



OFFICIAL CONTEST STANDARDS

REV12 - 12/2025

Contents

Objective	3
Contest Requirements	4
Contest Template	5
IMAC Safety Policy	7
IMAC Code of Conduct	8
Percent of Score	9
Known & Unknown Drop Schedule	10
Freestyle Drop Schedule	11
Regional Points Series (IRPS)	12
Senior Points Series	15
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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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Percent of Score

Knowns Flown	Knowns Dropped	% of Score
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

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

Freestyle Drop Schedule

Freestyle Flown	Freestyle Dropped
1	0
2	0
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	2
7	2
8	2
9	3
10	3
11	3
12	4
13	4
14	4
15	5
16	5
17	5
18	6
19	6
20	6
21	7
22	7
23	7
24	8
25	8
26	8
27	9
28	9
29	9
30	10

Regional Points Series (IRPS)

Any competitor that wishes to qualify for regional points must be an IMAC member in good standing. If a competitor joins IMAC mid-season, only contests attended from that point on will qualify for regional points.

The Competition Season will begin on January 1st and ends when each Regional Finals Contest is held **or** on December 31st, whichever comes first. The Regional Finals contest date will be determined by the Regional Director and any contest after the regional finals contest will **not** count towards regional points.

Points per contest will be calculated from the contest's final results. The winner of each class (Basic, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, Unlimited, and Freestyle) will receive 1000 points. The following competitor's scores will be a normalized score based on their final score respective to the winner's. Regional Points are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Example Chart

Position	Results	Regional Points
First Place	6875	1000
Second Place	6723	978
Third Place	6145	894
Fourth Place	5475	796

For IRPS at the end of the year, one additional point will be awarded for each contestant below your placement

Example If you finish in 1st place and there are a total of 5 contestants, you will receive an additional 4 points for a total of 1004 points. The normalized scores would also receive one additional point for each contestant below their placement.

Example: In the example below Pilot A will win the IRPS title. Pilot B competed in two contests where no bonus points were earned and only earned a total of 5014 points vs Pilot A's 5019 points.

	Pilot A			Pilot B	
	Regional points earned	Pilots defeated		Regional points earned	Pilots defeated
	1003	3		1007	7
	1005	5		992+3	3
	1004	4		1000	0
	1001	1		1004	4
	1005	5		1003	3
	1002	2		1000	0
	993	0			
	1002	2			
IRPS Points	5019			5014	

Qualified contests will be those listed in the IMAC contest calendar shown on the IMAC website under the respective regions. Contests must comply with IMAC standards and must have their results verified and posted within 14 days to count towards Regional Points.

A “Regional Finals Contest” as denoted by the respective Regional Director will count the same points value towards the region’s points series. The Regional Finals Contest will be a normal IMAC contest open to all classes including freestyle.

A competitor may receive points for his/her region, as well as count two contests outside of his or her region. The results of the first 3 (three) days at the AMA Scale Aerobatic NATS will count toward the IRPS and will be tabulated as an in-region contest. Any competitor is eligible to fly in any region, regardless of residence.

In the case of a tie for a class point champion, the pilot who finishes highest in his top 5 IRPS Qualified contests, based upon the total # of pilots defeated, would win. If there is still a tie, the pilot who places highest at the Regional Final contest will win the IRPS title. If the tie still cannot be resolved, the raw scores for the top 5 contests will be used to break the tie.

A pilot will not be eligible for regional awards in more than one category. If a pilot moves into a higher competition class during the year, the pilot will have to advise his/her Regional Director of the change AND at that time, will also advise in which class he/she would like his/her regional points calculated.

Plaques will be awarded for first through third place in each class.

For the purpose of Regional Points, if a Basic-class competitor places first, second or, third in the Regional Points, regardless of if the competitor has not placed in enough Basic contests to move up, the competitor will have to move to the Sportsman class in the following season. In the event that the competitor doesn't move up, any points earned in the following season will not count toward the next year's Regional Points Championship.

Any competitor may petition the appropriate Regional Directors or BOD to change his/her home region. These requests must be made yearly in writing and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The IMAC Regional Points Series (IRPS) awards will be funded through membership dues.

Senior Points Series

This series is open to any IMAC member who competes in any IMAC Regional Points Series (IRPS) contest, in the Basic thru Unlimited class and is fortunate enough to be 55 years of age or older at the start of any IRPS contest.

At each contest throughout the flying season, the Senior Competition is held ***in conjunction with*** your normal IMAC class. Scores are based on the pilots percentage achieved against the maximum possible raw score for their class. You are flying against other Senior pilots in Basic thru Unlimited classes.

For example, the 2009 Sportsman sequence has a total of 2,210 points available per judge per sequence; with 2 judges this equals 4,420 points. If the pilot's raw score is 3,536 points that is 80.00% of the available points. If an Unlimited Senior pilot scores 75.00% of his available points, the Sportsman pilot wins that particular sequence. These percentage scores are calculated in the scoring program automatically and normalized against all other Senior pilots by round. Standard formats for throw-out sequences and normalizing are still the same.

There are no additional fees, sequences, or rounds flown and you are ***still*** competing in your normal IMAC class. All points, placements and/or trophies you earn for your class are still awarded. The host club has the option to award a 1st place Senior award if they choose, but it is not mandatory.

Entering the Senior Competition is the eligible pilot's choice and is not mandatory; however, if you decline to join, your points ARE NOT retroactively applied later in the year. Once you join then the region will keep your scores for the year.

At the end of the regular season in each region and just like the regular Regional Points Series, the Senior Points Series winners for the season will be awarded first through third place based on their top five contests (normalized - as in the regular class regional points standings and ties will be settled in the same manner).

Ultimate Unknown Flight Award

The Ultimate Unknown Flight award recognizes the single highest-scoring unknown sequence flight across eligible classes at the competition. This optional award is presented for achievement and recognition only and has no bearing on class standings, season points, or advancement.

Eligibility: All pilots competing in Sportsman through Unlimited classes are automatically eligible. No separate entry or fee is required. Basic class is excluded since they fly a known sequence designated as an Unknown rather than a true unknown sequence.

Determination: The award is presented to the pilot whose unknown sequence flight receives the highest percentage score from the judges. When multiple unknown rounds are flown during the competition, each flight is considered separately and the single highest-scoring flight receives the award, regardless of class. In the event of a tied percentage score, the tiebreaker is determined as follows: when multiple unknown rounds have been flown, the combined scores of all unknown rounds will break the tie; when only a single unknown round has been flown, the precision rounds' perfection score will break the tie.

Recognition: The Ultimate Unknown Flight recipient is announced at the awards ceremony. Recognition is provided as determined by the individual event (certificate, plaque, trophy, or other award as available).

<i>IMAC Contest Standards Versioning and Change Log</i>		
Date	Version	Changes
11/15/2025	Rev 12	Combined IMAC Contest Standards with Regional Points Document and Senior Points Document Changed Senior Points to include Basic Class Added Freestyle Drop Schedule Added King of the Unknown
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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