



AMA Introductory Pilot Program

(Applies to all categories of model flying — RC, CL, and FF)

Please Note: This program is not intended to alter or replace any instructor program offered by AMA chartered clubs for their AMA-licensed members. This program is only intended to introduce the non-AMA member to aeromodeling while providing liability insurance coverage to the non-AMA member and the chartered club. This program is optional.

A non-AMA member may fly at a chartered club field and receive member liability insurance protection as long as he/she is flying under the direct supervision of a club-designated Introductory Pilot. The Introductory Pilot must hold a current AMA open membership license with the “Intro Pilot” classification. Supervised flights must take place at an AMA chartered club’s field, and must be closely supervised in a one-on-one relationship. The non-AMA member will have the same liability insurance coverage that other AMA members receive, solely while under the direct, one-on-one supervision of the Intro Pilot, for a period of 30 consecutive days starting from the first session. No other AMA benefits are provided to the non-AMA member.

Participation in this program is on a one-time basis only; an extension cannot be granted for any reason. This program covers training activities only, and does not constitute permission to fly in any organized event of AMA members or clubs, sanctioned or otherwise. No AMA card will be issued to the non-AMA member during the 30-day introduction period.

Intro pilots should use a model with which they are familiar. If the non-AMA member’s model is used, it should be carefully checked and the Intro Pilot should fly it until familiar with it. High performance aircraft should not be used for training. For radio control clubs, a “buddy box” is recommended. Aircraft must be identified with the owner’s name and address, or the club’s name, address, and charter number.

The restriction of the number of Intro Pilots per club has been removed. Chartered clubs are requested to have a reasonable number of Open AMA members as Intro Pilots each year. The “reasonable number” will be a matter for AMA to decide based upon the club. AMA HQ will verify that all designees are current Open members. There is a \$5 per pilot administrative fee in addition to the Open member’s annual dues. A club officer must complete the Introductory Pilot Designation form and submit it to AMA HQ with the \$5 per pilot fee. An Intro Pilot may work with more than one chartered club; however, he/she must be designated by each club and the \$5 fee must be paid by each club.

All record keeping is the responsibility of the chartered club and its designated Intro Pilots. Using forms provided by AMA, clubs shall establish and maintain up-to-date records showing date of enrollment and date of termination for each non-AMA member enrolled in the program. Failure to maintain records may be cause for revocation of the Intro Pilot’s status. Neither the club nor the Intro Pilot is permitted to charge any training fees. The granting, duration, and revocation of Intro Pilot status is at the sole discretion of the chartered club.

The Intro Pilot must instruct the non-AMA member in club-related field safety rules. Each non-AMA member must be given a copy of the *AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code*, and a copy of this document. Policy limits for model aircraft are \$2,500,000 per occurrence involving bodily injury and/or property damage with an overall limit of \$15,000,000 in the aggregate. This coverage is provided as “excess” to other applicable coverage the non-AMA member, club or Intro Pilot may have. Property damage claims carry a \$250 per accident deductible. No liability protection is provided to the non-AMA member when flying away from the chartered club site, with or without the Intro Pilot. Neither AMA, the chartered club, nor the Intro Pilot shall be liable for any damage done to a non-AMA member’s aircraft.

A report to AMA HQ of any incident is the responsibility of the Intro Pilot and the chartered club. A telephone report by the close of business the following business day, followed by a written report, is required.

Clubs are encouraged to develop and implement their own formal training program. Contact AMA for information, suggestions, and samples of programs being used by other clubs.