



# Academy of Model Aeronautics

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## EXHIBIT A RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

PROPOSAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(To be inserted by Headquarters)

RECEIVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(To be inserted by Headquarters)

REVISE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

VERSION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

**Send to AMA Headquarters via email at [michelle@modelaircraft.org](mailto:michelle@modelaircraft.org). A copy will be forwarded to the appropriate Contest Board Chairman. The current issue of Competition Regulations must be used.**

PROPOSAL TYPE (Check One):  Basic  Cross Indicate Original Proposal Number \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent/Safety/Emergency  Interpretation

General Section  Executive Council  Outdoor Free Flight  Indoor Free Flight  CL Speed

CL Racing  CL Navy Carrier  CL Aerobatics  CL Combat  CL Special Events  RC Aerobatics

RC Scale Aerobatics  RC Pylon Racing  RC Helicopter  RC Soaring  Scale  Electric

Special Events  RC Combat

#### Brief summary of the proposed change.

Remove mandatory advancement from contestant classification section of the RC aerobatics rules and replace with a fair system for contestant classification that allows contestant to determine what class is appropriate for their skill/abilities.

#### Exact wording proposed for the rule book. (List paragraph numbers where applicable. Example: Change “quote present rule book wording” to “exact wording required”).

Radio Control Pattern, Section 8 replaced with:

Section 8. Contestant Classification:

8.1: At the first contest attended in a calendar year, a contestant may enter any one class of his/her choice. This entry commits the contestant to that class for the remainder of the calendar year.

8.2: A contestant may promote himself/herself to a higher class at any time; however, he/she may not change to a lower class until the beginning of the next calendar year.

8.2.1: Exception: A contestant may enter the next higher class at contest where his/her class is not being flown, or when the contestant would be the only entrant in his/her class, without committing to the higher class. The contestant may not enter a lower class than the one to which he/she has committed.

8.2.2: Exception: Consideration will be given to requests for reclassification to a lower class for various reasons, such as disability. For a contestant to be reclassified to a lower rank, that person

must make application to the AMA to be signed by a Contest Director and sent to the petitioners District Contest Board Representative and District Vice President for their approval.

8.2.3: Exception: Entry into the FAI class does not commit a contestant to the FAI class. Contestant may enter the FAI class or their current AMA class at any contest.

**Logic behind proposed change, including alleged shortcomings of the present rules. State intent for future reference.**

Present rules do not allow for easy reclassification to account for age, ability, etc. of contestants and results in the loss of participation because contestants have limited recourse to reclassify themselves as their skills change.

Accumulation of AMA points per the current rule depends heavily on the turnout and aggregate skill level at local contests and is often not a good metric for determining whether a contestant is "ready" to move up. The current system of forced advancement becomes punishment and when those that are not "ready" are faced with forced advancement, they often choose to quit instead. Peer pressure and personal pride are adequate to ensure that those competitors are competing in a class appropriate to their skill level.

Making a commitment at the beginning of the competition season is important to foster a sense of fair play among competitors. It also precludes the possibility of a competitor moving to a lower class for nefarious reasons. In the unlikely event a competitor's skills/abilities dramatically change during a season (only 4 to 6 contests for most competitors) to a point where a move to a lower class is desired within the season, then relief is provided section 8.2.2 of the proposal.

**New event test data/information (new events only), please provide what testing of this new event has taken place to include number of participants and number of contests.**

None

**Effect, if any, on current AMA records.**

None

**Note: The Contest Board Chairman may, in coordination with the submitter of the proposal, at any time prior to submitting a proposal to the Contest Board for Final Vote, edit proposal wording to increase clarity and to avoid ambiguity provided the proposal intent is not changed.**

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**Date of Signature:** October 14, 2009