Competitions/Technical Department

Contest Board Procedures



CONTEST BOARD PROCEDURES

1. Foreword

The purpose of this document is to assist Contest Board members in effectively monitoring and accomplishing rules revisions, and to set the procedures for doing so. As such, this document serves the orderly administration, establishment, and modification of the rules found in the *AMA Competition Regulations*.

The Contest Board members must act to maintain high standards, good sportsmanship, and safety. Proposals contrary to this view, although not made intentionally, are often unknowingly generated, so each proposal should be carefully studied before action is taken.

The rules proposal process is electronically based to facilitate a more timely and accurate process for communications. All forms and documents used in these processes will be in electronic format and are able to be completed by the submitter via email. The term postmark refers to the time and date of the email that transmits the documents.

2. Jurisdiction

The Executive Council retains the authority and responsibility for matters that affect the membership as a whole, particularly in the areas where the financial well-being or the integrity of the organization may be in jeopardy. The responsibility of the Contest Boards is to provide standards and policy that will promote the healthy development of the sport. To this end, the Executive Council will rule unilaterally on items that do not affect contest activity and may rule, with the advice of the Board(s), on items that do affect contest activity, if the Executive Council determines it is its responsibility.

3. Member Appointment

The vice presidents of the AMA districts appoint the individual members, and the president of the AMA appoints the chairperson. Vice presidents are encouraged to make maximum use of the AMA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) when seeking qualified Contest Board members.

- **3.1** Contest Board members are appointed/retained by their respective district vice presidents using criteria contained herein. Each Contest Board chairperson shall be elected by majority vote of the Contest Board members. The elected chairperson fills and serves at this position at the approval of the AMA president. The AMA Competitions/Technical department will poll the Contest Board to make a recommendation for the chairperson to the AMA president. Board member terms of office are determined by AMA Bylaws Article XII.
- **3.2** All Contest Board members must be active in the area of interest represented by their respective board. It is acknowledged that board members cannot participate in every event covered by that particular board; however, board members should understand and have a working knowledge of the rules and procedures for all events, so they can make informed decisions on proposals.
- **3.3** Initial Selection for Board Membership. The AMA district vice president will select board members based on demonstrated participation in the board area of interest. The District vice president is encouraged to solicit input/recommendations from the respective Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and board chairperson regarding the qualifications of the individual under

consideration. While the district vice president retains the final decision, he/she should consider the input from the SIGs and board chairperson.

3.4. Criteria for Board Members' Participation and Retention

- a. Contest Board members should participate in at least one event in their applicable category each year. Attending as a spectator or visitor is not considered "participation."
- b. Contest Board members must vote on all rules changes before that board. Any missed vote could result in removal from the board by their respective vice president. The AMA Competitions/Technical department will provide the vice presidents with the results of all votes at the end of the rule cycle.
- c. A statement of participation must be provided by the Contest Board member to the board chairperson annually.
- d. All Contest Board members must have email access and provide a valid email address to his/her board chairperson, co-board members and the AMA Competitions/Technical department.

4. Contest Board Coordinator

The president of the AMA or his/her delegate shall be the overall coordinator of Contest Board activities. Duties of the board coordinator include, but are not limited to, determination of proposal category; coordination of general rules proposals; determination of proposal acceptability when it affects more than one category; acting as a voting member of the Special Events Contest Board; and other duties as described in this document or required by the president. The board coordinator does not vote except as a member of the Special Events Contest Board.

4.1 Assignment of Event Jurisdiction

The Contest Board coordinator, in coordination with the AMA technical director, will determine to which board(s) events will be assigned.

5. Rules Change Proposals

Rules change proposals are the method utilized to effect rules changes within the *AMA Competition Regulations*.

5.1 Analysis of Proposals by Contest Boards

Proposals should be reviewed for ambiguities in scoring, judging, and interpretation, which might create hardship at the contest level for contestants and contest directors alike. Board members are encouraged to strongly consider discussing proposals with as many AMA members as possible to obtain a consensus of the merit or possible faults in the proposed change.

All Contest Board members should familiarize themselves with the rules that prevail in their categories. Care should be taken to avoid generating rules that conflict, or could be confused with, rules in the other categories or with the general rules covering all categories.

When evaluating proposals, the following must be carefully scrutinized.

- Safety Will changes introduce unnecessary risks or reduce the overall level of safety? If the overall safety of the proposal could be compromised, the issue will be forwarded to the Safety Committee through the technical director.
- Manufacturing Will current equipment tend to be made obsolete?

- **Protests** Will the change tend to eliminate a source of protests at meets or are protests more likely?
- **Model Processing Time** Will the change tend to increase or decrease the time required to process models for competition?
- **Designs** Will the competitor be given more or less freedom of choice in design?
- **Contests** Will the effort required to conduct a contest be increased or decreased?
- Present Models Will a modeler be able to effectively compete using current models or not?
- **Effect on Competition** Will the net effect of the proposed change, if passed, be to promote fairness and to encourage contest participation?

6. Rules Change Procedures

6.1 Rules Review Schedule

These procedures follow the appropriate two-year schedule (cycle) shown in Exhibit A of this document. The schedule will be strictly adhered to by all Contest Board members and administered by the Competitions/Technical department staff at AMA Headquarters. Note that all categories, other than RC Aerobatics, operate in an odd-year-to-even-year cycle. RC Aerobatics operates in an even-year-to-odd-year cycle.

6.2 Proposal Preparation and Submission

Any Adult class AMA member may submit a rule change proposal by completing the online Rules Change Proposal Form on the AMA website by the specified deadline (see Exhibit A). Upon receipt of the proposal at AMA Headquarters, it will be reviewed by the Competitions/Technical department staff. If the proposal, as submitted, does not pass the review at AMA Headquarters, it shall be returned to the proposer with an explanation of changes that are required to present it properly. The proposer will have 15 days from the date of the Headquarters notification to make corrections required for the proposal to be accepted.

7. Types of Proposals

There are five basic types of proposals: Basic, Cross, Safety/ Emergency, Urgent, and Interpretation.

7.1 Basic Rules Change Proposal

Basic rules change proposals may be filed by any Adult class AMA member (as outlined above). This form of proposal is the "normal" type of proposal filed to request a rule change. Basic rules change proposals follow the schedule established by Exhibit A. As such, they must be submitted in the first year of the rules change cycle, within the deadlines established by Exhibit A.

7.2 Cross Proposals

Cross proposals may be filed by any Adult class AMA member (as outlined above). Cross proposals are alternate means of accomplishing the objectives of a Basic proposal which has passed the initial ballot (see "Contest Board Voting" section). While there is latitude in allowing alternative proposals, the original objective shall be retained. *Cross proposals will not be used to introduce new rules changes or to reintroduce proposals that were defeated in the initial ballot.* The Cross-proposal phase takes place in accordance with the schedule shown in Exhibit A. The validity of a Cross proposal shall be determined by the chairperson and/or the Contest Board.

7.3 Off-Cycle Proposals

Because of the relatively long time required to get a rules proposal through the normal process, there are alternative paths for legislation, which may be enacted quickly. These proposals may take the form of a Safety/Emergency, Urgent, or Interpretation proposal. Each serves a different purpose. The technical director (in conjunction with the Contest Board chairperson or coordinator) will determine which of these various categories a proposal should fall into, based on the content or the perceived dangers of delaying action on the proposal.

New rules put in place by Urgent or Interpretation proposals shall become mandatory on January 1 of the year following their original issue (see 8.3.5). Rules put in place by Safety/Emergency proposals are put in to affect immediately.

7.3.1 Safety/Emergency Proposal

In general, proposals addressing problems which might result in loss of life, affect people's health or cause excessive property damage may be given Safety/Emergency status. The intent of a Safety/Emergency proposal is to quickly modify or enhance an existing rule to create a safer flying environment; an actual change in a rule is indicated in such a proposal. Such proposals will be acted upon in ways described in 8.3.3 following.

7.3.2 Urgent Proposals

Urgent proposals are not an interpretation of existing rules or necessarily related to safety. Urgent proposals are proposals that cannot wait for the normal rules change cycle because of a problem with the current rules that adversely affects the event in some manner. An Urgent proposal will constitute an actual change in the rules, and therefore the justification for this type of proposal must be very closely scrutinized to prevent abuse. Urgent proposals will be acted upon as described in 8.3.5 using options B and C.

7.3.3 Interpretation Proposal

An Interpretation proposal does not change the existing rule but provides information designed to clarify it. It deals with interpretations of the rules, or ways in which the rules are applied in the field, where situations are not clearly dangerous. Interpretation proposals will be dealt with as described in 8.3.5 using options B and C. This is the only formal method by which a rule may be interpreted.

8 Processing of Proposals

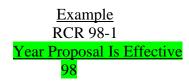
8.1 Processing of Basic Proposals.

Basic rules change proposals are handled in accordance with the schedule found in Exhibit A. This timeline will be strictly followed.

8.1.1 Proposal Numbering

The system outlined in the following shall be used to number all Basic and Cross proposals. A standard basic numbering system for all categories will be helpful during Contest Board and AMA Headquarters administration and publication of proposals. A basic numbering system will permit ready reference to any proposal by the general membership.

A proposal number will have three basic sections: (1) category for which the proposal is filed; (2) year in which the proposal is to become effective; (3) proposal number.





* Optional. If a Basic proposal has component parts that should be voted on separately, a lowercase letter may be added to designate each item; e.g., RCR 98-1a, RCR 98-1b.

If a proposal is amended, it will be sequentially numbered to reflect the version of the amendment; e.g., RCR 98-1.01, RCR 98-1.02.

A Cross proposal will be sequentially numbered to reflect the original proposal and the Cross-proposal number; e.g., RCR 98-1CP1.

The proposal number, lowercase letter to designate the part that should be voted on separately, amendment version numbers, and Cross proposal designators will be assigned by AMA Headquarters in order of receipt.

8.1.2 Proposal Consideration

RCR (Radio Control Racing)

8.1.2.1 Single Category

Category

Upon receipt of a new proposal from AMA Headquarters, the Contest Board chairperson shall review the submitted proposal for its acceptability within that category only. There is no restriction on resubmitting proposals that have been denied in previous cycles.

8.1.2.2 Proposals Affecting More Than One Category

In the case of a proposal affecting more than one category (e.g., General Rules) the AMA technical director will consult with the Contest Board coordinator, who will help determine its categories.

8.1.2.3 Determination of Acceptability

The Contest Board chairperson and/or coordinator review process is intended to confirm that a proposal has been submitted to the appropriate Contest Board, and to identify problems with the proposal that would make it unenforceable, unworkable, in conflict with established AMA policy, or otherwise inappropriate. When such problems are identified, the board chairperson, coordinator, and/or technical director will contact the proposer to inform him/her of the problems and allow the proposer to make changes to improve the acceptability of the proposal. The proposer will have 15 days from the date of the notification to resubmit the proposal.

8.1.2.3.1 Similar Proposals

If proposals are determined to be similar by the Contest Board chairperson, the chairperson should attempt to have the proposers generate a single proposal.

8.1.2.4 Proposal Distribution

If the Contest Board chairperson/coordinator is satisfied that the proposal has been submitted to the appropriate Contest Board, and will not be edited, he/she will notify AMA Headquarters to

distribute it. If the proposal will be edited, the board chairperson/coordinator will provide AMA Headquarters with the edited version as soon as possible for distribution.

8.2 Processing of Cross Proposals

Cross proposals are handled the same way as Basic proposals.

8.3 Processing of Off-Cycle Proposals

8.3.1 Category Determination

The technical director (in conjunction with the Contest Board chairperson or coordinator) will determine which of the three "off-cycle" categories (Safety/Emergency, Urgent, Interpretation) are appropriate.

The nature of some proposals may be such that the Contest Board coordinator, rather than the chairperson of a particular board, is the appropriate person to oversee further processing. This would be the case if the proposal did not fit into a specific category event or would be modifying a general section of the *AMA Competition Regulations*.

8.3.2 Proposal Denial

The technical director may also deny a proposal if it is felt the proposal does not meet the criteria for an "off-cycle" proposal. The proposer may appeal the decision of the technical director by email or letter to the AMA president and Contest Board coordinator, within 15 days. Receipt date will be used to determine timing in all cases. The president's decision will be final.

8.3.3 Safety/Emergency Proposal Processing

Safety/Emergency proposals may be put in force immediately if the chairperson of each affected Contest Board, the board coordinator, and the president concur that immediate enforcement is desirable. The technical director will poll each of them to determine if each concurs with this method of enforcement.

If this route is chosen, notice of the action and the rationale behind it will be published as soon as possible in an official AMA publication or communication.

If the president, Contest Board coordinator, and chairperson of each affected Contest Board do not concur unanimously that immediate enforcement is desirable, the following method will be used: The technical director will immediately submit to each member of the affected Board(s) a copy of the proposal, any comments or opinions available, and a ballot requiring a vote in seven days, which allows each Contest Board member to choose among the three methods of handling the proposal found in 8.3.5.

8.3.3.1 Contest Board Notification of Action

The technical director will immediately submit to each affected Contest Board a brief describing the action and the reasons for taking it, along with any opinions immediately available.

8.3.3.2 Contest Board Ratification

Not less than four weeks and not more than six weeks after publication, the technical director will initiate the voting process with a seven-day voting window to the affected Contest Board(s) to obtain ratification. If a 60% majority of those responding from each of the affected Boards concur, the ruling will be considered final. At least 50% of the total possible voters must reply

for such a vote to be valid if the final results are contrary to the previous immediate enforcement ruling.

8.3.4 Urgent and Interpretation Proposals

Proposals which are judged by the technical director to not qualify as Safety/Emergency proposals will be handled as indicated in the following. Note: the "Immediate Enforcement" option is not available for these types of proposals.

8.3.4.1 Notification of Proposal and Enforcement Method Selection

Following the acceptance of a proposal as either an Urgent or Interpretation proposal, the technical director will circulate a copy of the proposal and ballot with a seven-day voting window to each of the affected Contest Boards. The ballot will request the Contest Board members to choose the method of enforcement for the proposal. The choices are indicated in 8.3.5 with "A. Immediate Enforcement" not being available for these types of proposals. If option "C. Denial of Immediate Action" is chosen, the proposal will be returned to the proposer with a recommendation that it be submitted as a regular rules proposal during the regular rules change cycle. If option "B" is chosen, the proposal will continue to be processed as indicated in the following.

8.3.4.2 Publication Requirement and Proposal Ratification

If option "B" is chosen, the proposal will be immediately published in an official publication or communication of the AMA. Not less than four weeks and not more than six weeks after publication, the technical director will send a ballot with a seven-day voting window to the affected Contest Board(s) to obtain ratification. If a 60% majority of those responding from each of the affected Contest Boards concurs, the ruling will be considered final.

8.3.5 Available Methods of Enforcement

A. Immediate Enforcement. This requires a follow-up ballot after publication as described in 8.3. This option is only available for Safety/Emergency proposals.

- **B. Immediate Action, Optional Immediate Enforcement**. A ballot is taken, and a 60% majority of those responding approve, then a favorable result is obtained.
- **C. Denial of Immediate Action.** This results in the return of the proposal to the proposer with a recommendation that it be submitted as a regular rules proposal during the regular rules change cycle.

When all three choices appear on the ballot, each Contest Board member will rank the three alternatives as 1 (most desirable), 2 (next most desirable), 3 (least desirable). The Competitions/Technical department will then sum the rankings for each of the alternatives and select the one with the lowest score.

9. Special Events Contest Board

There shall be a Special Events Contest Board to address events not clearly assigned to other Contest Boards. The members of this board shall be made up of the chairpersons from each of the other Contest Boards and the board coordinator. The Contest Board coordinator may assign consideration of particular special events to a subset of the Special Events Contest Board. The board coordinator shall determine the subset of the Contest Board to perform this task.

10. Contest Board Voting

The Contest Board coordinator does not vote except as a member of the Special Events Contest Board. Each board votes on issues presented to its board and on general rules proposals. The technical director will develop and distribute all of the ballots. There are three stages of voting and each follows the timeline established in Exhibit A of this document:

Initial Vote: This vote is taken to screen all proposals for validity that have been submitted. This vote is taken during the cycle as shown in Exhibit A.

Interim Vote: This vote is taken to screen proposals and their Cross proposals. A single proposal will be selected from each grouping to move on to the final vote. This vote is taken during the cycle as shown in Exhibit A.

Final Vote: This vote evaluates all proposals that have passed the Initial and Interim votes. This vote is taken during the cycle as shown in Exhibit A.

10.1 Single Contest Board

When a proposal applies to only one category (e.g., one Contest Board), a simple majority of those who indicate a preference will be required for acceptance of the proposal on the Initial vote. Adoption of the proposal on the Final Vote requires an affirmative vote of at least 60% of those who indicate a preference, except that in all ballots where two or more parallel proposals are being considered, the method of voting and tabulation will be as specified in other sections of these procedures.

10.2 Multiple Contest Boards

When a proposal applies to more than one category, a simple majority of the total number of members of all Contest Boards who indicate a preference is required for passage on the Initial vote. For the Final vote, an affirmative vote of at least 60% of those who indicate a preference from each of the boards involved will be required for passage, except in all votes where two or more parallel proposals are being considered, then the method of voting and tabulation will be as specified in other sections of these procedures.

In either case, single or multiple categories, failure of a proposal to receive the required affirmative vote will result in the proposal having been denied with no further consideration or voting during that regular rule-making cycle.

10.3 Multiple Choice Votes on Interim Ballot

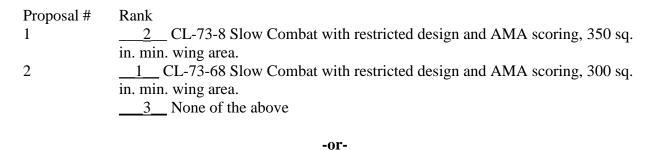
In the event that similar proposals pass the Initial vote, Contest Board members will assign numbers ranking each proposal on the ballot. The numbers to assign will begin with the value of one and conclude with the total number of similar proposals. The higher number will represent the least desirable proposal and the number one will designate the most desirable.

Multiple-choice ballots shall also include a *none of the above option*. "None of the above" rankings must receive at least 51% of the responding (number [1] one) votes to reject the proposals. If one of the proposals passes, the proposal with the lowest total will be carried through to the Final vote. In the event of a tie, a special vote will be taken prior to the Final vote.

Example:

Number **each** proposal. One should designate your most desirable choice. The highest number your least desirable choice. Rank the None of the above option along with the proposals. Do not simply check individual proposals; **they must be numbered (ranked) as described above**. None of the above rankings must receive at least 51% of the responding (number [1] one) votes to reject the proposals. If 51% is not received for the None of the above option, the next lowest ranking proposal will be sent to the Final vote. Please review all proposals in their original form before casting your vote.

<u>Adding</u> one of the following SLOW COMBAT proposals to the next *Competition Regulations* as an event:



<u>Adding</u> one of the following SLOW COMBAT proposals to the next *Competition Regulations* as an event:

10.4 Vote Tabulation

All votes will be electronic using ballot forms on the AMA website. Each board member will cast his/her vote. The AMA technical director and Contest Board chairman will be copied in on each vote to verify and tabulate the results. The voting and any comments will then be posted in the "rules proposal" section of the AMA Competition webpage per timeline Exhibit A.

11. Proposal Editing

The chairperson (or in the case of action by the combined Contest Boards, the Board coordinator) may, in coordination with the submitter of the proposal, edit proposal wording for purposes of clarity or to minimize conflicts and ambiguities, where he/she deems this advisable. He/she shall not, however, edit the proposal in such a manner that its intent is altered. AMA Headquarters editing of proposals is subject to the same intent and, in addition, shall be subject to approval by the appropriate board chairperson in coordination with the submitter of the proposal. Should a board member or the person who submitted the original Basic proposal deem that such alteration of intent has occurred, he may appeal the chairperson/coordinator's editing action to the AMA president, who shall be empowered to require a detailed statement from the proposal originator and the Contest Board Chairperson/Coordinator. He/she shall then rule

whether or not an alteration of intent has occurred. He/she shall then refer the proposal for adoption as is or for rewriting. The president's decision will be final. Additionally, AMA Headquarters shall make appropriate revisions to already adopted and related rules that are directly affected by proposals approved for *AMA Competition Regulations* incorporation.

12. Proposal Withdrawal

A proposal may be withdrawn before the Final vote notification via email by the original proposer with the concurrence of the appropriate Contest Board.

13. Publication Requirement

Publication of proposals approved by Contest Board chairpersons is mandatory prior to voting, the intent being to provide the membership with an opportunity to comment to those voting before action takes place. Notification will take place in an official AMA publication or communication following the schedule established in Exhibit A of this document.

14. Publication of Rules

- **14.1** The official version of the *AMA Competition Regulations* will be posted on the AMA website. This document will be kept current along with a record of specific changes regarding Safety/Emergency, Urgent, or Interpretation proposals. This version will supersede the version released at the start of the rules cycle.
- **14.2** Hard copies of the *AMA Competition Regulations* will be available from AMA Headquarters Competitions/Technical department upon request for a fee.

15. AMA Competition Regulations Errors, Omissions, and Unforeseen Circumstances Errors, omissions, and unforeseen circumstances shall be reported to the Competitions/Technical department staff who will immediately notify the appropriate Contest Board chairperson. If the chairperson agrees, the errors, omissions, or unforeseen circumstances may be rectified if the chairperson of each affected board, the board coordinator, and the president concur that immediate enforcement is desirable. The technical director will poll each of these to determine if each concurs with this method of enforcement.

16. FAI Rules

FAI rules are automatically part of the AMA rules. They normally require no AMA Contest Board action, so that once passed by the FAI's Committee for International Aero Modeling (CIAM), they also become official for AMA. The AMA president and the appropriate Contest Board chairperson and/or the coordinator may determine the effective date for AMA, in those cases where application sooner than scheduled by the FAI would benefit AMA team selection or other FAI activities. FAI rules change proposals from the US and US participation in voting on proposals is in accordance with policy decisions of the AMA president and/or the Executive Council.

17. Advisory Committees to the Contest Board(s)

Advisory committees and their respective chairperson may be appointed by the Contest Board chairperson/coordinator to assist the board(s). Contest Board advisory committees will automatically be dissolved at the end of the vote of a given *AMA Competition Regulations* rule proposal cycle. Appointment of these ad hoc committees is at the discretion of the appropriate board chairperson. They will operate, generally, in accordance with the "Contest Board

Procedures." In addition to an advisory role, the SIGs should be used in selecting advisory committee members. The final action/recommendations of such committees may include rules change proposals.

18. In Person Meetings

A meeting will be held once each cycle, and optional meetings for Contest Board(s) are possible. Final approval by the AMA president and AMA executive director is required. (Chairpersons must advise the technical director of his/her desire to hold this meeting by July of the preceding year so that funding for the meeting may be included in the Competitions/Technical department budget if funding is to be provided.)

19. Revisions to Contest Board Procedures

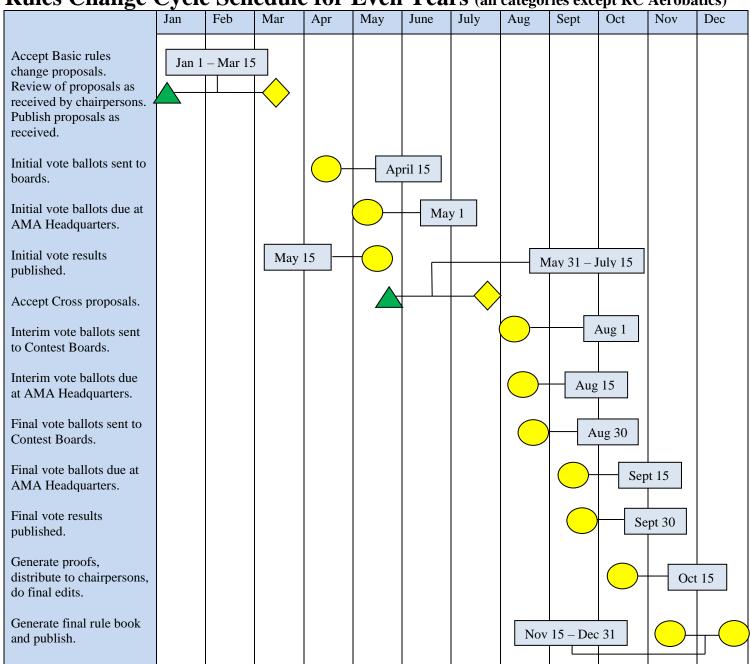
Revisions to these procedures shall require a 60% majority approval of the Contest Board chairpersons and the coordinator. The procedures will be forwarded to the Executive Council for approval.

Chairpersons and Executive Council members will review these procedures each cycle for adequacy and possible revisions.

Rules Change Cycle Schedule for Odd Years (all categories except RC Aerobatics)

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Accept Basic rules change proposals. Review of proposals as received by chairpersons. Publish proposals as received.					Jan	1 – Dec 3	1					\rightarrow

Rules Change Cycle Schedule for Even Years (all categories except RC Aerobatics)



Rules Change Cycle Schedule for RC AEROBATICS for Even Years

Rules change cycle schedule for the filth object to be found												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Accept Basic rules change proposals. Review of proposals as received by chairpersons. Publish proposals as received.					Jan	1 – Dec 3	1					\

Rules Change Cycle Schedule for RC AEROBATICS for Odd Years Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Nov Oct Dec Accept Basic rules Jan 1 – Mar 15 change proposals. Review of proposals as received by chairpersons. Publish proposals as received. Initial vote ballots sent to April 15 Contest Boards. Initial vote ballots due at May 1 AMA Headquarters. Initial vote results May 15 May 31 – July 15 published. Accept Cross proposals. Interim vote ballots sent Aug 1 to Contest Boards. Interim vote ballots due Aug 15 at AMA Headquarters. Final vote ballots sent to Aug 30 Contest Boards. Final vote ballots due at Sept 15 AMA Headquarters. Final vote results Sept 30 published. Generate proofs, Oct 15 distribute to chairpersons, do final edits. Generate final rule book Nov 15 – Dec 31 and publish.