

Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code

Effective January 1, 2014

- A. **GENERAL:** A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying aircraft capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere. It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance with this safety code and any additional rules specific to the flying site.
1. Model aircraft will not be flown:
 - (a) In a careless or reckless manner.
 - (b) At a location where model aircraft activities are prohibited.
 2. Model aircraft pilots will:
 - (a) Yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft.
 - (b) See and avoid all aircraft and a spotter must be used when appropriate. (AMA Document #540-D.)
 - (c) Not fly higher than approximately 400 feet above ground level within three (3) miles of an airport without notifying the airport operator.
 - (d) Not interfere with operations and traffic patterns at any airport, heliport or seaplane base except where there is a mixed use agreement.
 - (e) Not exceed a takeoff weight, including fuel, of 55 pounds unless in compliance with the AMA Large Model Airplane program. (AMA Document 520-A.)
 - (f) Ensure the aircraft is identified with the name and address or AMA number of the owner on the inside or affixed to the outside of the model aircraft. (This does not apply to model aircraft flown indoors.)
 - (g) Not operate aircraft with metal-blade propellers or with gaseous boosts except for helicopters operated under the provisions of AMA Document #555.
 - (h) Not operate model aircraft while under the influence of alcohol or while using any drug that could adversely affect the pilot's ability to safely control the model.
 - (i) Not operate model aircraft carrying pyrotechnic devices that explode or burn, or any device which propels a projectile or drops any object that creates a hazard to persons or property.
Exceptions:
 - Free Flight fuses or devices that burn producing smoke and are securely attached to the model aircraft during flight.
 - Rocket motors (using solid propellant) up to a G-series size may be used provided they remain attached to the model during flight. Model rockets may be flown in accordance with the National Model Rocketry Safety Code but may not be launched from model aircraft.
 - Officially designated AMA Air Show Teams (AST) are authorized to use devices and practices as defined within the Team AMA Program Document. (AMA Document #718.)
 - (j) Not operate a turbine-powered aircraft, unless in compliance with the AMA turbine regulations. (AMA Document #510-A.)
 3. Model aircraft will not be flown in AMA sanctioned events, air shows or model demonstrations unless:
 - (a) The aircraft, control system and pilot skills have successfully demonstrated all maneuvers intended or anticipated prior to the specific event.
 - (b) An inexperienced pilot is assisted by an experienced pilot.
 4. When and where required by rule, helmets must be properly worn and fastened. They must be OSHA, DOT, ANSI, SNELL or NOCSAE approved or comply with comparable standards.
- B. **RADIO CONTROL (RC)**
1. All pilots shall avoid flying directly over unprotected people, vessels, vehicles or structures and shall avoid endangerment of life and property of others.
 2. A successful radio equipment ground-range check in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations will be completed before the first flight of a new or repaired model aircraft.
 3. At all flying sites a safety line(s) must be established in front of which all flying takes place. (AMA Document #706.)
 - (a) Only personnel associated with flying the model aircraft are allowed at or in front of the safety line.
 - (b) At air shows or demonstrations, a straight safety line must be established.
 - (c) An area away from the safety line must be maintained for spectators.
 - (d) Intentional flying behind the safety line is prohibited.
 4. RC model aircraft must use the radio-control frequencies currently allowed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Only individuals properly licensed by the FCC are authorized to operate equipment on Amateur Band frequencies.
 5. RC model aircraft will not knowingly operate within three (3) miles of any pre-existing flying site without a frequency-management agreement. (AMA Documents #922 and #923.)
 6. With the exception of events flown under official AMA Competition Regulations, excluding takeoff and landing, no powered model may be flown outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for the pilot and the pilot's helper(s) located at the flightline.
 7. Under no circumstances may a pilot or other person touch an outdoor model aircraft in flight while it is still under power, except to divert it from striking an individual.
 8. RC night flying requires a lighting system providing the pilot with a clear view of the model's attitude and orientation at all times. Hand-held illumination systems are inadequate for night flying operations.
 9. The pilot of an RC model aircraft shall:
 - (a) Maintain control during the entire flight, maintaining visual contact without enhancement other than by corrective lenses prescribed for the pilot.
 - (b) Fly using the assistance of a camera or First-Person View (FPV) only in accordance with the procedures outlined in AMA Document #550.
 - (c) Fly using the assistance of autopilot or stabilization system only in accordance with the procedures outlined in AMA Document #560.
- C. **FREE FLIGHT**
1. Must be at least 100 feet downwind of spectators and automobile parking when the model aircraft is launched.
 2. Launch area must be clear of all individuals except mechanics, officials, and other fliers.
 3. An effective device will be used to extinguish any fuse on the model aircraft after the fuse has completed its function.
- D. **CONTROL LINE**
1. The complete control system (including the safety thong where applicable) must have an inspection and pull test prior to flying.
 2. The pull test will be in accordance with the current Competition Regulations for the applicable model aircraft category.
 3. Model aircraft not fitting a specific category shall use those pull-test requirements as indicated for Control Line Precision Aerobatics.
 4. The flying area must be clear of all utility wires or poles and a model aircraft will not be flown closer than 50 feet to any above-ground electric utility lines.
 5. The flying area must be clear of all nonessential participants and spectators before the engine is started.



It is of the utmost importance that we observe the safety rules of our particular sport. Every one of us is hurt when carelessness causes an accident and it most certainly hinders or endangers model aviation's progress. The safety rules are designed to provide guidelines that, along with common sense and good judgment, will ensure safe operations at the Skypark. It is to your personal benefit to make certain that no action on your part will result in an accident.

The following rules apply to the SCCMAS Field:

1. All AMA published rules are in effect.
2. All Santa Clara County Park rules are in effect.
3. Members and guests are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, consistent with being in a public place-this includes refraining from the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures.
4. You are responsible for your aircraft at all times.
5. AMA coverage and current SCCMAS membership required to fly.
6. Accompanied guests with AMA coverage may fly only one day before SCCMAS membership is required. Guest pilots must have filled out and signed a guest pilot form in order to fly. In addition, an SCCMAS member must sponsor and oversee the guest pilot for the day.
7. Owners name, AMA number and phone number are required in all aircraft.
8. All transmitters and receivers, other than Ham bands, must be narrow band.
9. 72 MHz transmitters must be in impound and turned off unless the frequency pin is in possession of pilot. Return frequency pin and transmitter to impound after completion of flight. No 72 MHz transmitters allowed in the pits unless turned off and stowed in transmitter box.
10. No engine start-ups before 8:30am or after sunset. Field MUST be vacated at sunset.
11. Engine start-up/arming in the designated start-up area (or at your flight station) only. Retain positive control of your aircraft until you pass the first line on the taxiway. No start-up on runway. No arming electric aircraft in the pits.
12. No landings or take-offs from taxiways or within the Red Zone (except helicopters hovering in designated areas)
13. Closed-end type mufflers required.
14. No flying in the Red Zone area behind the flight line (except helicopters hovering in designated areas)
15. Helicopters may be started in the normal start-up area. Main rotor may not be released until past the air-taxi line on the diagonal taxiways. All hover work shall take place over the grass outside of the diagonal taxiways at no higher than eye level. Once in forward flight, heli pilots shall stand at the appropriate flight stations and fly the normal fixed wing pattern in front of the flight line.
16. No hovering or 3D maneuvers over the runway with fixed-wing or rotary wing aircraft while other pilots are present unless: (a) there is only one other pilot flying at a station and you have their consent, (b) there are two other pilots aside from you practicing the same hovering maneuvers. In (a) and (b), hovering must be commenced from the runway centerline out and maximum separation of flying aircraft must occur. No individuals to be underneath a hovering aircraft.
17. Landings from the right must be from a right hand pattern. Landings from the left must be from a left hand pattern.
18. When other fliers are present at the flight line, no unannounced high speed passes closer than the far side of the runway.
19. Do not leave your aircraft or starting equipment in the start-up area. Return your aircraft and equipment to the normal pit area between flights. Remove member card from station board after each flight.
20. Fuel overflow containers must be used and fuel spills must be cleaned up immediately.
21. No smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed onsite. In addition, the AMA specifically states for its members, "I will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to nor during, the participation in any model operations."

It is the responsibility of every member to observe the guidelines set forth. If it becomes apparent that an individual is not meeting these guidelines or that common sense and good judgment doesn't seem to be prevailing, the individual will receive a verbal and/or written warning from a Club Official. If further infractions necessitate, the Governing Board may take immediate action to protect the interests of the SCCMAS, including, but not limited to, suspension of the membership privileges or termination of membership. With such actions, the AMA may be notified of the infractions and intentions of the SCCMAS. New members joining the organization who have previously received letters of reprimand or have been dismissed from this or other clubs, will be considered for renewal by the Governing Board. Their membership will be considered on probation for 180 days, if approved.