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# Academy of Model Aeronautics

## World Record Attempts



*Information to guide you in your  
World record attempt*



*Published by the AMA Competitions Department*

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# World Record Attempts

## Introduction

Attempting a world record is a substantial undertaking. This document is provided to help educate you in many of the intricacies of the process. *This is not intended as the final authoritative document on the subject.* It is up to the person or team making the attempt to assure that the attempt is done in accordance with all rules set forth for the category in which the attempt is being made. Additionally, this covers a multitude of records so there is no way to cover them all in a concise document.

### **Academy of Model Aeronautics, the National Aeronautic Association and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale**

Prior to making your attempt, it is important to understand the relationships between AMA, NAA, and FAI. Starting at the top and working backward, Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) is the international organization responsible for the coordination of airports, competition, and the certification of all aviation and space records in the world.

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is the National Aero Club of the United States. NAA is the United States representative to FAI. NAA is responsible for coordination and certification of all aviation and space records originating in the United States.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is an associate member of NAA. Through NAA, AMA is recognized by the FAI as the only organization which may direct U.S. participation in international aeromodeling activities. AMA is responsible for the coordination, sanctioning, and certification of all aeromodeling records originating in the United States.

Aeromodeling records begin with AMA. All of your contact is strictly through AMA. You do not need to contact NAA or FAI in regards to your attempt. Your attempt sanction and all reporting is done through AMA, who in turn will forward the necessary information to NAA and NAA in turn forward the information to FAI. This, while sounding complicated, is in fact simple for you. You need only contact the Competitions Department at AMA HQ; we do the rest for you.

## Getting Started

**Do some reading** to begin preparing for your attempt. It is very important that you become familiar with the FAI *Sporting Code*. This is the document that sets the rules and regulations for your attempt. In some cases (F3D pylon as an example) records must be set in competition. If that is the case most of the rules for your attempt will come from that section of the *Sporting Code*. However, most attempts are not done as part of competition; they are done purely as World Record attempts. Section ABR, part seven' has the rest of the record information. A copy of part seven is included with this document. Additionally be certain you have the most current copy of the *Sporting Code*. You may download it from the FAI web site at [www.fai.org/aeromodelling/](http://www.fai.org/aeromodelling/) or receive a hard copy from the AMA Competitions Department if there is any doubt as to the date of your copy.

■ **Do some reading** to begin preparing for your attempt

**Copies of dossiers from previous attempts** are also an excellent source of information for you to read. Dossiers will be explained a bit later, however; they are basically a written summary of the record attempt. Dossiers of most U.S. world record attempts are available from the Competitions Department.

## World Record Classes

TABLE 1

### CLASSIFICATION OF RECORDS

Flight category	Type of model aircraft	Class	Method of propulsion	Duration	Distance in a straight line	Gain in altitude	Speed	
	Glider	Open		101	102	103		
F1 FREE FLIGHT	Aeroplane	Open	Extensible Motor	104	105	106	107	
		Open	Piston Motor	108	109	110	111	
	Glider	F1A		112 Duration in competition				
	Aeroplane	F1B	Extensible Motor	113 Duration in competition				
		F1C	Piston Motor	114 Duration in competition				
	Indoor Aeroplane				DURATION			
					Ceiling Cat I <8M	Ceiling Cat II 8<15 M	Ceiling Cat III 15<30 M	Ceiling Cat IV >30 M
		Open	Extensible Motor	115(a)	115(b)	115(c)	115(d)	
		F1D	Extensible Motor	125(a)	125(b)	125(c)	125(d)	
		F1L	Extensible Motor	116(a)	116(b)	116(c)	116(d)	
		F1M	Extensible Motor	117(a)	117(b)	117(c)	117(d)	
	Indoor Glider	F1N		118(a)	118(b)	118(c)	118(d)	
					DURATION IN COMPETITION			
					One Flight	Two Flights	6 Flights	
Indoor Aeroplane	F1D	Extensible Motor	119	120	121			
	F1L	Extensible Motor	122	123	124			
F2 CONTROL LINE CIRCULAR FLIGHT	Aeroplane				SPEED			
					SWEPT VOLUME cm <sup>3</sup>			
					I	II	III	IV
					0,00 to 1,00	1,01 to 2,50	2,51 to 5,00	5,01 to 10,00
				130	131	132	133	
				Speed in Competition				
			134					
			135					
	F2C	Reaction Motor	100 laps - 57*				200 laps - 58*	
		Piston Motor						

\*Only in World Championships & Continental Championship

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Flight category	Type of model aircraft	Class	Method of propulsion	Duration	Distance in a straight line	Gain in altitude	Distance Goal and return	Speed	Distance in a closed circuit	Speed in a closed circuit
F3 RADIO CONT. FLIGHT	Aeroplane		Piston Mot.	141	142	143	144	145	146	147
	Seaplane		Piston Mot.	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
	Glider			155	156	157	158	159	160	161
	Helicopter		Piston Mot.	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
	Aeroplane	F3D	Piston Mot.							10 laps 83
F5 RADIO CONT. FLIGHT	Aeroplane		Elec Mot.S	171	172	173	174	175	176	177
			P	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
			SOL	185	186	187	188	189	190	191
			COMB	192	193	194	195	196	197	198
	Helicopter		Elec. Mot.	199	200	201	202	203	204	205
	Aeroplane	F5D	Elec. Mot.							10 laps 90

The designations shown in the above chart are the designations your attempts dossier and claims must use. This assures that there are no misunderstandings in regards to which record you are making an attempt for.

## FAI Sporting License and the Sanction for Your Attempt

**You must hold an FAI Sporting License to be eligible for a world record.** The license is available from AMA HQ. This must be purchased prior to you making the attempt. At the time of this writing the cost was \$50.

Your world record attempt must be sanctioned by AMA to be valid. This means you must send a letter requesting your attempt be sanctioned to the Competitions Department at AMA HQ prior to your attempt. The attempt must be directed by an AMA Contest Director.

An individual sanction is available to any current AMA member who has purchased an FAI Sporting License. The fee for this sanction is \$2.00 per category. Your request letter must be sent directly to AMA HQ. Be sure to specify the category of record attempt according to the chart shown above (Table 1 FAI Classification of Records). World record sanctions are good until December 31 of the application year. This allows you a "window" of opportunity to make your attempt, without having to worry about the weather on a specific day or days.

A sanction for an individual attempt:

- Non-transferable from one category to another.
- Each sanction good until December 31 of the application year.
- Must be directed by a current AMA Contest Director.

Club sanctions are also available. This would be used when the members of a club want to host a period of time (three days maximum) that puts the officials and observers in place for multiple record attempts. The cost for this sanction is \$10.00. The event must be hosted by an AMA chartered club and directed by an AMA Contest Director. All other requirements as described in this document apply included to those included in the individual attempt areas.

## Putting Your Team Together

**The team you put together is probably the most important element of a successful attempt.** Each record category has specific requirements for observers, directing officials, and other personnel. Select these people carefully and be sure that they can deal with the time frames you will have to deal with (one day notice because the weather is going to be good). Also be sure you have carefully checked the *Sporting Code* to make sure you have everyone you need in place.

**Of course, you also need your team of people actually involved in the attempt.**

These folks may only be you or they may be two or more other people, depending on the attempt. This should be a short list of your primary people involved in actually making the record attempt. Don't list people just to be nice to them or honor them. These must be the people who that really made it happen and, of course, in accordance with the FAI *Sporting Code*.

## Making Proper Notifications

**You must ensure that you make certain notifications prior to and following your attempt.** You must contact the Competitions Department at AMA HQ on the last business day prior to making your attempt. You must do this by telephone or e-mail. If by phone confirm you are talking to someone from the Competitions Department. If by e-mail you must receive a confirming e-mail in return; if you do not, **CALL**.

Following your attempt, if successful you must contact the Competitions Department the next business day to give them the preliminary claim data. The contact confirmation is the same as in the above step. Your preliminary data must include:

- Record category
- Record subclass
- Record claimed
- Claimants name(s)
- Location of record attempt
- Date of record attempt

## The Dossier

The dossier is your description of the record attempt. It has several required elements; these are included in the FAI *Sporting Code* under Table III. These elements are also described in the *Sporting Code* Section 7, paragraph 7.11. Be sure to include and have signed off (as required) on all of these elements. The description of the attempt is your narrative of the attempt. This should include a brief description of the flight plan. Pertinent factors such as weather, special equipment in the model or on the ground, or any unusual circumstances occurring during the flight. Some dossiers are brief; others are quite long, depending on the complexity of the attempt. You must submit three original copies of the dossier to AMA HQ.

**The dossier must be submitted to AMA HQ within 30 days of making the attempt.**

**The record attempt submission must be accompanied with payment in the amount of \$250. No dossiers will be forwarded to NAA and FAI without prior payment.**

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## The Steps to a Successful Attempt

**Preparation is the key to making your attempt successful.** This guide has attempted to help you understand the administrative items; however the physical preparation you put into the attempt is completely up to you and your team and is critical to the success of your attempt. Attaining world records have grown in difficulty over the years as new records have been set. Occasionally when rules are changed new records can be set at fairly low standards, but they quickly increase from there. In many cases attempting a world record is also an expensive endeavor. So be sure that you and your team are prepared.

1. Know the rules regarding your attempt.
2. Make sure that the goal is obtainable for your team.
3. Put your team in place.
4. Sanction the attempt.
5. Notify HQ at least 24 hours prior to making the attempt.
6. Notify HQ with the preliminary claim data the next business day after the attempt is made.
7. Prepare the dossier within 30 days and send three original copies to AMA HQ.
8. Include necessary, signed FAI forms in dossier.