

## **IMAC SA code of conduct**

**International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC)-South Africa (SA)** is a non-profit organisation devoted to flying scale aerobatic model aircraft. IMAC SA is the co-ordinating body responsible for hosting precision aerobatic contests for pilots who wish to fly scale aerobatics across Southern Africa. All aspects denoted in the IMAC International handbook will prevail at these events. This document serves to clarify any additional requirement or rules not specifically mentioned in IMAC rulebook and applicable to South Africa only. Any reference in The IMAC handbook to AMA should be replaced by either RCASA or SAMAA. IMAC SA is an organisation constituted by Pilots, run by Pilots and for Pilots

Three guiding principles shall always apply in any dispute

1. The Pilots will have fun on a Large Scale
2. Every Pilot will treat another pilot as they would like to be treated. Any deviation from these principles will be dealt with by the members in accordance with the disciplinary code for IMAC SA
3. All complaints about the organisation shall be sent to the co-ordinating Body with a suggestion to improve the complaint and the willingness to be part of the solution on behalf of the complainant

Scale aerobatics can be defined as the aerobatic operation of a radio controlled scale model, as is the case of full-sized aerobatic competition planes. While other disciplines within the radio control community fly aerobatics, the requirement for scale aerobatic is that the model be replicas of types known to have competed in International Aerobatic Club (IAC) competition. The reference to scale is made clear in the IMAC rule book.

### **1. Objectives of IMAC-South Africa**

Inspired by full-scale aerobatics, we strive to fly scale aerobatic model aircraft in a competitive and realistic manner that is challenging for the contestants, as well as being interesting for spectators. (as per IMAC international rule book)

To ensure that all rules stipulated by the CAA SA and control bodies such as RCASA and SAMAA regulations are adhered to. Pilots flying this discipline will study these meticulously and apply them without exception. Where a rule specified by the CAA SA or controlling body mentioned above, is in contradiction to the IMAC rule book the CAA SA rule shall apply.

## **2. Co-ordinating Body(Co-ordinators)**

For the co-ordination of activities of IMAC in South Africa a body will be elected by the pilots who are members of IMAC South Africa for a term of at least 2 years. These persons will be elected at an appropriate event where sufficient representation from the provinces are present or on line via an on line Ballot. This body should consist of at least a

Co-Ordinator Admin

Co-ordinator Competitions

Co-ordinator Financial and Merchandise

Co-ordinator Judges and Standards

Co-ordinator Web site and Social Media

Regional representatives: Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Cape area, Free State

The custodians will meet at every event to

Plan the next event and discuss with all pilots matters pertaining to the club

The organisation is established on a "not for gain" basis and all assets and funds will be held in the name of IMAC SA. The organisation will open a bank account in keeping with the statutes of a non-profit body. The Bank account will be made available at any time for scrutiny or audit should this be requested

Liability of members shall be limited to the amount relevant to unpaid membership fees. No member shall be liable for any debts or legal liability of IMAC SA

## **3. Competitions**

There will be at least four competitions per region per year and a pilot must make every attempt to attend at least 3 of said regional competitions. The attendance of these 3 competitions qualifies the pilot to attend the Inter- provincial Champion of Champions Tournament to be held at a suitable venue. The venue will minimise travel by all competitors. (This however does not preclude a region from having more than 4 competitions. In addition to the said competitions there will be at least 4 fun events during the year)

Provincial league completion is encouraged and will in the event of a tie at the tournament of champions be used as tie breaker for the person with the highest provincial score

The duration of the Champion of Champions shall be no more than 3 Days

#### **4. Judges**

Judges at the regional competitions may be a mix of full time and Pilot judges. In the interest of the professionalism of the organisation all non-pilot and pilot judges shall take and pass the IMAC Judges course. All pilots of IMAC SA will avail themselves as a caller or judge if called to do so

At the Champion of Champion Tournament the Judges shall consist of 2 Pilot and 1 full time Judge. The same Criteria for Judges' qualifications will be applicable (Judge must have passed the IMAC Judges Course) Further the pilot judges for Unlimited sequences shall be nominated by the Unlimited pilots and shall be flying at least the Advanced class

All judges, Pilot or Full Time, shall attend at least 2 of the 4 Judges clinics per year

#### **5. Scoring of an official flight**

Scoring will be done in accordance with the Official IMAC Scale Aerobatics contest Guide Further to this the following

- i. No Judges may confer on scores during a flight. Judges may only confer on issues of a manoeuvre flown out of sequence or at the request of the chief judge
- ii. Manoeuvres must be flown where they are seen clearly by the Judges.
- iii. When a judge is unable to follow through the entire manoeuvre he may apply the Not Observed mark in which case the average mark before normalisation, of the remaining judges score, will be applied
- iv. Where Judges feel that an aircraft is being flown in an unsafe manner the judges may request that the CD enforce the landing of the aircraft

#### **6. Pilot's responsibility**

Any pilot entering a contest or who joins IMAC SA will study the IMAC International rulebook and will abide by said rules

For the smooth operation of region and Champion of Champions tournament all pilots are required to judge at least 1 class, call for a class and present themselves as flight line controller for part of the contest

Pilots in the Sportsman class shall at least judge the Basic class and Pilots in the intermediate class shall at least judge the Sportsman class, and the Advanced class pilots judge the Intermediate class

As far as the Unlimited pilots are concerned a panel of judges shall be elected by the unlimited pilots these judges will be of good standing and or at least Advanced Class and have passed the IMAC Judges course

If a pilot is not judging he will avail himself to call for the presiding Judges

## **7. Contest Requirements**

The Requirements for any contest are thoroughly described in the IMAC Official Contest standard document. South African deviations to this document are;

- i. The contest will be sanctioned by either SAMAA or RCASA
- ii. IMAC members will be offered a 50% reduction in entry
- iii. Entry fees will be determined by IMAC SA in order to cover all costs of the event
- iv. It is the responsibility of the Pilot to ensure that he is competent to fly the sequences determined by the class he has entered for. Furthermore the pilot will ensure that the model he is flying is capable of flying the sequence required of the class he has entered for.
- v. In the event where no flying is possible due to weather conditions 60% of the entry fee will be returned to contestants. The balance being to pay for club rental and catering committed to by the organisers.
- vi. In the interest of fairness to all competitors a pilot may not start an aircraft until the Flight line controller has instructed him to do so
- vii. Entry forms stipulating the date, cost and venue will be published at least 6 weeks before an event.
- viii. Entries will only become valid once the organisers have received the full entry fee by the closing date stipulated on the Entry form

The contest director has the responsibility to call off the contest where in his opinion continued flying is deemed unsafe

The contest director may also call a pilot to a "no fly" situation or call a pilot down if in his opinion the aircraft workmanship or equipment, be that electronic or materials are deemed to be substandard or unsafe

## **8. Flight Order**

- i. Due consideration will be given to pilots and callers. It is the pilot's responsibility to indicate who his caller will be on the contest entry form. Where a caller and pilot are in the same class these competitors will be separated where possible by at least 2 competitors.
- ii. Flight Order and first pilot up will be determined by random draw in the first instance. The next round will see the pilot sequence drop the first pilot by 2 positions and the order of remaining pilots remains the same 2 places behind the first pilot. Any further rounds the same principle will apply

## **9. Promotion**

A pilot who wins the preceding years Champion of Champions Tournament in a class and who has scored at least 70 % in that tournament will automatically be promoted to the next class.

Should the pilot wish to remain in the class he won the previous year he may do so but will then forfeit any prizes or placing at the next Champion of Champions Tournament.

## **10. Proof of Scale**

It will be pilot's responsibility to provide proof of existence of a particular model and the scale aspects of such a model if required to do so

The models, scale and likeness will be judged at a distance 10 m

The control hinge location and type can be different on the model in comparison to the full size

## **11. Radio Equipment**

In addition to section 10.4 of the IMAC rule book

The following pilot assistance is forbidden

- i. Auto Pilot control using navigational aids such as satellite or GPS navigational control
- ii. Pre-programed sequencing using any auto positioning devices
- iii. Gyro type dampeners and levelling controllers
- iv. Snap buttons with Auto Timing mode
- v. Pre-programmed devices performing a series of commands
- vi. Learning type functions which improve flight to flight or manoeuvre to manoeuvre
- vii. Voice recognition systems
- viii. Propeller pitch change devices

## **12. Disciplinary code**

Any Pilot or attending official who chooses to, willingly or unknowingly, bring the sport into a state of disrepute or who chooses to break any rule of the IMAC RULE BOOK or any of the CAA, RCASA or SAMAA rules will be penalised by the CD. Penalties maybe in the form of a deduction of points, alteration of placement order, disqualification or penalty as a consequence of a disciplinary hearing. Disciplinary hearings should as a norm only be used when the CD of a competition has exhausted all other means of correcting behaviour

A competitor who has been disqualified may not claim back any part of his competition fee and will not be eligible for any prizes

### **13. Protests**

All protests must be presented in writing to the CD at the competition and must be accompanied by a protest fee, no more than 1 Hour after the incident has occurred. The protest fee will be an amount equal to the entry fee for the relevant competition. The protest must be handed to the Contest Director and adjudicated by an appointed enquiry Jury

The protest fee is returned only if the protest is upheld.

A Jury Foreman must be appointed by the contest organizers.

The jury may be made up as follows: Contest Director, IMAC Committee member/s, Senior pilot competing in a different class to the person protesting and Senior judge officiating official.

A protest against an entry, qualification of competitors, the contest rules, the flying and contest area, the processing of models, the judges or other contest officials, must be lodged at least one hour before the opening of the contest.

Protest against a decision of the judges or contest officials, or against an error committed during an event by another competitor or CD, or against the result of the competition, must be lodged with the CD within 1 Hour of the incident having taken place. Any Protest made after the completion of the contest must be made to the CD or IMAC SA Admin Co-ordinator within 7 days of an event. A jury duly appointed will notify the protestor/s of the findings within 7 Days.

The findings of a jury will not be binding on a jury of any future competitions.

### **14. Membership and Fees**

Membership fees are determined at the Tournament of Champions on an annual basis

As a start until the first tournament of champions is held the

Junior member fee will be R200 per annum and

Regular member fee will be R350 per annum

The membership fee will cover

1. Half the entry fee to the Regional competitions
2. A discount of 25% on the entry fee to the Champion of Champions Tournament

3. Any Member who avails him or herself to the Co-ordinating body positions will only need to pay a retaining fee of R100 in order to ensure continued membership
4. Membership also qualifies the pilot to a discount of 25% off merchandise and promotional Items
  
5. A N Other

Fees are due in the first week of February of each year. Should a member join later than that date the fee will be payable pro rate for the first year and then in full in the second year