at any IMAC event must be a serious concern of all participants and of the CD who is running the event. IMAC's reputation is at stake but equally important is the need to recognize that we are guests at the fields we fly at and that we must maintain a level of behavior that makes us "good" guests. Guests who will be welcomed back again next year.

In this regard common sense must prevail, both on the part of the contestants and any people they may bring with them to an IMAC event. CDs, for their part, must confront anyone, contestant, friend, family member or spectator, who displays a lack of common sense at any time during the IMAC event.

What is common sense? The answer to that question is simple. If the behavior in question is something that you would not accept if it occurred in your home or backyard, then it is over the line and should be dealt with.

The CD is charged directly by the AMA to insure the AMA Safety Regulations are followed. The AMA Safety Regulations are included as part of the AMA's Membership Manual which is available via free download on the AMA website –

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/memmanual.pdf>

# APPENDIX A

<b>Knowns Flown</b>	<b>Knowns Dropped</b>	<b>% of Score</b>
1		
2		
3	1	.333
4	1	.250
5	1	.200
6	2	.333
7	2	.286
8	2	.250
9	3	.333
10	3	.300
11	3	.273
12	4	.333
13	4	.308
14	4	.286
15	5	.333
16	5	.313
17	5	.294
18	6	.333
19	6	.316
20	6	.300
21	7	.333
22	7	.318
23	7	.304
24	8	.333
25	8	.320
26	8	.308
27	9	.333
28	9	.321
29	9	.310
30	10	.333

IMAC OFFICAL CONTEST STANDARDS (Appendix A cont.)

**Known & Unknown Drop Schedule**

Knowns Flown	Knowns Dropped		Unknowns Flown	Unknowns Dropped
0	0		1	0
1	0		1	0
1	0		1	0
2	0		1	0
3	1		1	0
3	1		2	1
3	1		3	1
4	1		1	0
4	1		2	1
4	1		3	1
4	1		4	1
5	1		1	0
5	1		2	1
5	1		3	1
5	1		4	1
6	2		1	0
6	2		2	1
6	2		3	1
6	2		4	1
7	2		1	0
7	2		2	1
7	2		3	1
7	2		4	1
8	2		1	0
8	2		2	1
8	2		3	1
8	2		4	1
9	3		1	0
9	3		2	1
9	3		3	1
9	3		4	1
10	3		1	0
10	3		2	1
10	3		3	1
10	3		4	1
11	3		1	0
11	3		2	1
11	3		3	1
11	3		4	1
12	4		1	0
12	4		2	1
12	4		3	1
12	4		4	1

## IMAC Contest Standards Versioning and Change Log

Date	Version	Changes
11/14/2018	Rev 11	Section C – Para 4: Wording change to \$20 IMAC Member Discount. Para 7: Change to request of Unknowns is now contained within Contest Registration entry. Section E – Replaced broken Link to AMA Membership Manual
12/2/15	Rev 10	Section C – Para 7: Increased number of days to request unknowns on the “Event Request Form” on the website to 30 days minimum.
4/26/16	Rev 9	Corrected Schedule Appendix A Known & Unknown Drop Schedule
12/2/15	Rev 8	Section C – Para 1: Removed IRPS Tabulation policy statement. Section C – Para 7: Revised to conform to new website. Section C – Para 10: Revised to add unknown scoring for Basic.
11/17/14	Rev 7	Title page: Deleted reference to: “Guide” Reformatted entire document for ease of reading. Sec C—Para 4: Addition of Reference to \$20 discount. Revised Change Log Title
12/31/13	Rev 6	Sec A – Para 1: Addition of reference to one day contest. Sec C – Para 6: Addition of specs for one day contest Sec C – Para 11: Addition of reference to one day contest Sec C – Para 12: Addition of option to fly Unknowns on first day of contest. Sec C-Para 13: Reference to weather for one day contest
12/29/2012	Rev 5	Sec C – Para 1: Added Basic-only events Sec C – Para 7: Added CD instructions to request unknowns and deleted CD’s option to construct unknowns.
7/10/09	Rev 4	Sec C – Para 11: changed wording to reflect 20% weighting on all unknowns Appendix A: remove reference to calculating unknown weighting to reflect standardization on 20% weighting on all unknowns



1/1/09	Rev 3	<p>Added Index</p> <p>Sec A – added verbiage to reflect move toward international standards</p> <p>Sec B – added verbiage to reflect move toward international standards</p> <p>Sec B – Various grammatical fixes, req deviations to be published in flyer (if not in sanction) and approved by AMA or BOD.</p> <p>Sec C – Various grammatical fixes, set a 30 day min period for approval of self-design unknowns.</p> <p>Sec D – Various grammatical fixes, clarification of unknown drops (must be by Appendix A), sets distribution of unknowns for 3 day + events</p> <p>Sec E – Added Code of Conduct Section</p>
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