

Competition Rules



UKF3A

F3A & F3P Radio Control Aerobatics

**2026 Edition V2C
Effective 2 June 2026**

**F3A – RC Aerobatic Aircraft
F3P – RC Indoor Aerobatic Aircraft**

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Change Control

Change Control sheet introduced in February 2026.

Reason	Effective Date	Author
Remove Triple Crown Rules to separate document but retain England Team Selection process.	June 2026	Peter Jenkins
Introduce revised Clubman and Intermediate Schedules Introduce P&F schedules to National League Clarify calculation of award of Centralised League Winner Erratic paragraph numbering resolved.	February 2026	Peter Jenkins

1 Preface

The Great Britain Radio Control Aerobatic Association was founded in 1979 to promote F3A flying in the United Kingdom and is a specialist body of the British Model Flying Association. In January 2023, the GBRCOA adopted the working title of UKF3A and this is used in the remainder of this document.

As part of the BMFA Specialist Body requirements, UKF3A runs RC Aerobatics competitions on behalf of the BMFA. These competitions are the BMFA National Championships, the Team Trials and a minimum of three BMFA Centralised Competitions each year. The rules and arrangements for these competitions are contained within the BMFA Competition Rules Section 5 – RC Power and where appropriate, these rules are included in this UKF3A Rulebook.

In addition to its BMFA obligations, UKF3A also runs competitions for its members. These competitions are subject to UKF3A's own rules, which are listed in this Rule book.

2 UKF3A Competition Rules and Procedures

2.1 Reference Documents

UKF3A as a specialist body of the BMFA follows the F3A and F3P rules in the following documents:

- FAI Sporting Code - Section 4 – Aeromodelling - CIAM General Rules which can be downloaded from: <https://www.fai.org/page/ciam-code>
- FAI Sporting Code Section 4 - Aeromodelling Volume F3, Radio Control Aerobatics which can be downloaded from: <https://www.fai.org/page/ciam-code>
- The BMFA Contest Rules – Section 5 which can be downloaded from the BMFA Website

2.2 F3A & F3P Competition Schedules

FAI F3A A, P, and F and FAI F3P AP and AF schedules are listed in the FAI Sporting Code Section 4 Volume F3 Radio Control Aerobatics.

The FAI A Schedule is used as the UKF3A Advanced schedule.

UKF3A Clubman and Intermediate Class schedules can be downloaded from the UKF3A web site <http://www.ukf3a.com> and are listed in the BMFA Contest Rules Section 5.

All UKF3A (non-FAI) F3P schedules can be downloaded from the web site – none currently.

2.3 General Competition Rules

2.3.1 Entrants to UKF3A Competitions shall meet the following competency requirements:

- All Classes – BMFA A Certificate or SAA Bronze Award

- Entrants to BMFA Centralised Competitions, the BMFA National Championships and BMFA Team Selection Competitions shall meet the competency requirements mandated by the BMFA for that competition.
- 2.3.2 Scores for all UKF3A National League one-day Competitions, apart from the P & F schedule, will not be normalised and the judges' scores as awarded shall determine the results of the competition. All other competitions organised by UKF3A, including those run on behalf of the BMFA will use raw scores apart from the P & F that will be normalised in accordance with the current FAI Sporting Code for F3A RC Aerobatics.
- 2.3.3 Where competition scores are aggregated to calculate positions in the BMFA Centralised League, each competition shall have its results re-normalised to 1000 points for the competition winner, with all other competitors' scores recalculated in proportion to the competition winner's score. If the competition is split following preliminary rounds (eg the World Cup competition), the results of the preliminary rounds only will determine the normalised score used for the league.
- 2.3.4 At all UKF3A competitions, each competitor shall abide by the rules set out in the BMFA Handbook.

2.4 Categories of Competitions

- 2.4.1 UKF3A runs the following categories of competition:
- BMFA Team Selection competitions (See Section 3.3)
 - BMFA British National Championships (See Section 0)
 - BMFA Centralised Competitions (See Section 3.6)
 - UKF3A National League Competitions (See Section 3.7)
 - Other Open Competitions where the results do not count towards any league scoring system
 - The Triple Crown Competition (See section 3.9)
 - F3P Indoor Competitions (Dormant)

The specific rules applicable to each category of competition are listed in the relevant sections.

2.5 Competition Entries and Entry Fees

2.5.1 Competition Entries

2.5.1.1 Eligibility

UKF3A competitions are open for entry to UKF3A full members only. As an exception to this rule, non-members may enter one competition only, on payment of the appropriate entry fee.

BMFA Centralised competitions, the BMFA National Championships and Team Trials are open to any person who meets the BMFA's entry requirements. These competitions are normally run by UKF3A, but UKF3A membership is not a requirement of entry.

- 2.5.1.2 All competitions organised by UKF3A are advertised on the Competition Calendar, published on the UKF3A Forum. BMFA Centralised competitions, the BMFA Nationals and Team Trials are also announced on the BMFA web site. In addition, each Contest Director will announce the competition and entry opening date on the 'Competition News' section of the forum. Entries will not be accepted before the published opening date.
- 2.5.1.3 Any non-member of UKF3A who receives scores at a competition before they become a member will not have their scores entered into the UKF3A National League system, although their name will appear as a competitor. They will be ranked in the competition and receive recognition if they finish third or higher.
- 2.5.1.4 Entries will be normally accepted up to 7 days before the competition, unless stated otherwise in the relevant Competition News forum post. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Contest Director.
- 2.5.1.5 Entries received after any competition has reached its published capacity will be placed on a reserve list in the order received. If registered competitors withdraw from the competition before the competition date, the Contest Director may offer any open places to entrants on the reserve list, in the order entries were received.

2.5.2 Competition Entry Fees

- 2.5.2.1 Fees for all competitions are set at the UKF3A Annual General Meeting and shown on the Competition Entry Form available via the UKF3A web site.
- 2.5.2.2 A two-day event will attract double entry fees. At the discretion of the Contest Director, entries may be accepted for one day of a two day competition at a single entry fee; however a one day competitor cannot win the event.
- 2.5.2.3 Refunds will be given if a cancellation notice is given by the pilot to the Contest Director up to 2 weeks before the date of the competition. If no cancellation is received 2 weeks prior to competition the entry fee will not be refunded.

3 Specific Competition Rules

3.1 F3A International Team Selection

- 3.1.1 Under BMFA Specialist Body Requirements UKF3A is authorised to organise BMFA Team Selection competition(s) each year.
- 3.1.2 For any given year, the actual number of BMFA Team Selection events to be held and the competition format will be decided by the UKF3A Committee.
- 3.1.3 The Team Selection competition(s) shall be scheduled between 1st May and 15th October each year. If it is not possible to hold any events by the last date, the UKF3A Committee shall determine the process for selection the following year's international team.
- 3.1.4 The competition format shall be such that at least 50% of the qualifying score shall come from the F Schedule. The P and F Schedules shall be the current FAI F3A Preliminary and Finals Schedules in the year of the Team Selection Competition.
- 3.1.5 Flight scores shall be normalised in accordance with the FAI F3A Sporting Code.
- 3.1.6 The ranking of pilots for the Team Trial Competition described above shall also be used for selection of a team for the Triple Crown Competition England Team.

- 3.1.7 A junior and/or female may be a member of an International team providing they satisfy the rules in the current FAI Sporting Code and the UKF3A rules for junior / female qualification below.

Rules for junior / female Team member qualification:

- Inclusion as a junior team member is subject to the BMFA guidelines for ‘young and vulnerable persons’ and the Junior team member must be accompanied to the event by the parent, guardian or responsible person.
- The junior and/or female must compete in recognised BMFA Team Selection events.
- To qualify for BMFA Team Selection, a junior and/or female must have achieved on average at least 85% of the event winner’s score to be eligible for qualification as a team member.

3.2 Deleted

3.3 Deleted

3.4 The BMFA British National Championships

- 3.4.1 The following classes shall be offered:

- Clubman)
- Intermediate)
- FAI Advanced schedule) Raw Scores
- FAI (P Only))
- FAI (P & F).....Normalised Scores

- 3.4.2 The number of entries shall not be limited. The number of rounds will be set to accommodate all entries.

- 3.4.3 The competition to decide the National Champion in each class shall use Preliminary and Finals flights.

The format and rounds to count shall be as follows:

- 6 Rounds – 4 Preliminary Rounds; 2 Finals Rounds (best 3 from 4 Preliminaries, + best Finals)
- 5 Rounds – 4 Preliminary Rounds; 1 Final Round (best 3 from 4 Preliminaries, + Final)
- 4 Rounds – best 3 from 4
- 3 Rounds – best 2 from 3
- 2 Rounds – best 1 from 2
- 1 Round – the 1 round will count

Clubman, Intermediate, FAI Advanced schedule and FAI Preliminary Schedules competitors will fly the schedule for their respective classes in all rounds.

- 3.4.4 FAI Preliminary and Finals Schedules competitors will fly the current year’s P schedule in the preliminary rounds and the current year’s F schedule in the final rounds.

- 3.4.5 There will be at least 2 judges. The UKF3A Chief Judge will decide who is qualified to judge these competitions and will, with agreement of the Contest Director organise the judges for a particular competition.
- 3.4.6 The Contest Director should appoint a Jury in case of disputes. The jury should be made up of the Contest Director, a Judge and one or two experienced pilots who can be selected from the entry list. If a dispute could affect any of those appointed as jury members, they should be replaced on the jury before the meeting takes place.
- 3.4.7 Entry forms are printed in the BMFA News or can be downloaded from the BMFA web site at bmfa.org and should be sent to the BMFA Head Office as instructed on the form.
- 3.4.8 Entry to the BMFA British National Championships is not restricted to UKF3A members but pilots must hold a BMFA A Certificate or equivalent.

3.5 The UKF3A Championships - Deleted

3.6 BMFA Centralised Competitions and the BMFA Combined League

- 3.6.1 Under BMFA Specialist Body Requirements UKF3A is required to organise a minimum of three Centralised competitions each year, open to any pilot who satisfies the BMFA's entry requirements.
- 3.6.2 The UKF3A Competition Secretary shall nominate three competitions as BMFA Centralised competitions. The results from Clubman, Intermediate and Masters and P Only will count towards the National League and the results from FAI (P&F) will count towards the BMFA Centralised League.

The following classes shall be offered:

- Clubman (National League)
- Intermediate (National League)
- FAI A schedule (National League)
- FAI (P Only) (National League)
- FAI (P&F) (BMFA Centralised League) – at least one round of the F schedule shall be planned

Note: only FAI(P&F) scores shall be normalised. All other schedules shall use raw scores.

- 3.6.3 The format and rounds to count shall be as follows:

- 4 Rounds – best 3 from 4
- 3 Rounds – best 2 from 3
- 2 Rounds – best 1 from 2
- 1 Rounds – the 1 round will count

- 3.6.4 A BMFA Combined League result shall be generated from the aggregate scores from each of the three BMFA Centralised competitions, the UK round of the F3A World Cup, the National League and the BMFA National Championship FAI (P&F) Class. The final scores from each counting competition shall be re-normalised to 1000 in accordance with rule 2.3.3. The winner will be the competitor with the highest total score, counting the best five competitions, or all the competitions held if there are fewer than five in any calendar year, provided that at least two scores are counted from the Centralised Competitions.

3.7 UKF3A National League Competitions

- 3.7.1 UKF3A National League competitions will be added to the competition calendar by the Competition Secretary, published on the UKF3A web site and advertised on the BMFA web site.

The following classes shall be offered:

- Clubman
- Intermediate
- FAI A schedule
- FAI (P Only)
- FAI (P&F) (BMFA Centralised League) – at least one round of the F schedule shall be planned and scores normalised.

Note: only FAI(P&F) scores shall be normalised. All other schedules shall use raw scores.

- 3.7.2 The format and rounds to count shall be as follows:

- 4 Rounds – best 3 from 4
- 3 Rounds – best 2 from 3
- 2 Rounds – best 1 from 2
- 1 Rounds – the 1 round will count

- 3.7.3 A National League will be compiled for all National League competitions and published on the UKF3A web site. Points will be awarded according to the following formula and a league trophy will be awarded to the competitor flying each schedule scoring the highest number of points in 5 competitions each year.

- 3.7.4 The winner of the competition will receive 10 points. The remaining pilots will receive a score as a percentage of the winners score, rounded to two decimal places.

3.8 The Triple Crown

- 3.8.1 The Triple Crown Rules are now contained in a separate document titled “Triple Crown Rules 2026 V 1_0”.
- 3.8.2 The England Team will be determined from the result of the Team Selection P, F And Unknown competition and the International Team member(s) will be determined from the result of the Team Selection P schedule only competition.
- 3.8.3 Members of Scotland and Ireland teams are decided by their own Aeromodelling Associations.

3.9 F3P Electric Indoor Aerobatics Competitions - Deleted

4 Interpretation and Disputes

- 4.1 If there are any disputes regarding these rules or their application, then the matter shall be decided by a majority vote of the current UKF3A Committee whose decision will be final and binding. The UKF3A Chairman shall not have a casting vote and if there is equality of votes, the matter in dispute will be referred to the BMFA for a final and binding decision.
- 4.2 Any member of the Committee who in the reasonable opinion of the UKF3A Chairman has a direct and material interest in the decision of the Committee (e.g. because it may affect their place in a team) shall not be entitled to attend the committee meeting nor to vote on the matter.

NB – Section 5 forms part of the input to the BMFA Competition Rules and is held in a separate document.

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