

2026 IMAC Nationals: Rules and Requirements

AMA International Aeromodelling Center (IAC), 5161 E Memorial Dr, Muncie, IN 47302

July 14–17, 2026

Registration and Arrival

- 1) Pilots participating in the IMAC NATs are required to be current IMAC members in good standing, renew or join at flyimac.org
 - 2) AMA NATs registration is at <https://nats.modelaircraft.org/nats/register> Event entry fees are as follows:
Basic Registration: \$65.00 Junior: Free Open Class: Basic fee plus \$100.00
When completing the contest entry form, please answer the following additional questions:
Class competing? Are you planning to participate in the Freestyle Contest?
Your entry fee covers the contest and one banquet ticket. Additional banquet tickets may be purchased during the event for \$20.00 from the Co-Event Director.
 - 3) Upon arrival and prior to flying, please check in and pick up your Contestant Packet. Packets must be collected prior to the Pilots' Meeting.
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Practice Day and Pilots' Meeting – Monday, July 13th

- 4) The AMA event site will be available on Monday, July 13th for practice. Pilots are encouraged to utilize other flying sites in the area for practice prior to the contest.
- 5) Practice flights are limited to 10 minutes or 2 sequences, whichever comes first. Pilots exceeding this limit may be grounded from practice for a period determined by the ED, Co-ED, or other event team personnel. The goal is to ensure all pilots have an equitable opportunity for practice flights.
- 6) All flight lines shall be closed to contestants at 4:00 PM to allow adequate time to attend the mandatory 5:00 PM Pilots' Meeting.
- 7) **Mandatory Pilot's Meeting / Final Pilot Roll Call at 5:00 PM.** Location in the upstairs Boardroom at AMA Headquarters. DO NOT BE LATE. The Final Pilot Roll Call time may be adjusted earlier if attendance is higher than expected.
 - a) A judging test will be administered to all pilots and judges. The test will be open book. A passing score is required to compete. Test can be completed prior to the judges meeting at home.
 - b) The flight order will be established by pin draw at the Pilots' Meeting. Shared aircraft conflicts will be taken into consideration at this time. Note: work assignments or callers do NOT constitute a conflict.
 - c) The Tuesday Unknown sequence will be distributed following the conclusion of the Pilots'/Judges' Meeting.

Contest Rules and Format

- 8) The current AMA Scale Aerobatic Rules SHALL be followed. For questions, refer to the rulebook. The following contest-specific exceptions and clarifications apply:
 - a) Side Force Generators (SFGs) shall not be permitted during any flight, including Freestyle, at the AMA Scale Aerobatic National Championships.
 - b) If a trim flight is needed due to mechanical or maintenance issues, please contact the ED for approval. Trim flights are restricted to horizontal lines and turnaround maneuvers only.
 - c) We will be using the standard IMAC known sequences.
- 9) Contestant judging will be used during the NATs. A contestant who misses a judging assignment will have their next round zeroed. Judging assignment substitutions are permitted but must be pre-approved by the Event Director. Should a substituted assignment be missed, the originally assigned judge will receive the zero.
- 10) The standard drop schedule from the IMAC Contest Standards Guide applies throughout the contest. Exception: on the Final Day, upon completion of the fifth unknown sequence, one additional Unknown drop is allowed, for a total of two (2) Unknown drops.
- 11) The goal is to complete as many Known rounds as possible plus one Unknown per day for each of the first three days. Standard AMA rulebook timing will be applied throughout. Your cooperation in being ready to fly and judge when it is your turn is essential to maximizing flying time for all contestants.
- 12) Scores will be posted live and continuously updated at aero-judge.com during the contest. Individual scoresheets will not be printed.

Daily Schedule – Tuesday through Thursday

- 13) A short Pilots' Meeting will be held each morning at 6:45 AM. Wheels up for all days will be 7:00 AM (weather and ceiling permitting).
 - a) The pilot order will change each morning with the top two (2) pilots moving to the end of the flight order.
 - b) Should a contestant need to drop to the end of the line during a round for maintenance, radio problem, or similar issue, the contestant's pin placement will return to the original position once the round is complete.
 - c) Conflicts for callers and airplanes being shared between classes shall be considered only on the evening of the original pilot draw and applied for the random draw for the final three days.
- 14) Unknown sequence schedule:
 - a) Tuesday: The Unknown will be flown in the third [3rd] round.
 - b) Wednesday and Thursday: The Unknown will be flown first each day.
 - c) Unknown sequences for each day will be distributed the previous evening after all flying is complete.
- 15) On Thursday evening, two [2] Unknown sequences for the Final Day will be distributed at the banquet.

Final Day – Friday, July 17th

- 16) The top 50% of each class will advance to the Final Day, with no fewer than 10 and no more than 15 contestants per class. Examples: a class of 20 sends the top 10; a class of 18 sends the top 10 (rounding up); a class of 36 sends 15 (capped at the maximum). All finalists carry their full scores from the first three days into the Final Day.
- 17) The Final Day flying schedule is: Unknown 1, Known 1, Known 2, Unknown 2. All rounds are single sequences, each judged by a different panel of judges.
- 18) A new pilot order for the Final Day will be determined by the Contest Director.
- 19) All eligible contestants' scores from the full contest shall count, in full, toward their IRPS regional points tally.

Freestyle

- 20) Upon completion of precision aerobatic competition, a Freestyle Pilots' and Judges' Meeting will be held, followed immediately by the Freestyle event.
- 21) Freestyle music must be submitted to the Chief Judge prior to the conclusion of the initial pilots meeting. Pilots who have not submitted music by this deadline may still fly Freestyle, but without music. If your music is on your phone, notify the Chief Judge in advance, provide your unlock PIN, and have the music already cued for play.
- 22) Additional Freestyle rounds may be added earlier in the week depending on pilot's interest.

Scoring Questions and Disputes

- 23) Questions and disputes about scoring are handled exclusively through the Contest/ Event Director. Do not approach the judges directly.

Additional Information

The following information will be updated as it becomes available.

- Concessions will be on site, arranged by AMA.
- The banquet on Thursday, July 16th will be held in the McCullough Room on the AMA campus.
- Be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. It may be hot — please stay hydrated. In 2009 and 2011, temperatures were in the mid-40s for much of the contest.
- After hours, feel free to mingle throughout the campus and get to know your fellow pilots.
- Prior to the banquet, the AMA Museum will be open to NATs contestants and their families.
- Please obey all traffic signs while on AMA property.