



Public Letter 2/06

February 2006

www.fai.org/aeromodelling/ciamflyer

Editor: emil.giezendanner@modellflugsport.ch

The Seven Rules for Teaching Model Aircraft Construction

1. Model flight always has to do with flying. However, the objective of training young model pilots must not be a pilot's license or even the pilot profession but the integral promotion and development of young people.
2. Young people today have an infinitely larger choice of more or less meaningful leisure activities. Model flight itself provides immense potential for the individual promotion of various abilities and skills as well as team-orientated behaviour.
3. In model flight training the development of social skills such as work ethic, team orientation, stamina, reliability, accuracy, overcoming of setbacks and problem solving behaviour must be given at least as much emphasis as aeronautical and technical know-how.



4. Many roads lead to Rome, when it comes to model aircraft construction: It is not always necessary to start with the traditional balsa wood glider. Aerodynamics can be explained just as readily using a self-built windmill and more complex devices with propulsion and radio control can be developed within a course project.
5. Copying a pattern to build exactly the same model aircraft with 20 pupils can at most be seen as training and preparation for subsequent more demanding and less reproductive tasks. Such monotonous exercises are rather tedious, even for the instructor.
6. Today the challenge in holding courses in model aircraft construction is to give pupils only

a minimum of specifications while granting them maximum individual activity and creativeness. The instructor acts as consultant and coach.

7. Modern tools such as CAD, PC flight simulators and transmitters with instructor-pupil systems should be employed.

