



AUSTRALIAN PRECISION AEROBATICS

AEROBATIC RULES

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with:

FAI Sporting Code Section 4 – Volume F3, Radio Controlled Aerobatics.

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RADIO CONTROLLED AEROBATICS RULES.

1. Grades of Competition.

The grades of competition are:

FAI-F3A
Expert
Advanced
Sportsman

FAI-F3A and Advanced class will fly schedules as gazetted by the FAI.

Sportsman and Expert class will fly schedules as gazetted by the APA.

2. Schedules for all classes.

Schedules and Aresti diagrams for Sportsman, Advanced, Expert and FAI-F3A can be found on the Australian Precision Aerobatics website at www.f3a.com.au

Schedules for F3A, Advanced and Expert change every two years and coincide with the FAI-F3A schedule changes.

3. Entry into the Grading System.

Competitors entering Precision Radio Control Aerobatics for the first time are encouraged to enter at Sportsman level.

Competitors may enter at any class below FAI-F3A but must then remain in that class until promoted.

A pilot who wishes to enter an Australian Precision Aerobatics competition at FAI-F3A class having not previously flown in a lower class must apply to the APA Committee providing evidence of experience.

4. Promotion.

Promotional scores can only be gained at APA sanctioned National and State competitions. There is no self-promotion, except under exceptional circumstances where a request is made to the APA committee.

APA sanctioned events are those events listed on the APA Competition Calendar found on the APA website.

The Australian Promotional Score for each class will be calculated and published yearly by the APA.

Promotional scores are calculated as the average of the raw scores from all rounds. Where the competition has more than 2 rounds, the lowest round is discarded. Competitions with less than two flights will not be eligible for promotion.

To calculate a pilot’s promotional score the raw scores are averaged and then this score is compared to the published Australian Promotional Score for that class. When a pilot’s promotional score is equal to or greater than that required for that class for promotion, a promotion point will be gained.

See example below:

Flight Number	1	2	3	4
Pilot’s Raw Scores	378	380	323	365

Flight 1 378
 Flight 2 380
 Flight 4 365
 Total 1123 divide by 3 = 374 Promotion Score

This score is then compared to the Australian Promotion Score for the class.

From January 2023, the Australian Promotion Scores are:

Class	K Factor	Max Score	Percentage	Promotion Score
Sportsman	30	300	60%	180
Advanced	47	470	65%	305.5
Expert	53	530	65%	344.5

In this example a Promotion point is achieved (based on Expert Promotion Score of 344.5).

Promotion from all classes is achieved by obtaining three promotion points for that class in any twelve-month period.

Competitors and CD’s must receive confirmation of promotion from the APA before moving to a higher class. Once notified by the APA, competitors must immediately fly in the higher class.

Masters ranking will be awarded to the first three placed Australians at the annual APA Masters. They will hold this ranking until the next APA Masters.

5. Relegation.

A competitor in any class may request relegation. In this case, a written request to the APA committee must be made.

6. Flying Out of Class.

A competitor may compete in a higher class when one of the following scenarios exist;

1. When their class is not being flown.
2. They are the only entrant in their nominated class.
3. When attempting to gain a National team place.

In the case of scenario (2), there must be at least one competitor in the class before stepping up is permitted. If the competitor manages to attain a promotion point while flying in the higher class this will be credited towards their normal class promotion point tally. **Note:** This is based on the Promotion Score requirement of the **higher** class. If there are multiple classes with a single entrant then the lowest class has priority to elect to fly in a higher class.

Note. A pilot that wants to fly in a higher class needs to be competent enough to fly in a safe and controlled manner. Also, the local CD will need to endorse this move on the grounds of safety.

7. Competition Rules.

When you enter an APA sanctioned event you agree to be bound by the APA competition rules, the MAAA administrative rules and the following event and safety rules:

- 7.1. At the time of entry, and for the duration of an event you are entering, you hold a current MAAA license.
- 7.2. You have an operational radio control transmitter that is free from defect and meets Australian design and certification requirements.
- 7.3. For electric powered models, the electric power circuit(s) must not be physically connected, before the starting time is begun and must be physically disconnected immediately after landing. An external arming system is the preferred method of isolating the electric power circuit and is encouraged, but not compulsory.
- 7.4. The propulsion system(s) must automatically shut-off or fully idle at the moment an R/C signal failure should occur. (Closed throttle in failsafe)
- 7.5. Your model is under the heavy model aircraft limit, or has been certified by an appropriate inspector. F3A pilots will be required to meet the FAI weight limit at Team Trials or events where a weigh-in has been advised prior to the commencement of competition.
- 7.6. To the best of your knowledge the model you intend to fly is in good condition and airworthy.
- 7.7. A model must not be armed/started until approved to do so in a ready box or on the runway.
- 7.8. At the beginning of each flight you will place your model in the designated take off area. The area will be advised by the APA contest director at the pilots briefing prior to competition (Only where 2 flight lines are in operation).
- 7.9. Models placed on a runway prior to takeoff must be restrained until the runway is clear and it is safe to takeoff.
- 7.10. You will not engage in any maneuvers other than a take-off or landing procedure prior to, or after your judged schedule.
- 7.11. Models must not be taxied or turned towards judges, spectators or pits after landing and the propulsion system must be disarmed/cut immediately.
- 7.12. The APA values safe flying and we remind participants of their commitment to the MAAA Safe Flying Code MOP056. See: <http://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/MOP056-Policy-SAFE-FLYING-CODE.pdf>
- 7.13. The APA values a safe flying environment, and reminds participants of their commitment to the MAAA Member Protection and Code of Conduct policy MOP041. See: <http://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/MOP041-Member-Protection-Policy.pdf>
- 7.14. The APA contest director will advise prior to an event, of any rules that are specific to an event, such as a Team Trial.

8. Team Trials.

In accordance with the current FAI-F3A Sporting Code regulations, any pilot entering a Team Trial or National title competition conducted by Australian Precision Aerobatics will be required to comply with *TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR RADIO CONTROLLED CONTESTS, F3A – AEROBATIC POWER MODEL AIRCRAFT (FAI Sporting Code)*. This will include noise testing, flight times, weight, size, and voltage regulations.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR F3A AUSTRALIAN JUDGES

9. Eligibility for Nomination as an FAI-F3A International Judge.

To be eligible for recommendation by the APA for inclusion onto the CIAM/FAI judges register (via the MAAA), an application must be submitted that meets the following criteria:

- 9.1. Judged FAI-F3A class or Australian domestic Expert for at least five or more competitions during the previous two years, at least two of these competitions must be from the following:
 - 9.1.1. Official Team Trial
 - 9.1.2. Australian National Championships
 - 9.1.3. Australian Masters
 - 9.1.4. APA Championship
 - 9.1.5. State Championship sanctioned by the relevant State Association
 - 9.1.6. National Championship of a country other than Australia (with more than ten FAI-F3A class competitors)
- 9.2. Hold a judging logbook that supports the required experience (as per point 1). The logbook should be signed by the contest director at each event.
- 9.3. Successfully completed the APA International Judges exam.
- 9.4. Have judged aerobatics (FAI-F3A, Expert, Advanced or Sportsman class) for a minimum of three years.
- 9.5. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the F3A Maneuvers Execution Guide and the current Sporting Code. (Section 4, 4A, 4B, 4C volume F3, Radio Control Aerobatics of the FAI sporting code)
- 9.6. Provide an F3A bio and resume, detailing your general experience in the sport.

10. APA Nomination of International Judges

- 10.1. The APA will nominate all applicants that meet the above-mentioned criteria, up to a maximum of 5 judges. If greater than 5 suitable applications are received the following elimination criteria will be applied until there are 5 applications remaining. Each elimination criteria will be applied until it is invalid, then the next criteria will be applied until only 5 applications are remaining:
 - 10.1.1. The longest standing applicant with greater than 5 years of APA endorsement
 - 10.1.2. Applicants with the least domestic experience at the events listed in the requirements above.
 - 10.1.3. The longest standing applicant with greater than 4 years of APA endorsement
- 10.2. The APA will withdraw nominations under the following circumstances:
 - 10.2.1. An applicant becomes inactive for a period of greater than 1 year
 - 10.2.2. If feedback is provided by CIAM or an international event organizing committee that the applicant does not perform at the required level. (Applicants can re-apply once they have demonstrated they have reasonably addressed those concerns)
 - 10.2.3. Conduct that impacts the reputation of the MAAA or the APA and its memberships
- 10.3. The current list of Australian FAI-F3A judges will be published on the APA website or through MAAA official information.
- 10.4. Nominations to the CIAM FAI register will be made before November each year. Names accepted at the CIAM Plenary meeting in March of the following year are added to the international judging list. International event organizing committees are required to select judges from this list. They will normally request that all judges submit a resume and make selections based on their own criteria.