

MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
N e w s l e t t e r
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February 2001;

2001 Competition Rules and Council Conferences

The 2001 MAAA Competition Rules and Council Conferences were held over the 9th – 11th February in Melbourne with delegates from all States and mainland Territories. The State and Territory Presidents also interviewed nominees for the positions of Federal Secretary and Federal Treasurer. Most of the Competition Rules Agenda was completed on the Friday night. Of possible major interest were the following decisions:

- The Champion of Category Trophies will no longer be awarded, effective the AWA Nationals;
- Single trials will be held to select Australian teams to compete in International competition unless the MAAA Executive, on request from the relevant Sub committee or Special Interest Group, approves multiple trials.
- The length of the towline for F/F Vintage Glider was increased to 100 metres;
- All of the proposals submitted by the C/L Sub committee were referred back to the Sub committee for review and postal vote;
- Changes to the R/C Aerobatics Grading System that had been approved in principle by the 2000 Council conference were ratified;

- Two metre Glider rules were deleted as were the provisional Hand Launched Glider Rules. In place of the latter, the FAI Class F3K (Hand Launched Glider) was adopted. The Thermal Gliding Rules were amended.
- Sports Pylon Rules were deleted but Class 400 was added.
- The R/C Old Timer Rule proposals as submitted by the Sub committee but with subsequent amendment to the proposal on Rule 5.4.4.4 were accepted except that a change to 5.4.9.4.c to add engines to specified engine groups is to be referred to the Sub committee and then put to postal vote. Further, the Council directed the Sub committee to reduce the height achieved by models under power within twelve months.
- The proposals submitted by the Scale Sub committee on Stand off Scale were accepted except:
 - The proposal on Team Scale was referred to the Sub committee to define the event;
 - The proposal to delete the words “Piston Motor: 0.80 cu in maximum” was amended to delete only the engine capacity;
 - The Sub committee is to be tasked to consider adding gas turbine and wankel type engines to the permitted types of engines.
- The proposals on Large Scale were accepted.
- A late submission from the Helicopter Sub committee is to be sent to postal vote.
- The rules for Gas Turbine competition known as F4J (but not so listed by the CIAM) are to be sent to postal vote; and
- The Gas Turbine Sub committee is to be tasked at reviewing the rules of the Academy of Model Aeronautics on Gas Turbine engines.

Council Conference

The following is a summary of the major decisions of the Council:

Elections: Ivan Chiselett was elected Federal Secretary. Ivan has been the VMAA Secretary for nine years. Ian Gillespie was elected Federal Treasurer. Ian has been the Treasurer for the MAAQ.

Fees. Fees for 2001/2002 were set at:

	FULL YEAR		
	SENIOR	JUNIOR	PENSIONER
ALL STATES EXCEPT MAS NSW	\$40.00	\$15.00	\$36.00
MAS NSW	\$36.00	\$13.50	\$32.00

	CONCESSIONAL *		
	SENIOR	JUNIOR	PENSIONER
ALL STATES EXCEPT MAS NSW	\$20.00	\$7.50	\$18.00
MAS NSW	\$18.00	\$6.75	\$16.00

- A Concessional Fee of half the normal fee is available to a person who has never been a member of the MAAA and also to anyone whose membership has lapsed for more than twelve months. (This is a change)
- The Full Year fee contains a \$2.00 levy on all members, the funds so obtained are to be reserved for the purchase and/or development of flying fields. The fees also contain a component for GST.
- MAS NSW members do not have cover under the Association's Group Accident Policy.

Anti-Harrassment Rules. Rules on anti-harrassment have been prepared by a firm of lawyers and are to be considered for adoption at National, State/Territory and Club level.

The proposal to introduce two-tiered membership was withdrawn.

Bronze wings will be provided to those qualifying for the award free of charge.

All State/Territory Associations must accept the Association's Public Liability and Directors' and Officers' Insurance cover for themselves and their member organisations.

Additional quotes are to be sought for insurance coverage. The current Underwriter had increased the premiums for all policies because of GST (recoverable as an Input Tax Credit) and because of adverse losses throughout Australia and increased re-insurance costs.

The 55th Nationals, starting on the 29th December 2001, will be held in the Albury/Wodonga area. The 56th National will probably be held at Murray Bridge over Easter 2003

The Competition Rules conference is to be held every fourth year. Changes to Section 4 of the FAI Sporting Code made at two-yearly periods are to be adopted automatically.

Ron Ericson, who was Technical Secretary of the Association for six years and President for three was granted Life Membership.

The Australian Delegate will not attend the March 2001 Plenary Meeting of the International Aeromodelling Commission as an economy measure.

The structure of other organisations with a role similar to that of the MAAA are to be investigated by a Sub committee chaired by the President and a discussion paper prepared with a view of possible re-organisation of the MAAA.

Operation at 10kHz Separation

An important decision was to accept the recommendations of the Frequency Sub-Committee on the use of 10 kHz frequency spacing. This will be available to those clubs who wish to implement its usage and accept the conditions under which it can be used, from a date that is to be announced. The reason for it not being immediate is that a number of provisions need to be put in place before it can be safely used. These will include a new testing procedure and re-approval of testing stations who have the necessary equipment to be able to test both transmitters and receiver. It is important to know that until the implementation date and until all conditions are complied with the MAAA approves transmitters being operated only at a minimum of 20kHz spacing.

It is not mandatory for any club to take up the 10kHz option when available. Even within a club modellers who, because of the personal conditions imposed for 10kHz, do not wish to inter operate with their fellow modellers at 10kHz, may continue to operate at 20kHz as long as they use a frequency key that signifies 20kHz. However once a club allows 10kHz operation to be available at the flying field then all the field conditions for 10kHz have to be complied with whether modellers are using 10kHz or 20kHz.

The reasons for tighter control are that usage of 10kHz requires higher performance equipment than for 20kHz and poor operating procedures are more likely to result in interference. A fully detailed procedure will be issued nearer the time but the following are some of the conditions that will be required for 10kHz operation to be permitted.

- All transmitters **and** receivers used at 10kHz require annual testing to the new test specification
- A Silvertone© **metric** keyboard, or an approved equivalent (ie the half size board), is mandatory. (Bob Young has advised the MAAA that expressions of interest to purchase one of these will enable him to assess demand and set a competitive price). The imperial keyboard, based on a one inch grid, may not be used for 10 kHz
- A controlled flight line must be employed along which pilots are required to stand 2 metres apart and with a spread of no more than 20 metres in total length.

- Modellers must not walk down the run way away from other pilots, for example, to stand behind their models to take off, nor may they carry their transmitters with them when they retrieve their models.
- Pre-flight checks are mandatory and good building and flying processes must continue to be emphasised ,
- Models, which are vulnerable to short term interference, for example fast or heavy models, should continue to operate at 20kHz whatever the technical performance of the radio.

These mean in most cases that events such as pylon racing, glider flying, models of jet aircraft and other large and valuable aircraft must remain on 20kHz.