Academy of Model Aeronautics

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2026 USA FAI JUNIOR FREE FLIGHT TEAM SELECTION PROGRAM (JrTSP)

MISSION STATEMENT

The junior team selection program exists to provide a substantial reward to young Free Flight modelers who have demonstrated a high degree of interest in the sport and the willingness to continually improve their flying skills and the performance of their models. They must demonstrate a degree of proficiency of competing with their models without direct adult involvement. The purpose of this program is to provide a fair process of selecting the Junior Sportspersons to compete in the Junior FAI Free Flight World Championship currently scheduled for the summer of 2026 at a location to be determined at a future date.

1.0 PROGRAM ENTRY

A participant must have a current AMA membership.
Any person who will be under the age of 19 throughout the entire calendar year of 2026 is eligible.

Eligible interested individuals enter the program by filling out an application (Jr TSP Form A). It is recommended that the application be submitted as soon as possible to receive Junior Team selection newsletters but **no later than December 1, 2025**. There is no charge for Junior Team Selection program entry. The AMA license fee and any contest entry fees are the responsibility of the entrant. The events to be flown are F1A, F1B, F1P and F1Q.

2.0 JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION COMMITTEE

The junior program will be governed by the Senior Free Flight Team Selection Committee. The Jr Team Selection Committee (JrTSC) is to be composed of three to four adults. The JrTSC members will hold the following positions at a minimum: Chairperson, Score keeper and Fund Raiser. It is desired to select active FAI FF modelers that attend numerous FAI FF contests in order to witness as many Jr FF modelers as possible. It is also desired to have one JrTSC member in the East, Central

and West part of the country. Interested individuals should contact the JrTSC Chairman after the proceeding Junior World Championships. If a JrTSC member has a family member applying for the Jr Team, they will not be eligible to participate in that event's ranking process for that event. For this program, the JrTSC members are:

Chairperson: Charlie Jones
Sevak Malkhasyan
Jim Parker

3.0 TEAM SELECTION

The USA Junior FAI Free Flight Team Selection Program (JrTSP) for the 2026 World Championships will be based on a two- part process.

1. Ranking using 2025-26 America's Cup Competition results.
2. The Jr Team Selection Committee's evaluation of the Junior's flying proficiency and team member interaction with other juniors and adults.

America Cup Competition Ranking

The junior's **five** best AmCup contest points will be added together and then will be will be ranked in order, highest point total ranked 1, seconded highest points ranked 2 etc. against the other junior participants**. A minimum of 430 points is required for consideration to be selected to the team.**

Junior entrants ranking will be based on the total points from the **five** best America Cup contest results between January 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026. The contest schedule can be found on the NFFS webpage
https://www.freeflight.org/free-flight-calendar/

The points will be based on the individual's regular round time total ratioed to the regular round time total of the winning score. Regular round time total means that the flyoff times are not used. The winning score is per the America Cup rules. **Five** (best) contest point totals within 2% of each other will be considered a tie and the tied junior's will receive the highest ranking.

Example 1: Top Reg. Rnd time = (180 sec x 7 rnd) + 300sec FO + 455 sec FO = 2015 sec
Jr competitor = (180 x 3 rnd) +150 + 133 + 167 sec = 990 sec
Score = [990 / (180 x 7)] x 100 = 79 points

Example 2: Top Reg. Rnd time = (180 sec x 7 rnd) + 300sec FO + 455 sec FO = 2015 sec
Jr competitor = (180 sec x 7 rnd) + 172 sec FO
Score = [180 x 7 / (180 x 7)] x 100 = 100 points

Example 3: Top Reg. Rnd time = 1135 sec
Jr competitor = 1135 sec
Score = [1135 / 1135)] x 100 = 100 points

The individual times and points achieved by the junior team entrants will be maintained by the America Cup Score Keeper and published on SCAT Electronic News (SEN).

Junior Team Selection Committee's Evaluation

The second ranking is the JrTSC evaluation of the junior's flying proficiency, model preparation, interaction with other junior flyers. The level of competition, flying conditions and max times at the America Cup contests will also be considered during the ranking process. Also the maturity level of the junior as determined by the junior's ability to travel overseas, this will be evaluated from an overview of the minor junior flyer with the parent or legal guardian that would attend the Junior World Championship. The junior flyer that is determined to require less adult intervention while preparing and flying their models will receive a highest ranking. This will be determined by the observation of the JrTSC. They will also make inquiries of other active FAI Free Flight modelers as needed. The evaluation form in Appendix A will be the basis for the evaluation. Additional Criteria will be added if needed. The juniors will be ranked in order, highest point total ranked 1, seconded highest points ranked 2 etc.

Team Selection

The AmCup based ranking score will be added to the JrTSC ranking to determine the **four** team members in each event (provided one team member is a female competitor) and first alternate. In the event of a tie, the JrTSC will re-evaluate using the above described criteria to break the tie.

The top **four** junior flyers in each event will be required to complete the AMA team membership agreement form, which will be sent from AMA. The final announcement of the Junior Team will then be made for the 2026 Junior World Championships with goal to do so by Feburary 28, 2026. It is the prerogative of the JrTSC not to select a full 16-member team as deemed appropriate due to the qualifications of the applicants or funding constraints.

The JrTSC will also maintain the authority to place late entrants in uncontested Junior Team positions, but is not obligated to fill an open team position. Application for an uncontested team position must be submitted in writing or email to the JrTSC chairman by February 28, 2026. The junior must provide contest performance information as an attachment to Form A. If more than one application is received, the JrTSC will use the evaluation criteria listed above to fill the open team position.

4.0 TEAM AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Before traveling team members must have a current NAA membership and a passport for both travel and to verify age as required by FAI regulations and meet all USA and host country travel (medical/vaccine) requirements.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics requires that all minors have a parent or a legal guardian with them during the Junior World Championship trip. A legal guardian must

have documented power of attorney and commit to travel with the minor and be responsible for the minor for the entire trip. The Junior Team Manager has the discretion to accept or not to accept the legal guardianship of a minor if so requested.

5.0 FUNDING

AMA will provide some funding per junior team member for cost of attending and competing at the Junior W.C. This funding is determined by the success of the previous team and participation in the current team selection process. The AMA BlueBook for FAI Team Seleciton provides the guidelines for how teams will be funded. Donations will be sought to offset the additional costs of travel and competitions. The goal of the Jr TSC is to pay 100% of the junior team member's costs. To date all past teams have met this goal. However, if donation funds to not meet the expenditures the team member would be required to pay the difference.

5.1 CERTIFICATION OF MODELS

Each model must have an identifying voucher on the wing per the FAI Sporting Code. Vouchers are available through AMA Headquarters. Other regulations are as specified for that model type in the FAI Sporting Code.

FORM A

2024 USA FAI FREE FLIGHT JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION PROGRAM

Date Completed:

Entrant's Name:

AMA#

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Date of Birth:

Junior Team Event(s):

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Email equivalent information to:

Sevak Malkhasyan
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