

# The South African Model Aircraft Association



## **SAMAA CODE OF CONDUCT** DOC-SAMAA-004

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**1. CODE OF CONDUCT**

- a. The SAMAA is an anti-discriminatory and harassment free organisation which abides by a 'code of conduct', contained in the SAMAA MOP's. The purpose of this code is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all SAMAA members and those who participate in the activities of flying model aircraft.
- b. The SAMAA seeks to provide a safe environment for all its members and those who participate in the activities of model flying.
- c. This code of conduct confirms that the SAMAA, its committee and its members shall not tolerate harassment, discrimination, victimization, or abuse of those involved in it, or its member's activities.
- d. This code records the SAMAA's commitment to strong ethical principles, requiring that all people participating in its activities shall comply with principles of responsible and professional behaviour.
- e. The SAMAA advocates that those who participate in model aircraft activities have the right to be treated with respect, dignity, to have any complaints dealt with in a fair, confidential, and sensitive manner.
- f. This code recognises that certain types of harassment and discrimination are unlawful and that the notification of abuse to the relevant Government authority, in certain cases, is a legal requirement.
- g. The SAMAA and its members seek to recruit and retain only those people who commit to the principles set out in this code.
- h. SAMAA members are required to act within the relevant Government laws and shall abide by the appropriate Government regulations applicable to those people who have unsupervised contact with children under the age of 18 years old.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of all SAMAA members to ensure that their actions conform to the Code of Conduct and that they respect the rights of other members.

**3. R/C FIELD ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM**

- a. Field etiquette is intended to outline the behaviour which is expected of all SAMAA members operating at clubs and flying sites. It is a common courtesy.
- b. All members shall comply with the SAMAA Constitution, Safety Rules, Manual of Procedures, Club rules, and the Civil Aviation Regulations and Technical Standards where applicable. For SAMAA see [www.samaa.org.za](http://www.samaa.org.za).
- c. No member shall do anything to bring the sport of model aviation into disrepute.
- d. Radio control pilots flying on 27, 35, 53 and 54 MHz shall place their club and SAMAA membership cards on the correct spot on the frequency board before switching on their transmitters. All pilots must restrict their use of their operating frequency to a maximum of 20 minutes, when others are waiting to fly and shall remove their cards, or markers from the frequency board after each flight, and return their transmitter to the Tx impound.
- e. Radio control pilots using 2.4GHz, shall place their club and SAMAA membership cards on the space provided for 2.4GHz on the frequency board. A pilot shall restrict his flying time to a maximum of 20 minutes, when others are waiting fly, or the club limit on the number of models in the air at one time is reached. The pilot shall remove his cards from the frequency board after each flight and return his transmitter to the Tx impound.
- f. Members shall be considerate when flying and shall operate their aircraft in a way that does not interfere with or be a danger to other pilots, or members of the public.
- g. Members shall show due consideration, and shall not:
  - i. Monopolise the runway by doing touch-and-go's
  - ii. Shoot up the runway without the permission of other pilots
  - iii. Fly irresponsibly, or dangerously

- iv. Be inconsiderate to other users of the airspace
- v. Have noisy, or inadequately silenced engines in their model aircraft
- vi. Unnecessarily run or tune their model engines in the pit area
- vii. Prop-wash other aircraft and equipment in the pit area
- viii. Borrow or use other pilots' equipment, or tools without their permission
- ix. Make themselves guilty of substance abuse
  - x. Not use profane language or gestures
  - xi. Not litter the club premises, ablution facilities, or car park
  - xii. Not disturb fauna and flora
  - xiii. Willfully break the lateral and vertical limits of operation.
- h. Members shall, in the interest of safety, assist by holding a fellow flier's aircraft during engine start up, especially large model aircraft. Carrying a fellow flier's model to the take-off area is an added courtesy.
- i. Members shall have a spotter or caller when flying, especially when full-size manned aircraft or helicopters are overflying or are spotted near the model flying site.
- j. Disagreements shall be conducted in a positive manner, without personal or insulting comments being made, particularly in a public forum and especially not to the media.

**4. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAMAA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)**

- a. Note: SIG members shall conform to the SAMAA Special Interest Groups & Competitions as in the SOP-SAMAA-012, where applicable.
- b. All activities conducted by the SIG must be aimed at promoting the sport of model aviation both for the specific discipline and in general.
- c. Neither the SIG nor its members shall bring the sport of model aviation into disrepute.
- d. The SIG shall conduct itself at all times in a manner that is consistent with the aims and objectives of the SAMAA.
- e. Membership of the SIG shall be open to any member of the SAMAA. All members shall be treated equally, respectfully, and consistently.
- f. Any event organised by a SIG on behalf of the SAMAA shall be open to all SAMAA members, and participation shall not be unreasonably refused.
- g. The SIG committee shall ensure that its members are treated fairly, treat each other with mutual respect, and support each other to develop both individual and collective skills.
- h. Debates and meetings on issues concerning the SIG and its members, shall be conducted in a positive manner, without personal or insulting comments being made, particularly in a public forum and especially not to the media.

**5. R/C FIELD ETIQUETTE FOR SIGS**

As most SIG's do not have their own field or club, it requests the use of an existing club field. The members of that club may be inconvenienced for the duration of the competition. It is good etiquette for the SIG to ensure that the following actions are taken:

- a. The SIG shall ensure that the Rules and Regulations of the club are followed and observed.
- b. The SIG shall confirm with the club at least two weeks before the event, that they require the use of the field on the day/s reserved.
- c. The SIG shall ensure that the club facilities are respected, and left in a fit state, and that litter is not left on the site, and deposited in the rubbish bins.
- d. As soon as practical after completion of the competition, the club's members shall be informed that the competition is over, and they may proceed to fly.
- e. The use of the field and facilities shall be acknowledged at prizegiving functions.