

5.5. CATEGORY F5 – ELECTRIC POWERED MODEL AIRCRAFT

5.5.1 GENERAL RULES

5.5.1.1 Definition of Electric Powered Model Aircraft

Model aircraft in which lift is generated by aerodynamic forces acting on surfaces remaining fixed in flight except control surfaces and which performs manoeuvres controlled by the pilot on the ground, using radio control, or by rotating surfaces in case of helicopters. The power pack for the electric motor may not have any fixed connection to the ground or another model aircraft in the air.

Recharging of the power pack during flight by solar cells is permitted.

5.5.1.2 Builder of the Model Aircraft

There is no requirement for the competitor to be the builder of the model in F5. Refer C.5.1.2. in *CIAM General Rules*.

5.5.1.3 General Characteristics of RC Electric Powered Model Aircraft F5

Maximum total area 150 dm²

Maximum weight 5 kg

Loading 12 to 75 g/dm² (~~for Pylon Racing see para 5.5.6.2~~)

a) The power source shall consist of any kind of rechargeable batteries (or secondary cells), the maximum no load voltage must not exceed 42 volts. In case the voltage is measured, this shall be done at the moment the preparation time for the pilot starts. After the measurement has been taken, the pilot is allowed 5 minutes preparation time as per 5.5.2.4.

b) Battery specifications in F5B, ~~F5D~~ and F5F are written in the special rules of these classes.

c) Mechanical or chemical modification of the individual cells, e.g. to reduce their weight, is not allowed except that insulation sleeves of individual cells may be changed.

d) Electronic systems allowed are:

- Augmented stability systems.
- Systems that limit the energy used during climbs.

e) Electronic systems that are prohibited are:

- Autonomous or pre-programmed flight.
- GPS or similar positioning systems or waypoint navigation.

Further exceptions are written in the specific class rules.

5.5.1.4 Energy Limiter/Logger

The energy limiter/logger is located in the electric circuit between the battery and the motor. In the case of a limiter, the interruption must persist for a defined period of time. Logger data must be retrieved immediately after the flight. The contest organiser may supply a “real time radio telemetry logger” that transmits logged data to the ground. The energy data and motor-run data shall be made available to the pilots.

5.5.1.5 Procedure for Limiter and Logger Checking

The limiters and loggers must be approved by the EDIC (ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COMPETITIONS WORKING GROUP).

- a) The general procedure of limiter and logger checking follows Section C.12, Model Processing, in *CIAM General Rules*.
- b) The organiser will check if the limiter/logger is correctly connected to RX, LiPo pack and ESC. There must not be any type of "jumper" present in the RX cable or on the current sensor. Category F5 - General Rules
- c) Malfunction of limiter/logger:
 - limiter/logger given by the organiser, the competitor will have a reflight.
 - limiter/logger of the competitor, a penalty in F5B/F of 100 p and in F5D of 20% of the flyers time, must be given.

Only one of these two systems can be used at a contest. The organiser must decide which of these two systems he will use and indicate clearly in the invitation.

5.5.1.6 Number of Model Aircraft

The competitor may use two model aircraft, ~~three in pylon~~, in the contest. The competitor may combine the parts of the model aircraft during the contest, provided the resulting model aircraft conforms to the rules and that the parts have been checked before the start of the contest.

5.5.1.7 Competitor and Helper

Each competitor must operate his radio equipment personally. Each competitor is permitted two helpers and the team manager.

5.5.2 CONTEST RULES

5.5.2.1 Definition of an Official Flight

- a) During a two (2) minute starting period, the competitor is allowed an unrestricted number of attempts, hand launches or starts from the ground (except F5B, para 5.5.4.4 d). An attempt starts when the model aircraft is released by the competitor or his helper(s). After the first attempt, it is no longer allowed to take another model aircraft. The timekeeper will start the timing device at each attempt. After two minutes, no further launching or take off is allowed and the flight is being considered as official, the model aircraft being airborne or not. The pilot may repeat a second two-minute starting period only if:
 - b) The competitor cannot perform a flight due to outside interference verified by the organiser.
 - c) No scoring was made for reasons outside the control of the competitor. In such cases, the flight may be repeated at any other time decided by the Contest Director.

5.5.2.2 Cancelling of a Flight and Disqualification

The flight is annulled:

- a) If the pilot uses a model aircraft that does not conform to the FAI rules. In the case of intentional or flagrant violation of the rules, in the judgement of the Contest Director, the competitor may be disqualified.

- b) If the model aircraft loses any part during the flight time. The losing of a part during landing (ie. contact with the ground or another obstacle) during the flight due to a collision with another model is not taken into account;
- c) If the model aircraft was already used by another competitor at the same contest;
- d) If the pilot uses more than two helpers;
- e) If any part of the model aircraft does not come to rest and remain at rest within 100 metres from the landing spot. For powered gliders, this rule applies only after the duration and landing task has started.
- f) If for powered gliders the duration and landing task has not been started and also the landing does not occur on the designated flying side of the security line and within 100 m from the intersection of that line with Base A or B.
- g) If in contrast with the declaration of the competitor the model aircraft carried more than the allowed number of cells as power source for the motor or the voltage exceeds 42 volts.
- h) The competitor is disqualified if the model aircraft is controlled by anyone other than the competitor.
- i) If the model aircraft touches either the competitor or his helper during landing manoeuvres, no landing points will be given.
- j) If an infringement of energy limitation rules occurs the result of that round is discarded.

5.5.2.3 Organisation of the Contest

For transmitter and frequency control see C.16.2 in CIAM General Rules.

The official in charge will issue the transmitter to the competitor only at the beginning of his preparation time, according to 5.5.2.4.

5.5.2.4 Organisation of Starts

The competitors shall be combined in groups, in accordance with the radio frequencies used, to permit as many flights simultaneously as practical. The combination is organised in such a way that, as far as possible, there are no pilots of the same nation or team in one group. The flying order of different groups is also established in accordance with the frequencies used. The competitors are entitled to five minutes of preparation time before they are called for the start.

5.5.2.5 Processing of Energy Limiters

The organiser of an event has to provide power supply equipment for energy limiter processing. The competitor must have the ability to check his limiters prior to and during the contest.

5.5.2.6 Judging

The organiser must appoint a panel of at least three judges of different nationalities who are selected from the official CIAM Judges List.