

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION



Operations Manual

POLICY ON ALCOHOL , DRUGS AND ILLNESS

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This document forms part of the SAMAA Manual of Procedures. It is to be used by SAMAA Members and Registered Clubs in all activities associated with the flying of model aircraft in the RSA.

1. Introduction

The SAMAA intends to provide a safe environment for all its members to participate and enjoy the sport of model flying.

An important aspect of this safe environment is that those flying model aircraft do not have their ability to do so inhibited by the use of alcohol, drugs (whether for medical or other purposes), or illness.

This policy defines the standards that members are expected to follow to conform to this requirements.

The SAMAA also condemns the use by competitors at competitions of substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency for the purpose of attempting to improve performance

2. Definitions

SAMAA	South Africa Model Aircraft Association
Member	Member of the SAMAA
FAI	Federation Aeronautique Internationale
FAI Sporting Code	An FAI Publication of the General Regulations and Special Rules for Contests, Championships and Records
WADA	World Anti-doping Agency

3. Policy**3.1 Alcohol & Illegal Drugs**

When operating a model aircraft the pilot must not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

In applying this, it is not possible in a normal model flying environment to specify, and measure a specific level at which the increasing effect of, for example, alcohol impairs the performance of any given individual sufficiently, for that individual to be a danger to others flying at the same time.

For this reason, neither alcohol or illegal drugs should be consumed or used prior to, or during participation in any model flying operations.

3.2 Drugs in Sport

The SAMAA as a member of FAI requires that all members abide by the FAI Anti Doping Rules and Procedures as referred to in the General Section of the FAI Sporting Code.

SAMAA is a member of The Aero Club of South Africa, a sporting body, and all members must abide by the Policies on Drugs in Sport that covers the application of the FAI code in the South African environment

3.3 Illness

SAMAA member are expected to use their own judgement, as whether to fly or not, if they feel that either a short term (ie prescription medication) or long term condition they have will impair their ability to the point where there is an increased safety risk to themselves, fellow fliers or to the general public.

However, as a minimum, a person must not operate a model aircraft without competent supervision, taking into account the type of aircraft being flown, if their medical condition is such that it would contravene the requirements to be legally able to hold a motor vehicle driver licence or to operate a motor vehicle in their Province of residence

In this context, depending on their physical condition of the pilot and the type of model being flown, the services provided by the competent supervision could range any were between being connected to an operating transmitter via a buddy cord, to being required to start up the model, to being required to recover a free flight model from a field.

KFN