

Scale Free Flight Brief 73 December 2023

Not much happened in November so I skipped that edition. December is no different but there is quite a bit of news for next season.

Scale Free Flight Calendar.

This is the first version. There are some events that are not confirmed yet but it is going to be busy IF the weather allows us.

I draw your attention to the new early in the season indoor events. Calendar attached.

You may also notice that the Outdoor Scale Free Flight Nationals is scheduled to be held at Buckminster over the weekend of the Festival of Scale in June (long and hopefully calm evenings). Large venues, where we are able to fly larger models, are reducing in availability and it is getting difficult to organise an independent event just for Free Flight. Therefore, we are promoting the use of Buckminster as a regular site for Scale Free Flight in conjunction with RC and CL scale disciplines and any other events that may be compatible.

There are a lot of positives for Buckminster, the main one being everything we need is onsite at scale meetings, from judges and a hanger to toilets etc. A café too will become available. It is family friendly so bring your partners and family.

The obvious challenge is the size of the flying area for free flight and for this will need a shift in the approach and a change in tack as to how we build and fly our models. The smaller .75cc powered size model with a wing span below 40 inches seems to be more prevalent now and is better suited to the site rather than the 1.3cc 50inch jobbie. The larger model is still flyable with care in calm weather. I trimmed my 51inch DH4 there. The larger indoor size model would also be an option.

The BMFA Scale rules for free flight were amended to allow a qualifying flight of 15 seconds for all classes so this can help to keep the model in the field. We do not need a 3 min "in the corn" max.

The Nats are over two days so we can benefit from the option of choice of days if the weather forecast is not favourable for either of the days. There is too much stress and worry with a one day only event.

I am asking for scale free flight modellers that enter formal contests and the casual flier and all those in between to be positive and give it a chance to succeed.

The alternative is not good news.

Hip Pocket Aeronautics



They're back . Well done to all concerned. Please go to

https://www.hippocketaeronautics.com/hpa_forum/index.php?topic=27263.msg293908#new

To view this reinstated website and a thread for the 2024 BMFA Scale Indoor Nationals started by Pete Fardell.

Scale Indoor RC and FF Nationals 2024. 20th & 21st April

The organising committee has started early to prepare for this event and are putting out a call for any persons being interested to help out on either or both days. Static judging, Front of house including raffle, shop and reception, even if it is just a couple of hours. I have contacted a number of "volunteers" and thanks to them for committing their time and effort in advance. Many hands make light work.

Please contact me if you would like to join in the party.

BMFA Scale Rules

The scales rules for 2024 have now been through the process of amendments, changes and consultation etc. They have been approved by the Scale Technical Committee and are on the way to being published by the BMFA.

If you have a project in mind or are building a competition model it may be useful to know what changes there are for the classes. (mainly Intermediate) Please contact me if you would like to know what these are.

Most of the changes are clarifications of the existing rules.

Classes that have changes that may influence your model or Documentation are as the following summary.

Competitor's Declaration required in **all classes with a static element**.

This includes FF Indoor and Outdoor Intermediate, Peanut, Pistachio and Indoor Kit Scale as well as the Open classes.

6.1.1.7 Clarification of Competitors Declaration requirements.

6.1.2.4 Amendment to Penalties for inadequate documentation.

6.1.2.5 Guide to Documentation and Presentation is now available on STC website.

6.2.1.2 Control Line CL1 class. Change of static judging rules to 6.1.2

6.3.2 Class RC2 Clarification of photograph requirements

6.3.4 Class RC3 & RC4 Amendment to class entries and certificate awards conditions

6.3.4 / 5 / 6 Indoor RC Classes RCX1 / 2 / 3 Flight Schedules and flight K factors are now the same.

6.3.6.9 RCX3 Amendment to Static rules scores and 6.3.6.10 calculation of Total Static Score.

Scale Helicopter classes have been removed from this rule book.

6.4.1 General Free Flight Rules clarification.

6.4.1.9 Clarification of Proxy Flying

6.4.5 FF4 Outdoor Intermediate class. Change to Documentation requirements and score calculation.

6.4.6 FF5 Outdoor Flying Only. 6.4.6.4 Reinstatement of Qualifying flight time.

All Free Flight classes. Further clarification of Official and Qualifying flights.

6.4.11 FFX3 Indoor Intermediate. Change to Documentation requirements and Static judging.

6.4.12 FFX Indoor Kit Scale. Change of K factors and 6.4.12.8 calculation of Total Score.

Have a good Christmas and a New Flying Year.

Mike