

Academy of Model Aeronautics

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UNITED STATES FAI F5D TEAM SELECTION PROGRAM

For the 2018 US Team Issued by the F5 Team Selection Committee

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1. This program is established to provide a basis for selecting the best possible electric powered F5D Pylon Racing team and to give the selected team sufficient time to prepare for the 2018 World Championships (WC). The 2016 F-5D Team is wholly contestant funded based on current AMA “BlueBook” guidelines. Immediately past F-5D Programs did not meet qualifying standards either in WC placings, or quantity of participants to gain AMA funding for the 2018 cycle. . The contest(s) shall take place at a time well ahead of the WC, and at a time when poor weather in some parts of the country will not inhibit prospective flyers from practicing and properly preparing for the team selection competition(s). The time frame for the 2018 selection program shall occur between the beginning of April and the end of October 2017. The date(s) of applicable event(s) shall be selected by the host organization and coordinated with the F5 Team Selection Committee (F5TSC) to avoid date conflicts with other Team Selection Regional events (if applicable) or other AMA major event.
2. Site/host selection(s) will be based upon competitive bid. Any bidding organization should show a sincere desire to host the team selection finals and/or a Regional Contest/Practice and should possess the ability to run such a contest. In the case of a Regional Contest/Practice the organizer should have a reasonable expectation of drawing (3) entered program participants. Regional organizers are encouraged to offer alternate entry classes (using down-scoped models if desired) and awards to expand general participation. The results of these classes are not considered for WC eligibility. In addition, the selected organization(s) must be able to supply the needed equipment for the contest, namely, signaling devices, timing devices, weighing devices and field measurement devices and/or coordinate with the F5TSC to borrow said equipment. The host(s) must be acceptable to a voting majority of the F5 Team Selection Committee. The host(s), upon submitting a bid, must also submit a budget of likely expenses as well as make a declaration of any additional on-site entry fees required to cover these expenses. Any monies collected that are in excess of actual expenses will be accounted for and sent to the AMA for the F5D Team Fund, while any shortfalls will be the responsibility of the hosting organization.

3. The preferred selection methodology is a series of 5 to 7 Monthly Regional Contests to be held around the Country to enable access to as many program participants as possible. Any International FAI-F5D World Cup event held on US soil shall be considered a Regional event with a date protected from other such events. The F5TSC shall compile a list of bids and timeframes from bidding organizations and then compile and publish a schedule of Regional Contests. The schedule shall be publicized via RCGROUPS, AMA WEBSITE and that of hosting organizations as applicable. The open period for Regional Contest bids shall begin in January, 2017 and end when up to (7) are received and approved. A regional contest may be conducted as a (3) Round subset of a larger, general training/ practice session involving multiple models per pilot and/or experimental models. For the designated Competition Rounds, each pilot will pre-designate (if more than one is prepared) the model that will be used for scoring purposes. The scoring model will be inspected and certified by Contest organizers to be rules compliant. The scoring models/pilots shall be grouped together as closely as practical to share the same atmospheric conditions. The Contest shall be conducted substantially within FAI rules with any deviations approved by the F5TSC in advance. The program qualification standard is a maximum of 70 seconds to complete 10 laps with no cuts.
4. The lowest (3) times from each contestant and each contest are to be retained and tabulated for WC Team eligibility. The results shall be submitted to the F5TSC with 48 hours of completion of the contest. The lowest (15) times shall be tabulated for the Team Determination on 31 October or the last scheduled event of the 2017 flying season, whichever comes first.
5. If the preferred method of Monthly Regional Contests is not executed, either due to insufficient Regional Contest bids and/or only a bid is received for a (2) day, (12) Round Contest then a (2) Day, (12) Round Contest shall select the US Team. The contest shall be publicized per paragraph 3 above and any offered bids for Regional Contests rejected/cancelled. The format of the team selection finals will be in accordance with the current FAI Sporting Code with no un-advertised deviations allowed. There will be twelve (12) rounds flown, weather permitting, with (10) counting for the final score (the highest times shall be dropped. The event shall occur within the timeframes specified in paragraph 1 above will cover at least two days, with no more than (7) rounds flown on any day.
6. Administrative requirements for participation in the team selection:
 - a. Individuals must have submitted a \$20.00 Program entry fee to AMA and have program details from the AMA. This fee must be paid prior or at the first regional contest/practice or prior to the (2) day team selection event.
 - b. Competitors will pay to the AMA the entry fee of \$50 postmarked no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled team selection finals. This will allow the AMA time to prepare a roster of qualified paid participants to be in possession of the finals contest director prior to the date of the team selection finals.
 - c. Refund requests for a finals fee must be received at AMA headquarters no later than two weeks prior to the team selection finals.

7. The team will be selected at the team selection finals or at the conclusion of the last regional contest/practice where the top three finishers will constitute the team. The fourth place finisher will be the alternate. As the entry fee for the World Championship is 330 euros, and this year's team is self-funded, a good faith advance payment of \$500.00 will be collected at the time of the awards presentation and submitted to the AMA toward WC entry fees, with excess refunded. The contestants are wholly responsible for their own travel, lodging and meal expenses during the World Championships. In the event it is later found that a selectee and the alternate cannot fulfill his/her obligation to participate in the World Championship, the 4th, 5th, 6th, etc., in serial order, will be offered the opportunity to replace him/her (AMA must approve such a replacement). The \$500.00 payment will be required immediately upon appointment and the abdicating pilots' fee refunded. If upon conclusion of the Team Selection program period that neither Team Selection method has been executed fully it will be the responsibility of the F5TSC to select the team in a fair and honest manner based on any/all available results. Common tie breakers such as raw times will be used to select the team.

8. A team manager will be selected in accordance with the current FAI Procedures Document.

a. Pre-finals. Team manager appointments are preferred in advance of the team selection. When this occurs, the team manager is able to immediately provide leadership to begin team preparation. When there are less than four months between the team selection event and the World Championships, the team manager must be selected prior to the finals, and that person may not further participate in the selection of program if he/she is so enrolled.

b. Post-finals. When there are more than four months between the team selection finals and the World Championships, the team manager may be selected after the finals. This selection should not be immediately after the finals, but a delay is preferable to afford them to carefully consider all prospects.

c. Nominations for the position of team manager will be accepted from the AMA membership community; groups which can be involved in this process may include: program participants, the presidents of AMA recognized special interest groups, previous and current team members and helpers, AMA headquarters, and the team selection committee. A prospective team manager need not have been an FAI competitor. However, he or she must be thoroughly knowledgeable of the rules of the event for which he/she is being considered.

d. Appointment. AMA headquarters and the FAI Executive Committee in consultation with the chairman of the F5 Team Selection Committee shall make the actual appointment. The FAI Executive Committee or Headquarters may select someone of their own choosing if not satisfied with the names submitted.

e. The FAI Executive Committee has the authority to replace a team manager or team members.

9. This program will remain in effect permanently. It may be amended or revised by a majority vote of the team selection committee and the program participants.