

## CANADIAN NATIONAL AEROBATIC TEAM SELECTION 2021

### ABSTRACT

The Canadian Aerobatic Team is selected to represent Canada at the World Aerobatics Championship and at any other international competition, either Unlimited or Advanced category, which Canada is eligible to attend.

The members of the Canadian team are chosen on the basis of achievement, and specifically on their performance at one of the Canadian National Aerobatic Championships, or a contest deemed as a qualifying contest by the Non-Partisan Committee. However, attendance and competing at a Canadian Championships does not guarantee team selection. For example, if there are 8 contestants at the Championships and the lowest scoring 2 had numerous zeros, low or low-low calls, overall scores of less than 50% of that of the highest scoring competitor, were unable to fly the Unknown with reasonable success; or in any way demonstrated that they would not represent Canada well at a World event, they should not automatically be on the Team because they were able to attend the selection contest.

Also, one contest may not always be the fairest way of team selection in the case of:

1. Death in a family
2. Mechanical problems with the aircraft just prior to or during the contest
3. Personal or family illness
4. If the contest is weathered out and all pilots are not able to fly two flights.

Extenuating circumstances such as these require a decision by a non-partisan board. The board members must have extensive knowledge of competition aerobatics and have absolutely no conflicts of interest.

Discussion with some potential team members also brought out that if given the option they would rather pay for judges to come to them than to pay to fly a long distance to a contest. This would help illuminate the possibility of not being able to attend the contest due to weather, etc.

Hard work and personal sacrifice are involved in being a member of the Canadian Aerobatic Team. Members must train hard and perform to their utmost during competition. As representatives of Canada, The Aero Club of Canada and Aerobatics Canada they must maintain the highest standards of integrity, behaviour and good sportsmanship. To some extent, they must subdue their own personal interests and desires for the good of the Team as a whole. For this, an agreed to code of conduct is required.

However, the benefits to individuals are numerous and varied. Being a team member is the highest competitive honour that an individual may attain in Canada. It gives the member a chance to hone his/her skills under the direction of a highly competent coach: to travel and make new friends; to represent Canada in International Competition; and hopefully to bring back medals for competitive excellence. Also, through participation on the Team, the person will derive satisfaction from having played a part in furthering the sport of Aerobatics in Canada.

## **BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR PILOTS REPRESENTING CANADA AT A WORLD EVENT**

Pilots representing Canada at a World event may be team members, individuals or Hors Concours participants. In all cases the participants must be recommended by Aerobatics Canada and the Aero Club of Canada (NAC/National Aero Club). The maximum number of pilots without Hors Concours is 8. Each team can have reserve pilots as well. Hors concours pilots (outside the contest) can compete if time and space are allowed by the organizer; they are not eligible to win awards.

Requirements:

1. Must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
2. Be an Aerobatics Canada member in good standing.
3. Be the holder of a valid FAI sporting licence for the year of the competition.
4. Have residency in Canada for the year of the world event and if a team member for the duration of time on the Team.
5. Must have met the standard of performance in the year of the selection.

## **COMPOSITION OF NON-PARTISAN BOARD**

1. A National Judge from each of Eastern and Western Canada or a senior regional judge from each area if a national judge is not available.
2. One member chosen from and by each of the Aerobatics Canada chapters who is free of conflicts of interest. (currently there are 3 chapters)

## **DUTIES OF THE NON-PARTISAN BOARD**

1. To evaluate if a contestant for the Canadian Team has a valid reason for not participating in the Canadian Championships.
2. To decide based on merit if the person unable to attend the Canadian Championships should be a team member.
3. In the event of insufficient contestants qualifying at the Canadian Championships, to decide if there are other interested pilots who have sufficient desire, merit and means to represent Canada at a world contest and to decide on a fair means of selection.
4. In the event that the Canadian Championship contest is cancelled, or all pilots are unable to complete 2 flights due to weather and another Canadian Championship contest cannot be organized in time to select a team for the world event, to decide on an alternate means of selection.

## **STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADVANCED TEAM CANDIDATES**

The minimum level of competence required by any pilot to be considered for selection to the Canadian Aerobatic Team shall be the demonstrated ability to perform successfully and safely under competition conditions the following programs:

- Advanced known for the year of selection
- Advanced unknown prepared by an IAC or Canadian judge and used at an Aerobatics Canada contest and flown in the year of selection.
- Be an active competitor in the advanced category in at least one of the prior three consecutive years leading up to the championship year.

Successful performance of a program shall be deemed to mean:

- Completion of the full contest program in accordance with IAC or Aerobatics Canada rules
- At least 75% of all figures completed without a score of 0 or HZ by the judges (wrong direction figures excluded)
- No violations of the deadline or low - low assessments
- No figure flown in an unsafe or dangerous manner.
- The overall score of the combined programs must be at least 80% of first place competitor's score.
- An average raw score for all figures in the flight (HZ excluded) of 7.0 or more. An average score would be computed by adding up the raw scores from each form A from each judge then dividing by the number of non -zero figures.

## **TEAM SELECTION**

1. The top 5 pilots at the Canadian Championships in the year of selection who meet the Standard of Performance will be eligible to be on the team.
2. If any of the top 5 are not interested in being a team member, then the 6-8 place candidates, if they meet the Standard of Performance will be eligible for a place in the 6.
3. The final three places shall be reserved to be placed at the discretion of the Non-Partisan board for eligible and competent pilots.
4. If there are vacant positions not filled by the Canadian Championship contest then they may be filled by pilots who meet the standard, chosen by the non-partisan board in the interest of sending a full team.
5. The 6 and 7 place pilots at the Championships will be eligible to be alternates for one of the first five if not already selected to be on the team by the non-partisan board if they meet the standard of performance.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS**

1. Team members must sign a binding team agreement with Aerobatics Canada that will include, but not be limited to the following points.
2. Team members must declare their intent to be on the team to the Board of Directors of Aerobatics Canada 2 weeks prior to the selection contest for the team which will be held in the year prior to the world contest.
3. Team members, unless having sponsorship, are personally responsible for determining what their expenses will be and for covering all expenses incurred including contest registration and travel to and from the world contest.
4. If possible, Team members should attend the team training camp if scheduled and attend all team practices.
5. Team members must participate in all activities required during training camps and contests unless waived by the Team Manager or coach.
6. Team members must bring with them valid copies of pilot licence and medical; passport; vaccination certificates; aircraft documents; clothing and money sufficient for the period of time in travel, training and at the contest.

7. Team members must obey all rules established by the host country.
8. Every effort should be made to travel together to and from the site of the world aerobatic contest or international team event.
9. All team members will always deport themselves in a friendly and professional manner with other teammates, volunteers and teams and representatives from other countries.
10. Team members will dress in team uniform or suitable professional dress.
11. Team members will not abuse alcohol or drugs while on the team and must meet the Transport Canada and host country requirements for use of these.
12. Team members must be willing to assist Aerobatics Canada or its chapters in fundraising activities, public relations, and media events.
13. Team members must report to the competition site in top competition form and be willing to put forth their best effort in pursuit of winning the competition.
14. Team members must make space available on aircraft for sponsors logos if necessary.
15. Team members should arrive at the contest with all aircraft mechanical deficiencies resolved. Team member is responsible for providing his own aircraft to fly or making arrangements to use a suitable aircraft at the contest.

Failure to uphold the agreement with Aerobatics Canada could result in a decision to have a team member dismissed or suspended. If a Coach, Team Manager, Team Doctor or team member thinks that a member is in breach of the agreement, an emergency meeting of the Non-Partisan Board will be called to make the final decision on disciplinary action for the offending team member.

## **CANADIAN NATIONAL CONTESTS**

1. There will be 2 National Championship contests, one East and one West. A pilot may attend either or both.
2. The dates for the contest will be decided one year in advance to allow pilots to schedule time off from work.
3. The contests will be on separate weekends at least two weeks apart and will not conflict with the US Nationals.
4. Both contests will have the same judges who are representatives from different parts of Canada with no conflicts of interest.
5. Funding will be made available to ensure that the judges are able to travel to both contests.
6. The contest format will be 3 days. The first day the IAC knowns will be flown. On the second and third days the advanced category will each fly a different IAC unknown. The advanced free will be replaced by a second unknown.

## **RATIONAL FOR THIS METHODOLOGY**

1. Canada is an enormous country with complex weather and in many parts, unforgiving terrain. Pilots having to fly around the north shore of Lake Superior or fly through the Rocky Mountains are at a severe disadvantage to those that are based in the place of the contest or who only must fly a short distance over flat prairie to get to a contest. An East and West contest with the same judges alleviates some of the disadvantage. And gives more opportunities for pilots to attend.

2. Having most but not all the team positions selected by a contest allows for team members who for unforeseen circumstances do not make the contest but by merit would be excellent team members to still have a chance. For example, if a pilot stood first place in advanced at the US Nationals but was unable to make the Canadian Championships due to mechanical problems, they could apply to the non-partisan board for one of the other positions.
3. Having a standard of performance guarantees that all team members are capable of flying advanced at the world level. Without a standard a pilot could enter the advanced level at the Championships, perform extremely poorly ( example score 10%) and if there were only 5 people in the contest, become a team member.
4. Having a non-partisan board with representatives from across the country eliminates conflicts of interest from Aerobatics Canada Board members and from team members. The non-partisan board members will also be aware of pilots from local chapters who have merit to be on the team that could otherwise be overlooked. For example, a BC pilot flying well in Washington and Oregon contests may not be known to Ontario pilots.
5. The team that is chosen will represent Canada at a world event. This team is the aerobatics equivalent to the Canadian downhill ski team. There must be a code of conduct agreed to and there needs to be some oversight to maintain a professional standard. This can be done by the non-partisan board. At this time the Board of Directors of Aerobatics Canada has several members who want to be on the team or have a relative that wants to be on the team so it would be inappropriate for the AC Board to make decisions regarding team selection or removing someone from the team for a breach of conduct.

#### **THINGS LEFT STILL TO DO**

1. Every team is allowed to have 1 chief delegate, 1 team manager, 1 chief trainer, trainers, doctors, interpreters – if there are supporting roles to the team the job descriptions and selection have to be decided. A non -partisan board could decide on these other functions.