

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION



Operations Manual

POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTIONS

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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.

P0.08 SAMAA POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTIONS

1. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

International participation is one of the most important incentives for serious sustained competitive participation of members.

The alternatives of sending observers overseas or importing overseas experts is seen as poor substitutes for international participation, which has merit only when a 'new' discipline is 'testing the water'.

1. Competitive disciplines should be grouped in two classes: -
 - (a) Disciplines with Objective Performance Parameters (termed as Objectives hereafter) i.e. Gliding, Pylon Racing and Team racing.
 - (b) Disciplines with Subjective Performance Parameters (termed as Subjective hereafter) i.e. Scale, Aerobatics, Helicopters, Control Line Aerobatics and Scale Jets.
2. Multi-event team trials are mandatory.
3. It is highly desirable that models to be flown at international events be competition proven.
4. For the Objective disciplines the Interest Group will determine a world related performance level which prospective team members must achieve to qualify. This target will require ratification by the SAMAA Management Committee.

This would be used for both 'old' and 'new' disciplines. ('old' is a discipline with proven international track record; and 'new' a discipline with no track record over the last few years.)

5. For Subjective discipline: A 'new' discipline will have to 'import' a recognised International Judge to determine the local level and the Special Interest Group will determine a minimum performance level for prospective team members to qualify.

For 'old' disciplines, the Special Interest Group will determine a performance level in relation to the highest placing SA participant at the previous international event above which prospective team members have to qualify.

Performance levels to be ratified in full consultation with the SAMAA Management Committee

2. GUIDELINES FOR OVERSEAS TEAM SELECTION

(a) Eligibility of Discipline

To be eligible for consideration and receive support for attending international events under the SAMAA and the South African Aero Club sanction, a discipline must have fulfilled the following requirements: -

- The SIG must be recognised and fully approved by the SAMAA Committee and must have been in existence for 3 years or more.
- At least 3 fully approved provincial contests must have taken place in the 3 years preceding the international event concerned. For recognition, such contests should have attracted a minimum of 5 entries.
- At least 3 fully approved National Championships should have taken place, one in each of the three preceding years. To achieve recognition, such contests should have attracted a minimum of 10 entries.

(b) Eligibility of Individuals

To be eligible for team selection to an international team, an individual must meet the following requirements: -

- He must be a South African citizen or a registered South African resident of 5 years standing at the date of the chosen international event.
- He must be a member of the SAMAA in good standing at the commencement of the selection procedure and remain so throughout the entire selection process.

(c) Selection of Teams

Selection procedures for the teams to attend international events, will vary from time to time. However, team selection procedures must be approved by the SAMAA Management Committee and must be published at least six months prior to commencement of selection procedures.

At the end of the selection procedure, a best estimate of financial costs will be presented, and those selection will be requested to sign a document

confirming their availability, financial undertakings and their commitment to the country.

(d) National Colours (refer PO3)

(i) Members of a team (including team manager) will be accorded national colours by the National Sports Council before departure, but this will only be ratified after the return of the team. Only South African passport holders are eligible for National Colours.

(ii) Pylon callers and Control line mechanics will be eligible for National colours

(e) Selection of Overseas Events

- The primary objective all times must be the participation in F.A.I. accredited World Championship events.

Should participation in the World Championships be known to be impossible, an alternative high standard contest may be selected as the “primary selection”.

Should participation in the primary selection be prevented by political or other considerations, then a “secondary selection” may be made.

The primary and secondary selection must be announced simultaneously with the publication of selection procedures.

The secondary selection may not be later than 9 months after the primary selection.

- Should both alternative selections fail to materialise, the team will disband

(f) Final Approval

All teams are selected and travel under the auspices of the S.A. Aero Club and the SAMAA, in which is vested the authority of final approval of team members and the awarding of team or national colours

3. UNDERTAKING/DECLARATION

Those accepting selection must sign the following declaration at the competition of the selection process.

I undertake and declare that I am eligible for team selection and: -

- That I am a South African citizen, or a permanent resident of at least 5 years, with a valid passport.
- That I am a paid up member of good standing of the SAMAA, with a valid F.A.I. Competition License.
- That I will obtain 2 weeks leave for attending the World Championships.
- That I will have two (if applicable) competitive, fully equipped and ready to fly, easily transportable aircraft, complying with the current FAI Sporting Code, with radio frequencies as determined by the organisers.
- That I will have funds available for an overseas trip, assuming no SAMAA or government grant.
- That I will act in a sportsmanlike manner, exhibit team spirit and diplomacy at all times, and subject myself to rules, guidance and fair advice of the team manager/coach, including training and practice sessions
- That I have fulfilled the requirements for selection to the team as determined by the Committee, that selection is not automatic and that my performance warrants inclusion in the team.
- That I will not hold the SAMAA, The Aero Club Of S.A. or SIG Committee responsible should the team be refused entry, or the World Championships be cancelled.

Name, date, and signature.....

4. TEAM SELECTION PARAMETERS

The selection procedures for all teams to attend World Championship events as follows:

(a) Selection events

Three ‘events’ are used for the team selection process; two National Championships, and the SA Invitational event of every even year.

At the end of the selection process a flier should have three normalised scores, any best two to count. Team selections are based on the normalised scores of the selected events only.

(b) Team

The team will consist of the three fliers with the highest scores, per above selection criteria, plus a team manager who will be nominated and

appointed.

The Flier with the fourth highest total normalised score (best out of three) will be the official reserve/first alternate, and the flier with the fifth highest total normalised score will be the second and last alternate.

All team selection events will be contested to full F.A.1. rules.

(c) **Team Manager**

The flying members comprising the team will nominate their choice of team manager, who will be ratified and appointed by the SAMAA committee. The team manager must be an interested, active and experienced participant in the discipline being represented, with administrative and organisational abilities.

The final approval of the team rest with SAMAA and the S.A. Aero Club.

5. GENERAL NOTE

The above procedure sets down the principles and requirements for SIG Team Selection in the RSA.

But it must be remembered that each SIG may from time to time with SAMAA`S approval, alter, amend or change their selection criteria.

For the latest information check the relevant SIG Sporting Code.