



## **TEAM AMA**

**THE ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS  
AIRSHOW TEAM PROGRAM**

### **Overview and Requirements**

**February, 2008**



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## **MISSION**

*The mission of the TEAM AMA is to provide education about remote control aviation to the general public through entertaining air shows and static display with primary emphasis on full scale aviation shows and other large events.*

## **VISION**

*The member teams of TEAM AMA will provide professional quality air shows, simulator assistance, and static Display discussions that result in increased visibility for the AMA and good will for remote control aviation.*

## **OVERVIEW**

The TEAM AMA program consists of national network of approximately 10 to 12 highly qualified and motivated Show Teams located by geography, population centers, and access to full scale aviation events. Teams will be mentored and will serve a minimum 2 year probationary period before becoming tenured in the program.

The primary program focus will be full scale aviation events; other examples may include festivals, fairs, community events, etc. Large Fly-Ins may be included to provide assistance to local clubs. The program will not focus on those events that would/should be conducted by area clubs; however teams will be expected to develop good relations with clubs in the areas where they perform. Teams must be able to function in larger show venues and will need professional equipment to do so.

TEAM AMA will maintain membership in the International Council of Air Show (ICAS). The relationship will be nurtured through active participation in the annual ICAS Convention and by providing advice and consultation on the use of remote control aircraft at full scale events. Comprised of performers, organizers, air bosses, announcers, pyro-technicians and other support people, ICAS is the premier air show organization in the world,. Through its members and air shows, ICAS reaches more than 20 million spectators annually. These spectators who are interested in aviation will be our main focus for educating the sport of remote control aircraft.

The TEAM AMA program is a function of the AMA executive Council and reports to the Council via an EC Liaison and the Program Director as detailed below.

## **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

The program is jointly administered by the TEAM AMA Program Director, his designees, and by the AMA Programs Department.

The AMA Programs Department administers the day to day operations of the air show program including:

- Maintains all team rosters;
- Assures that team members are current AMA members
- Maintains team performance records;
- Provides assistance with insurance;
- Processes all purchase orders from the teams to program sponsors;
- Distributes materials, supplies, publicity handouts, etc as needed or required.
- Sets up team charters with letter of approval from the Director

In addition, the Programs Department and the Program Director work with the hobby industry manufacturers and distributors for annual sponsorship of the program. A member of Executive Council serves as a liaison to the program and the Director.

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

The Program Director is a manager of one of the teams with experience in the performing shows at full scale aviation shows. The Program Director provides leadership for the Air Show Team Program and

assists in the administration and development of the program. The Director provides recommendations to the Executive Council on show team related subjects that will assist in the growth of the program and aeromodeling. The Director may appoint a small executive committee consisting of a marketing coordinator and a technical coordinator each with special knowledge, experience and familiarity with the air show business. The Director may also appoint other positions or delegate tasks if he deems necessary to maintain a professional program. These individuals will provide assistance in development and administration of the program. The Director shall make final decisions on all matters relating to the program.

Appointment and Replacement: The first Director was selected by the new program creators and accepted by the Executive Council. In the event of a vacancy in position of Program Director, the marketing and technical coordinators will recommend a replacement. In the case of a split recommendation, the AMA Executive Council liaison will break the tie. The Council Liaison will then bring the new recommended Director and qualifications to the AMA Executive Council for approval.

### **MARKETING COORDINATOR**

Duties of the Marketing Coordinator include

- Develops overall program marketing plan
- Provides leadership and oversight for marketing the program
- Works with program sponsors from the hobby industry
- Develops display and booth materials for ICAS Convention
- Provides oversight for the TEAM AMA website
- Develops publicity handouts and other materials as needed or required.
- Other duties as assigned by the Director

### **TECHNICAL COORDINATOR**

Duties of the Technical Coordinator include

- Maintain Program Guidelines and Regulations and associated documents
- Maintains team rosters
- Assures that team members are current AMA members
- Receives and maintains team performance records
- Provides performance data to the Program Director, AMA Programs Department and others
- Other duties as assigned by the Director

### **AIR SHOW TEAM WEBSITE - *www.teamama.com***

Communications and awareness are crucial to the success of this new program. This website serves as a point of contact for the program allowing potential users of the program to gain ready access to individual teams and managers. The site increases program visibility, enhances access, improves communications, and allows more efficient distribution of information on the program. As part of the annual charter renewal, all teams must provide an updated team photo, roster, and contact information. It is highly desirable for teams to also submit a schedule of team events when available. Site features include:

- Team information including, team photo, roster, contact information, schedules, and activities
- Program Guidelines and Requirements
- Down-loadable forms
- On-line submission of show reports
- Special features and impact stories
- Links to AMA, AST program sponsors, and team websites
- Air Host contract template

The website will be managed by the Marketing Coordinator who may arrange for development and server services, etc. to maintain the website. Items for the site should be submitted to the Marketing Coordinator. The website will be a source of information for potential host and set up to save manager's time with repetitive requests. There is a "Members Only" section for confidential team information; managers should use this portal to provide a listing of the team's schedule

## **TENURE**

Teams will be tenured in the program after meeting a set of minimum requirements. Each team will serve at least a two year probationary period. During this period, the Manager will be mentored by the Program Director and his executive committee on becoming a professional show team. This will be accomplished in part by critiquing show videos that must be submitted. In addition, teams will be mentored on safety, sponsorship, air show business, including working professionally with the host/organizer to contract shows, air boss, the FAA, and showmanship. As the teams mature, mentoring will include pyrotechnics, entertainment by narration, and "working with the media."

During the second year teams will demonstrate that they have or can meet the new program requirements via additional videos. As part of obtaining tenure in the program an AMA observer selected by the Director will witness and video/photograph the prospective team's show(s). The observer will also go to the static display to ask for help and to see how they are treated. Teams will know they are subject to evaluation but will not know which shows that this might occur or who will be evaluating them. The observer will then report the findings to the Director. The teams will not receive tenure until they meet the minimum requirements which may take as long as 3 years.

Specific minimum requirements include:

1. AMA membership and at least six team members with FAST-TRAC credentials
1. Team uniforms
9. Team set up with Non-Profit Status, LLC.
2. High quality entertaining air show
3. Mobile flight simulator trailer
4. Professional trailer covered with team logo and sponsors
5. Static display canopy, static aircraft display, printed matter, etc.
7. Pyrotechnics

While not specifically required it is highly recommended that each team obtain a sound system capable of covering 1000 people.

It is also recommended that each team maintain a professional website (with a link to and from the program website).

## **ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS AND CHARTER RENEWAL**

The AMA distributes renewal packets to each team manager well in advance of the renewal submission deadline. Requests for renewals are considered by the Director and announced in early February

All renewal applications must be received by the stated deadline and must include an annual performance report, updated roster and team photo, and pertinent information for the AST website as determined by the Director. In addition, all teams must submit an AMA charter renewal as required. Teams not meeting any of these requirements may not be granted sanctioned show team status.

Annual renewal of charter for an AMA air show team is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the

requirements outlined below. For show reporting purposes, the fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31. Team charters are valid from April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

1. At least 6 members must be FAST TRAC qualified to have a chartered team
2. Each team must perform a minimum of six (6) shows per year. Two events may be static only. Two shows must have at least 20,000 spectators, and two shows must have at least 5,000 spectators.
3. Submission of performance log reports to the TEAM AMA website or to Program Director *within 60 days* of the event date. Shows not reported within the specified time will not be credited to the team or the program.
4. Each team must complete the annual renewal process by the deadline indicated in the package sent to team managers.
5. Each team must maintain up-to-date information on the TEAM AMA website including annual schedule.
6. Each team must have a current "high quality" team photo for publication for the Show Team web site, signature cards, and potential programs/magazines.
7. Each team manager must participate in conference calls and communications with the Director and other managers as needed.
8. All show team pilots are required to complete a pilot FAST-TRAC evaluation program consisting of a written test and a flight evaluation (See Appendix A). The written test seeks to adequately familiarize all show team pilots with AST and ICAS performance guidelines and to enhance practices and awareness of safety issues associated with AST performances. The flight evaluation portion seeks to insure that show team pilots can correctly and safely accomplish all of the performance elements for the particular act, or acts that they fly. The written test will be administered by the AMA headquarters in a manner similar to the way Contest Directors are currently certified. The flight evaluations will be conducted by the District Vice Presidents or another person or persons who is not a team member designated by that District Vice President. Written test materials will be available from AMA in a downloadable format.

In general, a team is provided exclusive access within a 400 mile radius of its home base. Teams are expected to perform within this area at a fair negotiated price. All contract and charges to the event host are up for negotiation by the manager. Failure to work effectively within this area may result in the loss of show team status.

### **Conduct**

As ambassadors of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, members of the TEAM AMA program are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity and conduct including adherence to the current AMA Safety Code. Team members are reminded that consumption of alcohol is prohibited prior to flight operations. Team members shall refrain from the consumption of alcohol at air shows until after the event has closed. Illegal drug use is not permitted by any team member. A member pilot cannot fly in a show if under medication of a prescription drug that warns against controlling machinery. Teams that violate this provision may be dismissed from the program. All team members shall be polite to guest and tolerant to repetitive questions. Team members that fit the mold will not be the arrogant type with selfish motives. All ego's shall be summed as a team resulting in successful entertainers and educators for the benefit of the remote control sport.

### **Inactive Status**

A team may request to be placed on inactive status by writing to the Program Director. Occasionally a team may lose two or three key individuals at once and find it difficult to continue without a period to rebuild. An inactive team has no charter, none of the benefits of charter and has no minimum performance standards to meet. The principal advantage to being placed on the inactive list is that the

charter may be renewed by notifying the Program Director that the team is ready to resume active status. However, if another prospective team in the area applies for air show team status while a team is on inactive status, the Program Director may require return to full active status or leave program.

### **Revocation of Charter**

The AMA reserves the right to cancel a team charter at anytime, with the Director's concurrence, including, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Failure to comply with AMA safety standards, guidelines, or rules.
- Public defamation of AMA and/or its officers or other local clubs or chartered show teams.
- Direct solicitation of hobby industry manufacturers and distributors for support without the AMA's written approval.
- Falsification of records submitted to the Program Director or the AMA.

In general, a charter may not be suspended or revoked for the first infringement of the above rules. A written warning can be issued by the Program Director and the EC Liaison informing the manager of the specific problem. The team may be placed on probation and may have purchasing privileges or the operational support allowance revoked. The second infraction will result in the removal of the team from the Team AMA program.

Every effort will be made to resolve any alleged infraction to the above rules in a timely manner. Decisions resulting from actions on the above rules will be communicated to the team/person(s) in writing. A team/person may appeal a decision in writing and present additional information to the Director.

### **Outreach to Area Clubs**

Air Show Teams are intended as a resource for area clubs. Therefore all teams shall work with area clubs to facilitate a clear understanding of the role the Team AMA program has and to assure that the program is utilized to the fullest extent. There should never be an adversarial relationship between teams and clubs. One way in which a team can assist area clubs is by directing potential new members to them.

This can be effectively accomplished by developing a "Fly Free Day" program with clubs. In such a program the team collects contact information for those who are interested in trying their hands a flying on a designated day with a particular club. The Team then provides the names collected during static display discussions to the club so that final arrangements can be made.

### **INSURANCE**

Show teams receive the same AMA extended liability coverage that chartered clubs receive. This coverage, however, does not automatically apply to show sponsors, flying site owners, government agencies or other organizations. To cover these non-AMA participants or organizations, you must complete and submit an application for additional insurance. The forms titled "Application for Insuring Flying Site Owners or Event Sponsors" are available from the AMA Programs Dept. or at <http://www.modelaircraft.org/documents.aspx>, document number 305. Please allow at least thirty days for processing the application before the show date.

### **PERFORMANCE FEES AND SPONSORSHIP**

The expense of running a successful air show team involves considerable financial commitment on the part of team members. Accordingly, teams may seek performance or appearance fees and are also encouraged to seek additional outside sponsorship. However, no team shall take part in any manner with a show, event, sponsors, or other entities that infringe on, or are inconsistent with policies of the AMA or the TEAM AMA program without prior consent of the Program Director or the Executive Council.

All teams and team members must clearly recognize that they are affiliated with the AMA at all events in which they participate.

## **TEAM ORGANIZATION**

The team must have a minimum of six members, all of which must be current AMA members. Each team must have a Manager, Narrator, and at least four active pilots. It is also recommended that there be an Assistant Manager and back-ups for the Narrator and Safety Officer.

Other duties that are essential to the operation of a successful team include Safety Officer, Show Choreographer, Media Director, Secretary- Treasurer/Finance Officer, etc. Some teams also have non-flying ground support members who manage the flight line, the pits, the sound system and other essential operations; however, it is recommended that teams not exceed 15 members.

Each pilot should be selected for membership because of his/her unique ability to contribute to the efforts of the whole team. Each pilot should have the following characteristics: good show team pilot, good natured, good attitude, competent, professional appearance and demeanor, reliable, loyal, mature, dedicated to the team, and willing to help others interested in the hobby.

### **Professionalism**

All programs members shall maintain the highest levels of professionalism, conduct and appearance. Not only should teams be smartly dressed, but members should treat all spectators with respect and adhere to the AMA Safety Code at all times. Teams and individual members should be advised that arrogance, condescending attitudes or behaviors, do not engender positive interactions with spectators. These attitudes and behaviors are also counter productive to developing and maintaining effective relationships with area clubs. All team members should always be aware, and remember that people are always watching

### **Uniforms and Dress Code**

All teams are required to use some type of uniform. A “uniform” is defined as a “uniform” type of shirt or shirt/hat combination worn by all team members. Members should be neat in appearance with shirt tails tucked in, and wearing similar same color trousers or shorts and shoes. (T-shirts and “cut-off” shorts are not acceptable). Team hats are allowed but not required. Team T-shirts may be worn during the set up stage to keep regular uniform clean. The team members should change into their regular team uniform shirts as soon as set up is complete. It is recommended to have a separate color, but same scheme uniform, for VIP dinners or night time show events.

Uniforms should be worn during the entire event for professionalism and in case of unexpected media pictures. Team members should shave each morning or have a clean cut mustache/beard. A two day old beard reflects unprofessionally on the whole program. Although it is unlikely for a team to be suspended because of a dress code infringement, it is important that the manager and all team members understand the importance of members being professionally presentable to the spectators and hosts.

### **Manager**

The team manager's role may vary from being the supreme leader, beneficent dictator, and “doer of all things” to providing coordination to a group of team members each with essential roles. The manager or assistant manager is responsible for duties listed below.

The manager presides at all team meetings and shall act as the spokesperson in all matters pertaining to the team. He should prepare an agenda for each meeting and send it out ahead of time. The manager is responsible for submitting AMA performance reports, year-end performance summaries, and team membership rosters, including changes thereto to the Director. He is responsible for all financing, booking events, and submits orders for equipment and supplies from the industry sponsors through AMA. He is responsible for all the sponsorship for the team. The manager is responsible for seeing that all team members follow safe practices during the performance of a show. He is responsible for making sure the event/host receives the proper air show insurance. He is also responsible for seeing that a proposed show site is inspected for safety. The manager is responsible for the team organization, new member recruitment, planning and producing the show, calling team meetings, handling team correspondence, and generally leading the team onward and upward. He must keep an up-to-date roster of the team and turn it in to the Director annually. He may delegate these duties to other team members by creating positions.

In recognition of the extra effort by the manager, the AMA provides a 50% reduction in membership (after the first full year) as long as he/she manages the team. In addition, the team manager's responsibilities qualify him/her for nomination as an AMA Leader Member.

A complete listing of the manager's duties is contained in Appendix B "Managers Handbook Duties and Guidelines".

**Structure:** The structure of each team varies considerably. In addition to the manager and announcer positions that are required for team charter, many teams also have an assistant manager, a treasurer, secretary, public relations director, photographer, airboss, pitboss, ground safety officer, etc.

Below is a list of responsibilities, activities and roles that have been identified based on the collective experience of the teams in the program.

### **Announcer/Narrator**

The announcer or narrator is crucial to the success of any air show as he/she provides the links between the action and the spectators. The announcer primary role is to engage the spectators and inform them about the current act. The announcer should be well informed about aviation in general, all facets of aeromodeling and be familiar with each team pilot's aircraft and be aware of his/her routine by knowing what maneuver is next. He/she need not be a stand up comic, but he/she should be unflappable, have a good speaking voice and the ability to ad-lib when necessary. It is important that the announcer describe what is happening and be able to explain the mechanics of the aircraft in understandable terms. For the announcer to be effective, the team must have access to an adequate sound system. All pilots should have one routine set to music each year such that the narrator knows what the pilot will be doing next. Although music can be used with turbine jets performances, there should be a period of no music so that the spectators can hear the real turbine jet as the narrator comments on the realistic similarities to the real full scale jets.

### **Air Boss**

During the show, the **airboss** rules. He/she runs the show, keeping the performance on time and assuring safety. He/she also coordinates flight operations with the event air boss at full scale shows. The team air boss often works with the **pitboss** who makes sure that the next act is ready and running on time. The manager often performs these duties but may designate other members for these crucial positions.

### **Performance management**

Someone must be responsible for assuring that all props, special effects, and aircraft are ready to go at show time. Teams using pyrotechnics must have a designated person to manage this aspect of the show (see below).

### **Ground Safety Officer**

The ground safety officer is responsible for safety at show center, the crowd, communications with the pilots, and work the starting line for the show. He/she must do the safety checks of the aircraft before the show and then work with the pitboss to in running the show. There can be two safety officers but at least one safety officer must be at every show. Other members of the team can be trained as assistant safety officers. The idea is to train more than one person so that they can run the show if the main team safety officer cannot make the show. He/she is responsible for inspecting a proposed show site and aircraft as detailed in the section below on safety. The manager may delegate inspection duties to another team member.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer manages all team funds, including tracking expenses charged to show sponsors, quoting, billing, and collecting money when appropriate. The treasurer must disburse funds to team members for reimbursable expenses, collect and account for all team funds, and issue checks for equipment and supplies purchased for team use. The Treasurer shall read the team's finance report at all meetings. The report can also be set up in a "Members Only" section of their website. The Treasurer, manager, and assistant manager should have their names on the team's checking account. Some banks require a secretary's signature with minutes showing who are the officers.

### **Publicity**

This includes the preparation of materials to be used in publicizing the air show team, and advertising shows to prospective sponsors. It may include local radio and TV spots, newspaper, magazines, flyers, brochures, posters, etc. Also included is meeting with show sponsors for advance publicity planning.

### **Sound system**

The performance of the announcer depends largely upon the public address system at his/her disposal. Many teams have the narrator oversee the selection, proper storage, maintenance and set up of the public address system as well as production of tapes, CDs, or iPods that are used. The sound system shall be of professional quality such that it should be required to store environmentally to maintain years of reliable quality sound.

### **Trip planning**

Some teams travel considerable distances to perform shows requiring that arrangements for lodging, meals, and transportation be made.

### **Guest Pilots**

In the instance that a "guest pilot", or pilots, defined as a well qualified AMA member in good standing, becomes available to a show team for a special performance, on a single occurrence basis, it is within the prevue of the manager to grant permission for that special performance. It is, however, the responsibility of the manager to familiarize the guest pilot(s) with necessary safety and performance guidelines. If a "guest pilot" flies with the team for more than two shows, he must become FAST TRAC qualified before flying a 3<sup>rd</sup> show within the same year. One show may consist of multiple show days on the same weekend. This means a "guest pilot" could fly with the team several times on a weekend for up to two separate weekends without having a need for a FAST TRAC card.

## **SHOW PREPARATION**

The manager is crucial to the success of each show. In addition to careful planning of the show, his/her responsibilities include safety considerations as detailed below under Air Show Safety. Each show

should be planned, preferably at a meeting with all show team members present. This meeting may be well before the show date when new or unusual requirements are to be met. In some cases, involve a “dress rehearsal” complete with music and commentary is very useful in developing a high quality show. Any special arrangements or unique situations should be discussed during the planning meeting and conveyed to any member not at the meeting.

The manager should prepare a master schedule listing the remote control aircraft/act sequence with the name of the pilot(s). This schedule is reviewed with the team prior to the show in a flight briefing. The master schedule is provided for the airboss and announcer and may be distributed to each pilot as well. It is helpful to the announcer to have the flight plan for each act and some specific information about each remote control aircraft. For RC shows, the radio frequencies should be listed and any potential conflicts resolved.

If the master schedule has been carefully developed and distributed, all team members will be prepared to perform on time. A final flight brief meeting should be held before each show to go over the show schedule and any safety concerns.

### **Show Concepts**

First and foremost, an air show is *for the spectators* rather than the pilots. The air show consists of two major interrelated parts: the aircraft and the announcer. The aircraft attract attention but the announcer weaves the stories and engages the crowd. The announcer is crucial to the success of any air show as he/she plays a central in informing the spectators about the action and also educating the public about remote control aviation. It is especially important for the announcer to include information about the AMA, other sponsors, and to come to the static display for questions.

When selecting remote control aircraft and acts for an air show, one must recognize the need to inform and educate the public about remote control aviation. Everyone relates to remote control aircraft of full-size aircraft that are readily recognizable. Flag pull at the start of the show, Formation flight, dogfights, banner and glider tows, parachute and bomb drops, and aerobatics, are recognizable aviation activities that catch the imagination of spectators. Novelty acts such as doghouses, lawn mowers, witches, flag aircraft, stop signs, etc. are also crowd pleasers. An entry level remote control aircraft should be included so that spectators learn how to get involved in modeling.

In general, large and loud remote control aircraft are more impressive than small remote control aircraft; however, the size of the remote control aircraft must fit the venue. Acts with multiple remote control aircraft airborne are usually more effective than a single plane flight. Variety is important in the choice of remote control aircraft. A very effect way to bring spectators into modeling is to have a “hands-on” trainer demonstration with one or more members of the crowd. All teams should spend some time interacting with spectators and answering question. Some shows allow time for flight training after the gates open but before the show starts.

Air show performances must be tailored to the site, the size and composition of the expected audience. A show that is part of a full scale air show may have only thirty minutes and should be carefully planned so that there is no dead time. Thus, engine starts must be planned to overlap the preceding flights and standby pilots should be ready to substitute without delay. When the audience numbers in the thousands spreading out along the flight line, the show must depend upon the airborne action to create spectator interest. Dead time during a full scale show is bad.

When doing an air show for a smaller civic group, festival, picnic, carnival, etc., more time may be available and the audience is usually within viewing distance of the pit and takeoff area. Comedy acts that depend on some ground action can be incorporated. Despite the time available for an air show, teams

must remain conscious of audience reaction. Single airborne acts do not usually retain spectator interest for much more than three minutes. It is much better to leave a group wanting to see more than to bore them into leaving early.

Occasionally, teams perform at hobby expositions, flying site dedications, national competitions, or similar gatherings where the audience has working knowledge of remote control aviation. With this type of audience, team announcers may wish to cover more detailed descriptions of demonstration acts, specific remote control aircraft items in use, and technical information on hobby industry items.

## **AIR SHOW SAFETY**

Air show team members will be exposed to the scrutiny of larger numbers of spectators than any other AMA member engaged in flying activities. For this reason, safe flying is of utmost important. The AMA Safety Code contains the specific safety rules with which AMA air show teams must comply. Each team shall conduct a safety briefing before each show as well an annual safety meeting for all members. Large full scale air shows always have AMA spectators that will be watching your show closely. They tend to judge more critical the activities at hand and have been known to turn in what they felt was a safety violation. Always make sure you work in unison with the air boss and that no risks are taken outside the envelope of a safe and entertaining show. If there is a safety violation, be sure to document the occasion and discuss it with the air boss so that it can be prevented in the future.

### **Site Inspection**

Each proposed show site must be surveyed prior to the show and a site survey form completed. Inspection forms must be retained for the calendar year. The Survey Inspection forms can be retrieved from the Team AMA website's members section. For RC shows, it is desirable to survey the location with a frequency monitor to detect any radio interference that might be present. This is particularly important for those sites not normally used for RC flying. You can ask a local club perform a frequency check at the airport before the event and before signing the contract. Be sure to ask how far away their club is from the airport and if they would like to come help at the show. Special arrangements can be made for local club members such as VIP parking and entrance passes.

The AMA can provide a listing of the local AMA chartered clubs, and the local hobby shop owner will probably know of any non chartered group flying in the area. If you do find a group of RC fliers within a 3 mile range, they will most likely be willing to suspend operation at their field during the show. This is especially true if they are invited to attend the show as guests. Be sure to include your special guest in your pilot's briefing and explain how the static display works.

### **Special performances**

In certain cases, approval may be sought for performances that are not in compliance with the Safety Code by petitioning the AMA President and Executive Director as specified in the General Section of the AMA Safety Code. At least ninety (90) days should be allowed for this process

### **Crowd Control**

The sponsor or the show team must arrange for crowd control so that the show will be in compliance with the AMA Safety Code. If people, vehicles or aircraft encroach into the show area, the show must be suspended until the problem is resolved. This must be called out in the contract and special agreements must be in writing in the comments section of the contract.

### **Aircraft Inspection**

Each pilot is responsible for the safe maintenance and inspection of the remote control aircraft that he will fly. Every aircraft must be checked and test flown within 30 days before each show. Each remote control

aircraft shall be checked and certified prior to each show and the pilot shall sign the Aircraft Inspection Form. Inspection forms must be retained for the calendar year. The safety officer shall witness the safety check before each show and sign the safety check list. The list should contain, but not be limited to, a battery check, engine run, range check, control surfaces and hardware, etc.

At RC air shows, a team member or assistant should be designated as the frequency manager. This individual will operate any available monitoring equipment, will closely follow the schedule and stop any pilot from turning on a transmitter with a potential for interference, and will check each transmitter after flight to make sure that it is turned off. Any malfunctioning remote control aircraft must be landed immediately in a clear area rather than attempting to bring it back toward a spectator area.

### **Show Cancellation**

The team manager reserves the right to cancel or end ongoing air show activities when the wind or weather conditions jeopardize safe flight. The manager must not allow any pilot to attempt flight when field or weather conditions may prevent safe flights. While all teams should retain a "the show must go on" attitude, they must take care that a pilot does not exceed his capabilities or those of a particular aircraft.

In the event that a team has made all preparations to perform at a show site and the manager decides to cancel or end the show because of weather conditions, and if the sponsor is willing to sign the performance log, the show will counted as flown.

### **Pyrotechnics**

Pyrotechnics are an effective and spectacular addition to any show. However extreme caution and care should be used to prevent injury to a show team member or spectator. The following guidelines have been established for the proper use and supervision of such devices.

AMA Show teams should obtain an appropriate ATF permit or license to purchase and use pyrotechnic devices. The particular permit or license type can be determined by the requirements of the individual AST, in consultation with a local or regional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives office. (The permit/license became a federal requirement as of May 24, 2003). It is likely that ATF will recommend a Type 19 Manufacturer of Theatrical Flash Powder License, a Type 33 user of high explosives permit or a Type 34 user of low explosives permit. Pyrodex, a modern smokeless gun powder, can be purchased at most sporting goods stores which sell muzzle loading supplies. This material does not require a license to use. ATF regulations can be found at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov). Show teams are advised that ATF permits or licenses do not eliminate the need to clear any pyrotechnic shoots with local fire authorities. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure the show host is informed of any the special effects and that the host explains the special effects show to the fire chief.

AMA air show teams shall comply with General Rule 9 of the Official AMA Safety Code with the following exceptions:

1. Solid fuel smoke generators such as the Superior brand smoke writer cartridge are permitted if firmly attached to the aircraft, and if a fire extinguisher of the appropriate type is present on the flight line.
2. In addition, in those communities where the use of such devices is not banned or where permission for their use has been obtained, ground-based explosive charges using not more than one quarter pound of black powder (or equivalent) may be used subject to the following restrictions:
  - a. Any team using pyrotechnic devices must designate one team member to be responsible for the use and safety of such devices. This person must contact local law enforcement regarding the use of

pyrotechnic devices. All applicable State and local laws must be followed.

b. Charges must be electrically fired using two switches in series.

c. Charges may not be located closer than 50 feet from the flight line.

d. Charges must be fired from a "thick wall" steel pipe (not cast iron) mortar having sufficient inside diameter to allow a loose fit of the charge and designed to direct the blast upward and to prevent the throwing of stones or debris.

3. A fire extinguisher must available on the flight line at all times when pyrotechnics are being used.

### **CHANGES TO OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Regulations established by the Program Director, and not requiring AMA Executive Council approval, can be amended or revised by the team managers. A petition to the Director by two or more teams can raise an issue for consideration. Proposed changes or additions will be sent to all managers for their review. Changes that require Executive Council approval may be presented with in writing via the Program Director and copied to the EC Liaison.

### **PROGRAM CONTACTS**

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