Precision Aerobatics Judging Questions – with Answers Explained Set A

Andrew Palmer, New Zealand
With thanks to Russell Edwards and Peter Uhlig

What Will We Cover?

About myself, my interest in judging and F3A rules
Where to find information on judging
The manoeuvre execution guide and objective judging
Tonight's ten questions
Tools to help with judging (and flight training!)
Any questions

Please remember!

- The rule book is not perfect
- It does not have all the answers (but almost)
- I don't have all the answers
- But I will try and be a good navigator!

• We all hope to fly well, be judged fairly and judge fairly ourselves

(And IMAC is judged differently)

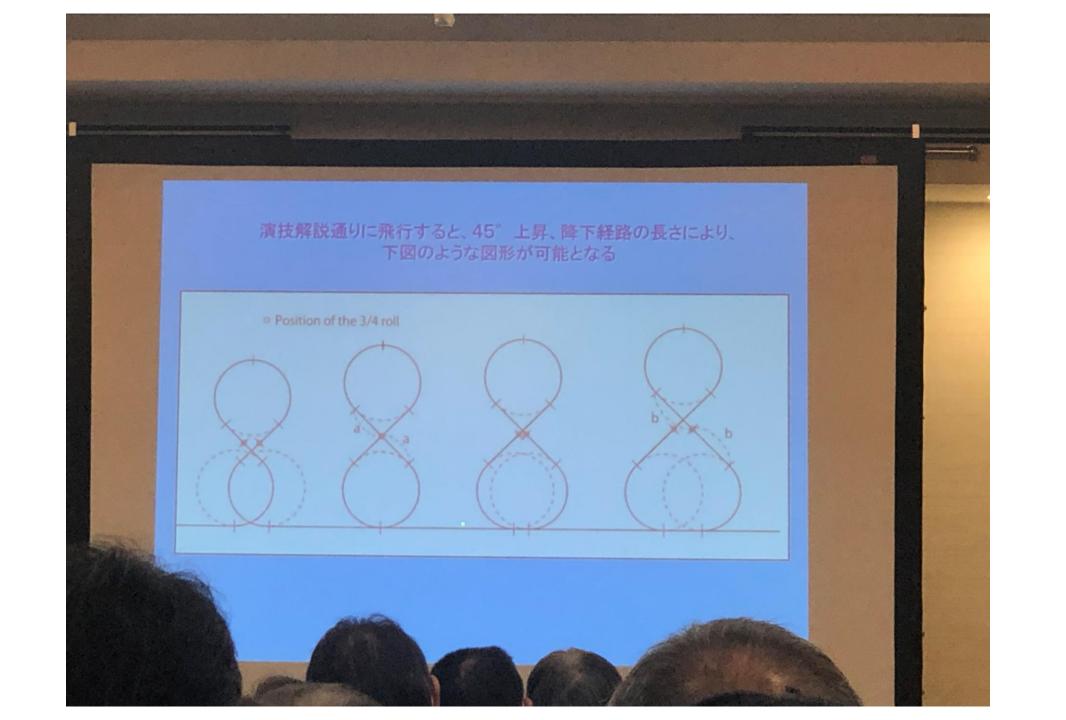
About Myself

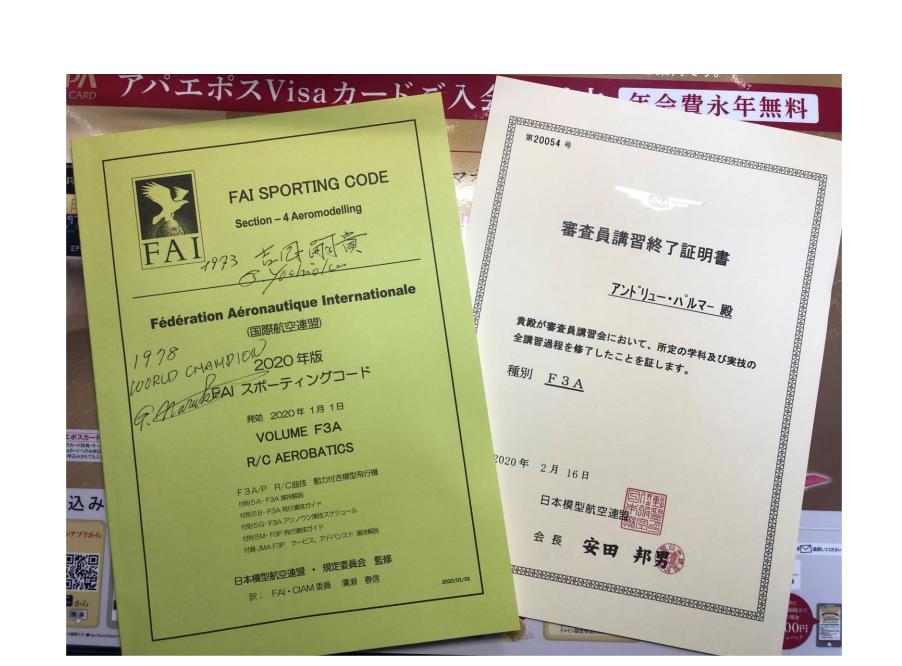




My Interest In Judging







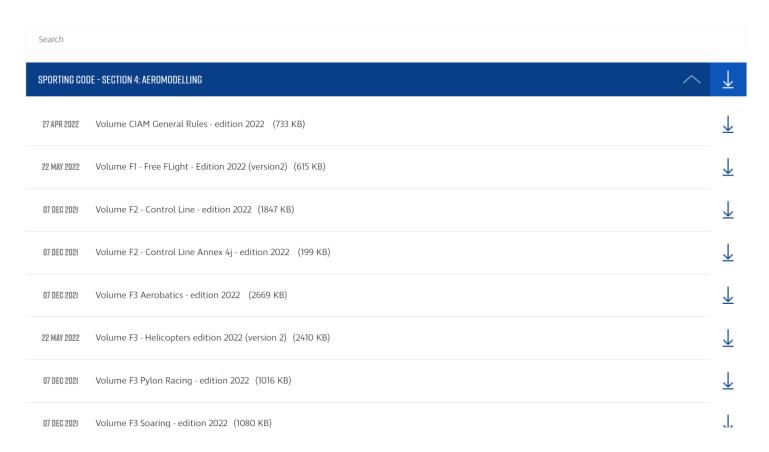
Where to find Judging Information?



FAI AEROMODELLING COMMISSION (CIAM)

HOME ABOUTUS OUR SPORT EVENTS RECORDS AWARDS NEWS SPORTING CODE DOCUMENTS E-PLENARIES PROJECTS
CONTACT US

SPORTING CODE



Volume F3 Radio Control Aerobatics

2022 Edition

Effective 1st January 2022

F3A - R/C AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT

F3P - R/C INDOOR AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT

F3S - R/C JET AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT (PROVISIONAL)

F3M - R/C LARGE AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT (OFFICIAL)

ANNEX 5A - F3A DESCRIPTION OF MANOEUVRES

ANNEX 5B - F3 R/C AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT
MANOEUVRE EXECUTION GUIDE

ANNEX 5G - F3A UNKNOWN MANOEUVRE SCHEDULES

ANNEX 5C - F3M FLYING AND JUDGING GUIDE

ANNEX 5M - F3P DESCRIPTION OF MANOEUVRES

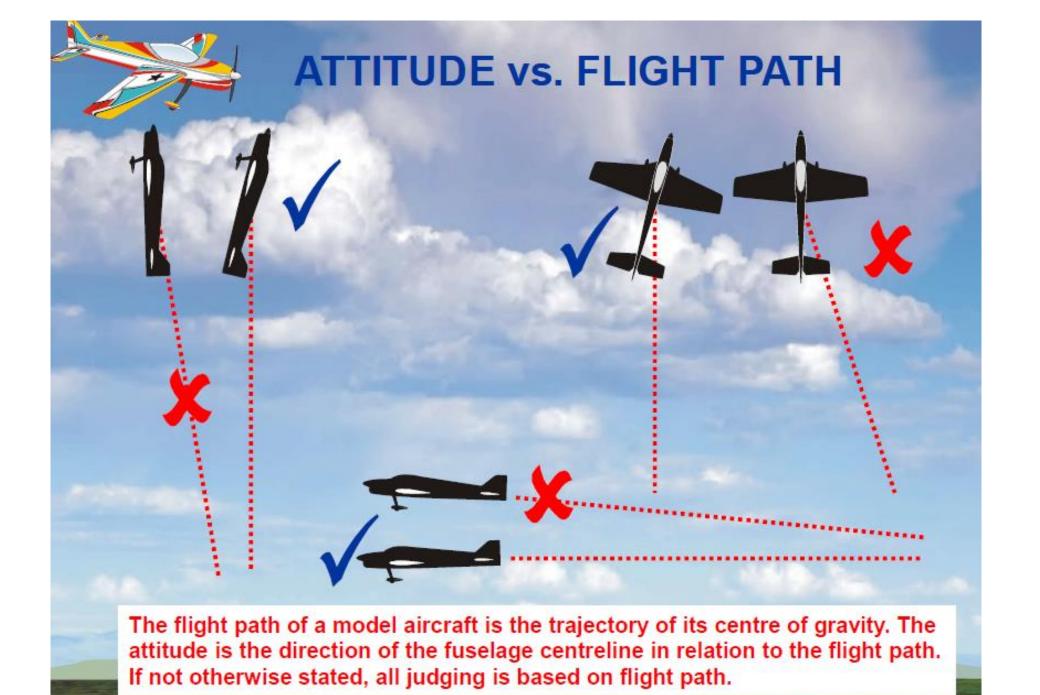
ANNEX 5X - F3S DESCRIPTION OF MANOEUVRES

ANNEX 5N - F3A, F3P, F3M WORLD CUP RULES

A Little About the Manoeuvre Execution Guide and Objective Judging

The rule book attempts to give us guidelines so judging becomes as objective as possible – rather than a subjective opinion on what a manoeuvre should score. Judging should be a methodical process of evaluation.

What about classes other than F3A?



100% **GEOMETRICAL ACCURACY CONSTANT FLYING SPEED CORRECT POSITIONING** CORRECT SIZE



- 1. WHAT WAS THE DEFECT, or mistake?
- Over, or under-rolling (or spin, or snap)
- Poor shape or geometry
- Rolls not on middle of lines
- Absence of lines
- Partry, exit poor
- Wrong angles
- Misrelation between line lengths
- Pifferent roll rates
- ? Etc.
- 2. HOW SERIOUS was the defect, or mistake?
 - ? Was it big (major)?
 - Or was it small (minor)?

3. HOW OFTEN did you see the same defect, or mistake in a particular manoeuvre?

How many defects were there in TOTAL?

- 4. Was the Flying Speed constant in climbing and descending parts of the manoeuvre?
- 5. WHAT WAS THE POSITIONING of the manoeuvre?
- 6. WHAT WAS THE SIZE of the manoeuvre?
- 7. Was the manoeuvre partially or completely outside of the manoeuvring zone?

All manoeuvres should be executed with:

Geometrical Accuracy
Constant Flying Speed
Correct positioning within the manoeuvring zone
Size matching to the size of the manoeuvring zone

Judging is based on the trajectory of the aircraft's centre of gravity rather than its attitude. Manoeuvres must be wind corrected except where the aircraft is in a stalled condition (Spins, Stalls and Snaps).

Criteria for judging:

- 1. Type of defect
- 2. Severity of defect
- 3. The number of times any one defect occurs, as well as the total number of defects.
- 4. Positioning of manoeuvre and size relative to other manoeuvres in the flight

Basic rule is to deduct 1 point for 15 degrees variation from defined manoeuvre geometry, but 0.5 points only for half of this. Lines should be judged more harshly than deviations in yaw or roll.

Defect	Downgrade
For significant differences in Constant Flying Speed	0.5 - 1
Sizing different relative to other manoeuvres in the flight	0.5 - 1
Positioning - Appropriate distance out should be based on visibility of aircraft	
Manoeuvre not centred (per 15 degrees)	0.5 - 4
More than 175m out (visibility is the criterion)	1
Greater than 200m out	2 - 3
Outside 60 degree markers, further out is worse (based on % out of box)	1 - 10
Lines	
Length of lines not graded	No deduction
Manoeuvre doesn't start and end with a horizontal line	1 per manoeuvre
Mis-relationship between lines	0.5 or more
Rolls not centred on lines (except Split S and Immelmann)	0.5 - 2
No line before/after roll (except Split S and Immelmann)	3
Loops	0.5. 0
Radius (Compare each radius that was just flown to the last radius flown) (e.g. All loops or part loops within a manoeuvre must have the same radius)	0.5 – 2 or more for each occurrence
Segmentation (Every segmentation must be down graded)	0.5 or more
Departure from vertical plane	0.5 or more
Part loops must not be too tight or too loose (Too tight or too loose must be downgraded)	0.5 - 1
Turn-arounds are positioning manoeuvres. Entry/exit altitude can be different heights	No deduction
Rolls	
Variation in roll rate	0.5 or more
Slowing down / speeding up at end of roll	1 per 15 degrees
Start or stop not crisp (Each occurrence)	0.5 or more
	0.5 - 2
Not centred on lines (except Split S and Immelmann)	

Change in pause length within point rolls	0.5 or more per occurrence
Missed or extra point in point roll(s)	1 per 15 degrees
Roll or part-roll in wrong direction	Zero scored
Non-or-pare roman wrong an eccion	2010 300100
Roll/Loop Combinations	
For Immelmann & Split S, roll not immediately before/after loop or part loop	0.5 - 2
For Immelmann, roll starts before loop or part loop completed	1 per 15 degrees
On Cuban 8's or half Cubans, rolls must be centred on lines	0.5 - 3
Humpty Bumps must have consistent radii in all part loops	0.5 - 3
Integrated rolls or part rolls not smooth and continuous and correctly integrated	1 per 15 degrees
	,
Snap Rolls - Use same basic judging criteria as axial rolls above. If it's not an axial or barrel roll, it's a snap roll	
Attitude (positive or negative) at pilot's discretion	No deduction
Stall/break from line of flight not observed and barrel rolls	Severe (5+)
Axial roll disguised as a snap	Severe (5+)
Aircraft un-stalls during snap	1 per 15 degrees
Spins - Nose up attitude, nose drops as aircraft stalls. Simultaneously, wing drops in direction of spin	
Gain in altitude prior to spin	1 per 15 degrees
Severe yawing/weathercocking when near stalled	1 per 15 degrees
Drift when stalled or near stalled (not outside aerobatic zone)	No deduction
No stall, snap rolled, or spiral-dived into spin	Zero scored
Slides into spin	1 per 15 degrees
Forcing spin in opposite direction on initial rotation	Severe (5+)
Forcing spin from high angle of attack with down or up elevator	4 - 5
Conditions (e.g., no wind) may mean aircraft does not completely stop	No deduction
Rotation errors judged in same manner as rolls	1 per 15 degrees
Reversal of rotation not immediate (e.g., becomes un-stalled)	Severe (5+)
Roll rate in reversal significant (slight difference ok)	1
Unloading spin (e.g., finishing spin with ailerons)	1 per 15 degrees
Specific attitude of aircraft during spin not judged as long as it remains stalled	No deduction
No visible vertical line following rotation(s)	1
· · ·	

Stall Turns

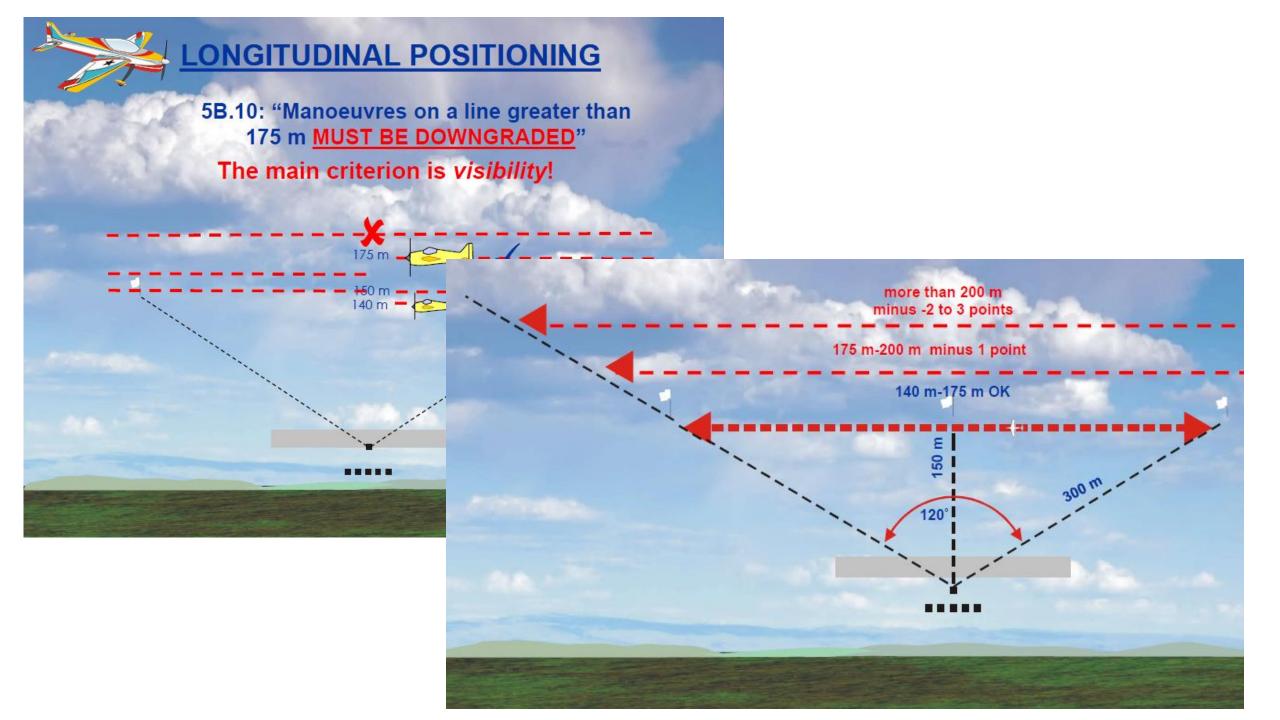
Pivot up to ½ wingspan	1
Pivot up to 1 wingspan	2 - 3
Pivot >1½ wingspans	4 - 5
Pivot >2 wingspans or flops over	Zero scored
Torques off	1 per 15 degrees
Pendulum movement after pivot	1
Skid before reaching stall turn (early rudder)	1
Drift when stalled or near stalled (not outside aerobatic zone)	No deduction
Part loops on entry/exit not constant and equal radius	0.5 - 3

Rolling Circles - Mainly about maintaining consistent circular flight path, altitude, roll rate and roll integration (Apply same rules as per rolls)	
150m distance requirement not applied. Deduct where >350m	1 - 3
Deviations in geometry	1 per 15 degrees
Either performed towards or away from judges	No deduction
Roll or part roll in wrong direction	Zero scored

Tonight's Questions

1. A competitor flies a flawless 4-point roll at a distance greater than 200m, but can be seen clearly. What score would you assign to this manoeuvre?

9-10 points □	Less than 5 points □
7-8 points □	Zero the manoeuvre
5-6 points □	



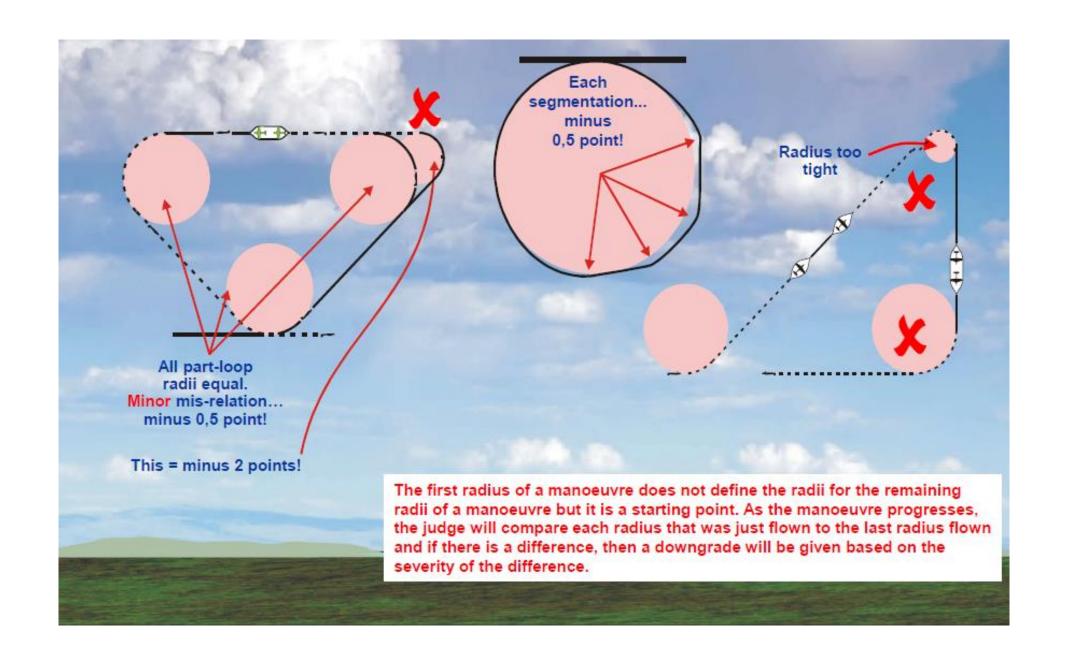
Think you know the answers? Why not give the judging exam a go here: https://www.f3a.com.au/judging/nz-judging-exam

5B.10 - Manoeuvres performed on a line greater than 200m in front of the pilot must be downgraded more severely (in the order of 2 to 3 points).

5B.10 - Flying so far out as to make evaluation of a manoeuvre difficult should be severely downgraded.

2. A loop must have by definition: (Note: Check all correct answers)

A constant radius	Must be performed in the horizontal plane
Segmented flight path □	Must be performed in the vertical plane \Box
Start and end with well-defined lines	



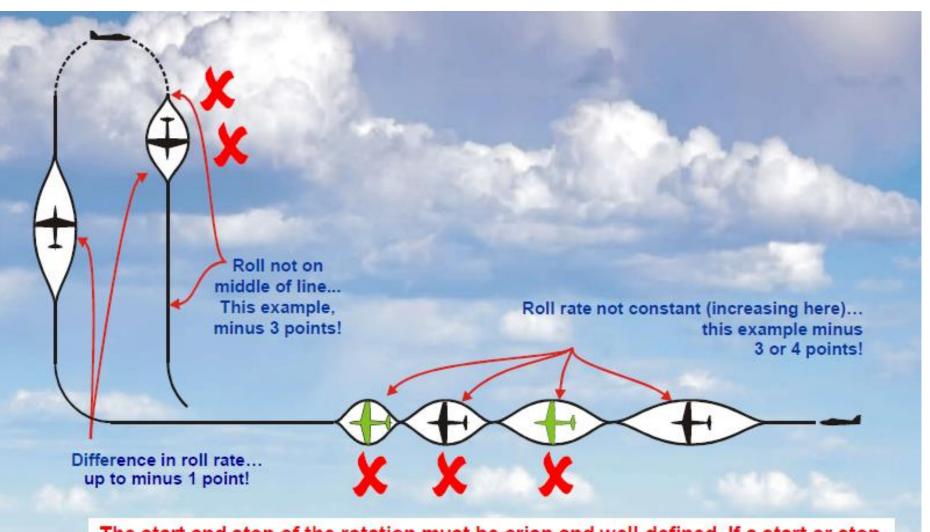
Think you know the answers? Why not give the judging exam a go here: https://www.f3a.com.au/judging/nz-judging-exam



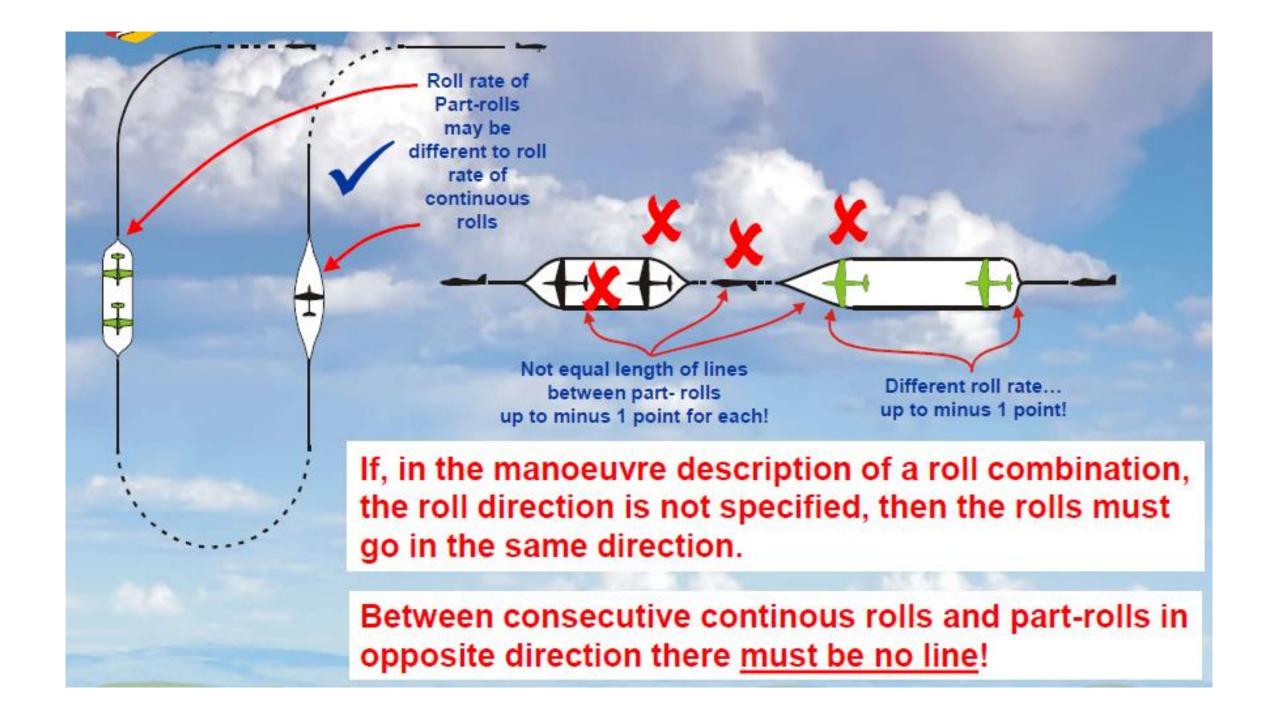
5B.8.4 - A loop must have by definition, a constant radius, and must be performed in the vertical plane throughout. It is entered and exited by a well-defined line

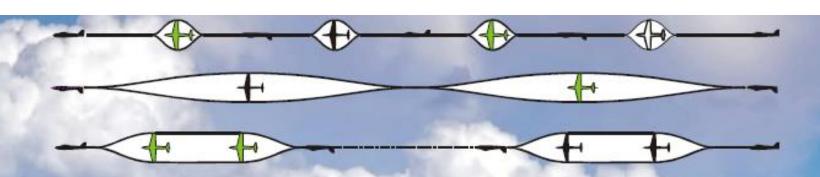
3. A manoeuvre is described as "Roll Combination with consecutive ½ roll, snap roll, ½ roll" with the full description being "From upright, perform consecutively a ½ roll, a snap-roll, a ½ roll, exit upright". Which statement is true:

All rolls in the manoeuvre must be performed in the same direction, with a short pause between each roll element. If the roll direction is not specified, then the rolls must go in the same direction □
Rolls may be performed in either direction, at the pilots discretion, and may (or may not) have a pause between each roll element. □
Rolls may be performed in either direction, at the pilots discretion. If performed in the same direction, there must be a pause. If performed in opposite (reversal), there must be no pause □



The start and stop of the rotation must be crisp and well-defined. If a start or stop is badly defined, 0.5 or more points are to be subtracted for each.





Missing or additional Part-Rolls: Use the 1 point per 15° rule

- 1 missing ½ roll: (180 degrees) = Zero points
- 1 missing 1/4 roll: (90 degress) = 6 points
- 1 missing 1/8 roll : (45 degrees) = 3 points
- the same deductions apply with additional part-rolls

Think you know the answers? Why not give the judging exam a go here: https://www.f3a.com.au/judging/nz-judging-exam



5B.8.5 - If, in the manoeuvre description of a roll combination, the roll direction is not specified, then the rolls must go in the same direction.

5B.8.5 e) - Lines between consecutive part-rolls must be short and of equal length Refer to APA Rule Clarification (images/stories/Judging/apa-p17-judging-and-flying-clarification-050416.pdf)

4. A Rolling Circle must demonstrate which of these qualities: (Note: Check all correct answers)

Constant roll rate □	Integration of rolls □
Circular flight path □	Entry and exit at the same altitude
Constant altitude □	Constant distance from the judges □



Horizontal Circles and Part Circles

Horizontal circles are performed in a horizontal plane and mostly used as centre manoeuvres. Horizontal Part Circles are mostly part of a manoeuvre.

Circles and Part Circles within a manoeuvre must have the same radius.

Each occurrence of a minor deviation in radius must be downgraded by 0.5 point, while more severe deviations may downgraded by 1, 1.5, 2 or more points for each occurrence.

Horizontal Circles and Part Circles

- Constant high or low altitude
- Circular flight path maintained
- Continuous rolling, at constant rate
- Rolls positioned correctly
- Any reversals to be immediate

Think you know the answers? Why not give the judging exam a go here: https://www.f3a.com.au/judging/nz-judging-exam



5B.8.9 a) - Horizontal circles and Part Circles are mainly judged about the circular flight path, constant altitude of the circle, and by constant rates of roll, and integration of the continuous rolls or part-rolls with the circle, if applicable.

5. A score of _____ should only be given if a manoeuvre appears perfect to the judge, it is well positioned, and no defects are observed.

10 points □		
9 points □		
8 points □		

100% **GEOMETRICAL ACCURACY CONSTANT FLYING SPEED CORRECT POSITIONING CORRECT SIZE NO DOWNGRADE** 10 POINTS!

Deduct/Downgrade System

Use the deduction/downgrade system not impression!

As the pilot starts!

Then

9.5...9...8.5...8...7.5...7...6.5...6...5.5...5... etc...

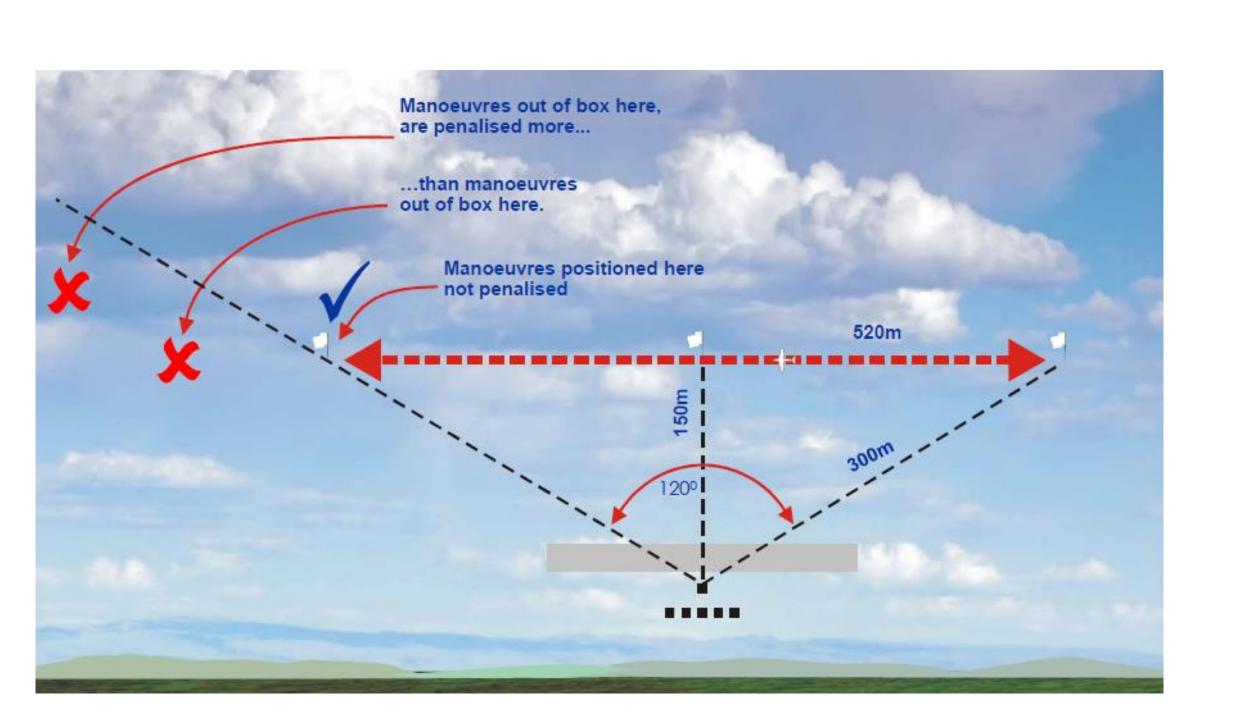
A mark resulting from downgrading steps must not be upgraded again in any case, ie. because the manoeuvre contained "something nice"!



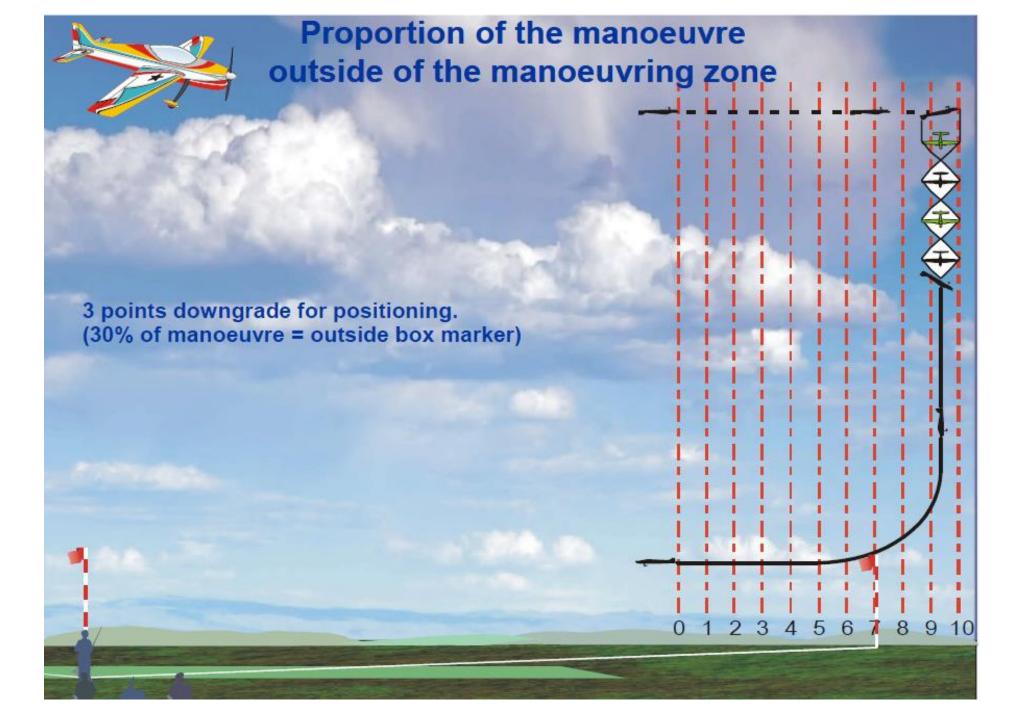
5B.5 - Every manoeuvre starts with the mark of 10 points and will be downgraded for each defect during the execution of the manoeuvre in one or multiple 0.5 point steps, depending on the severity of the defect. The remaining points result in the mark for the manoeuvre. A high score should remain only if no substantial, severe or multiple defects are found.

6. A small portion (10%) of a half outside loop is flown past the 60 degree line. What downgrade would you assign for this 'box' infringement?

0 points (ignore the infringement) □	3 points □
1 point □	Severe downgrade (more than 5 points) □
2 points □	Zero the manoeuvre □





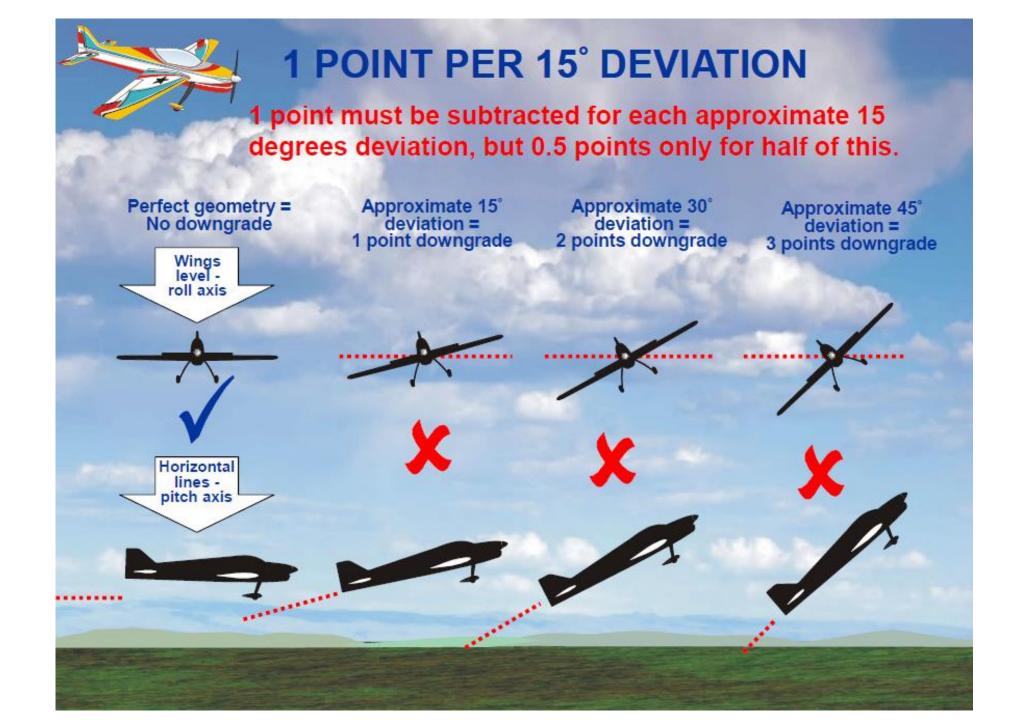




5B.12 - Downgrades for flying a manoeuvre partially out of the zone should be in proportion to the degree of infraction, ie a small part of the manoeuvre (10%) flown past a 60 degree line would call for a downgrade of 1 point, while more of the manoeuvre (30%, 40%, 50%, etc.) flown past a 60 degree line must be downgraded accordingly by 3, 4, 5, etc points.

7. A three-turn spin is finished one-half turn too soon. The downgrade for this error should be:

0 points □	3 points □
1 point □	Severe downgrade (more than 5 points) □
2 points □	Zero the manoeuvre



In general, lines must be judged more critically than deviations in yaw and roll.

Reason: Lines can be evaluated easier than roll and yaw.

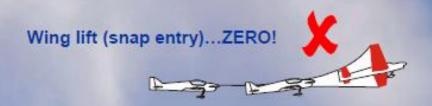


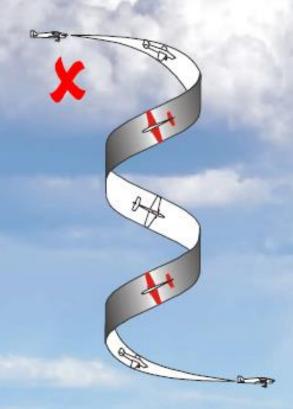
8. A two-turn opposite spin is performed during a wind shift and starts downwind, but correctly positioned. In order to make the model spin the pilot performs a snap roll. After two turns the model stops perfectly on heading, and spins exactly two turns in the opposite direction without a shift from the vertical centre line, stops, flies a vertical down-line and pulls horizontal but the wing is 15 degrees low. What score would you give?

9-10 points □	1-4 points □
7-8 point □	Zero the manoeuvre □
5-6 points □	



SPINS



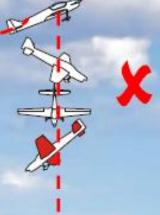


Spiral dive...scores ZERO!

Forced with down-elevator... minus 4 or 5!



Climbing...
downgrade, using
1pt. per 15 degrees!





5B.8.12 - If the model aircraft does not stall or if the model aircraft is snap-rolled or spiral-dive into the spin, the manoeuvre is zeroed.

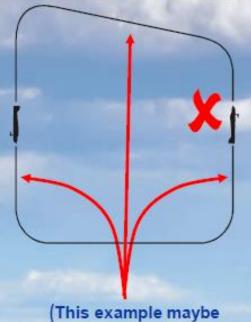
9. All aerobatic manoeuvres are entered and exited by a horizontal line of recognisable length. Where no horizontal line is flown between two manoeuvres: (Note: Check all correct answers)

0 points deducted □
The upcoming manoeuvre should be downgraded by one point □
The just-finished manoeuvre should be downgraded by one point □
The upcoming manoeuvre should be downgraded by two points
The just-finished manoeuvre should be downgraded by two points

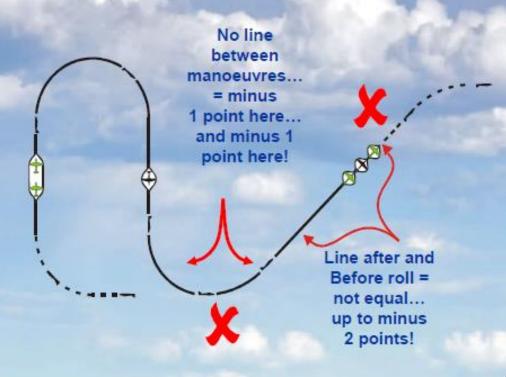


LINES

Minor mis-relation between line lengths = minus 0,5 point!



minus 2 or 3!)



No line after roll... = minus 3 points!





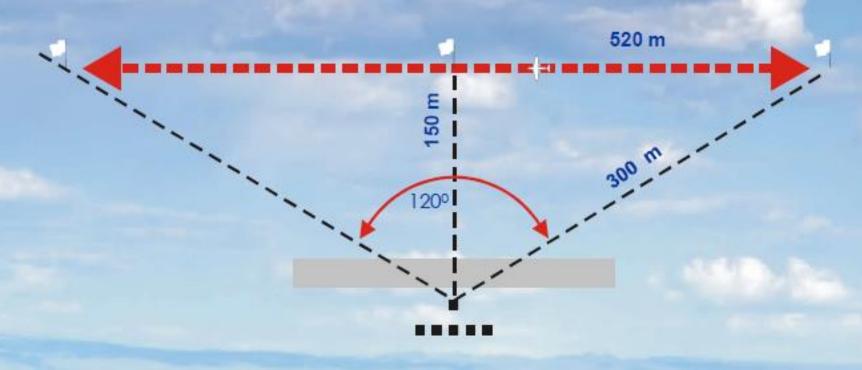
5B.8.3 - When no horizontal line is flown between two manoeuvres, the just-completed manoeuvre must be downgraded by 1 point and the upcoming manoeuvre must be downgraded by 1 point

10. An entire manoeuvre must be within the aerobatic zone (box) to avoid being penalised:

TRUE	
FALSE □	
Partly true □	

Manoeuvres should be primarily performed along a line of flight approximately 150m

Exceptions to this rule are cross-box manoeuvres, 3D - manoeuvres, or manoeuvres in a stalled condition, as well as the horizontal circle manoeuvres which, of necessity, must deviate from the 150m distance of flight.

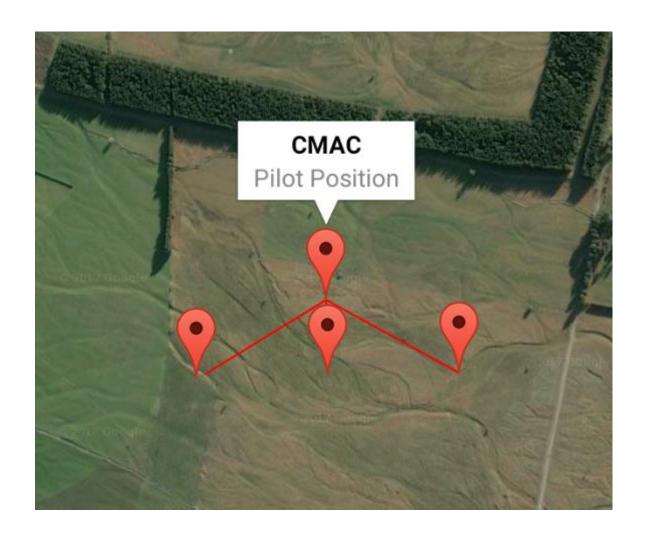




5B.12 - Downgrades for flying a manoeuvre partially out of the zone should be in proportion the degree of infraction.

What Tools are out there to Help with Judging (and Flight Training)?

F3A Zone Pro (iOS and Android)







F3A Zone Pro on Android also lets you easily walk out to the flight line (in a safe position) and see who is flying at 150-165m (and who is not!) – this is great for gaining an appreciation of where we should be flying.

FLIGHT COACH



Flight Coach

Your Radio Control Flight Geometry Companion

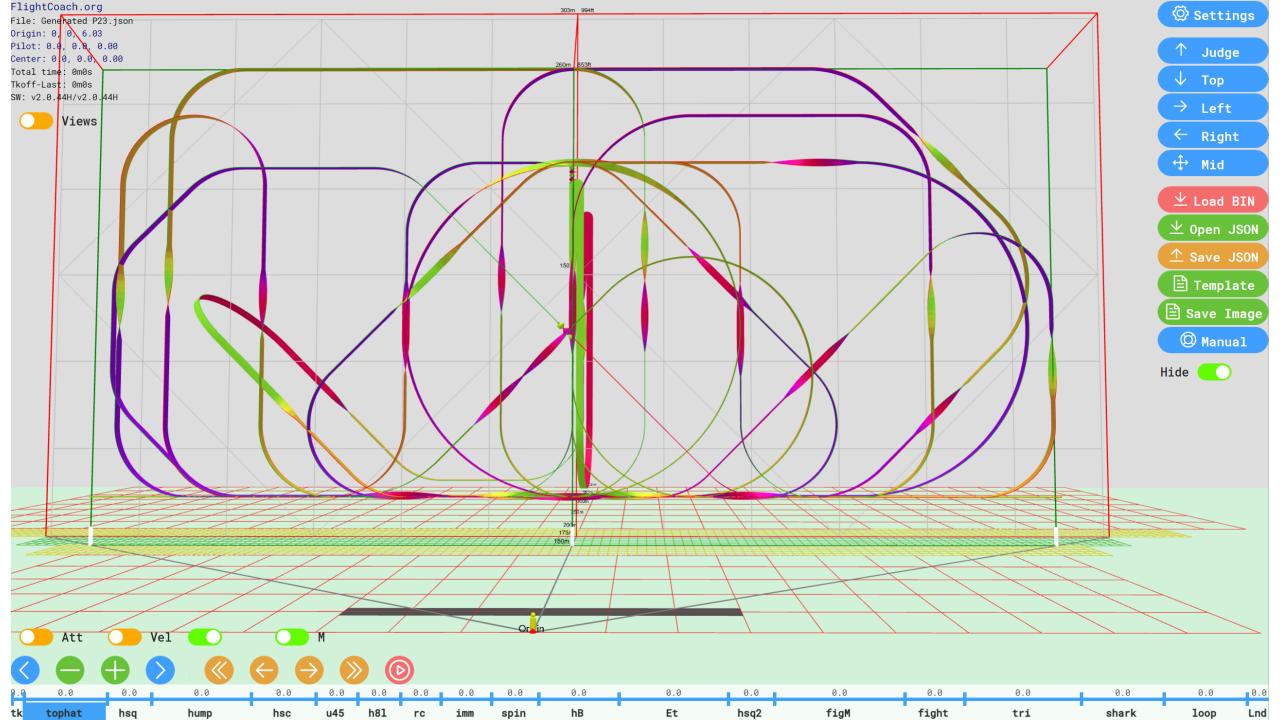
HOME RESEARCH THE PLOTTER THE MAP INSTRUCTIONS SETUP FAQ RESOURCES CONTACT

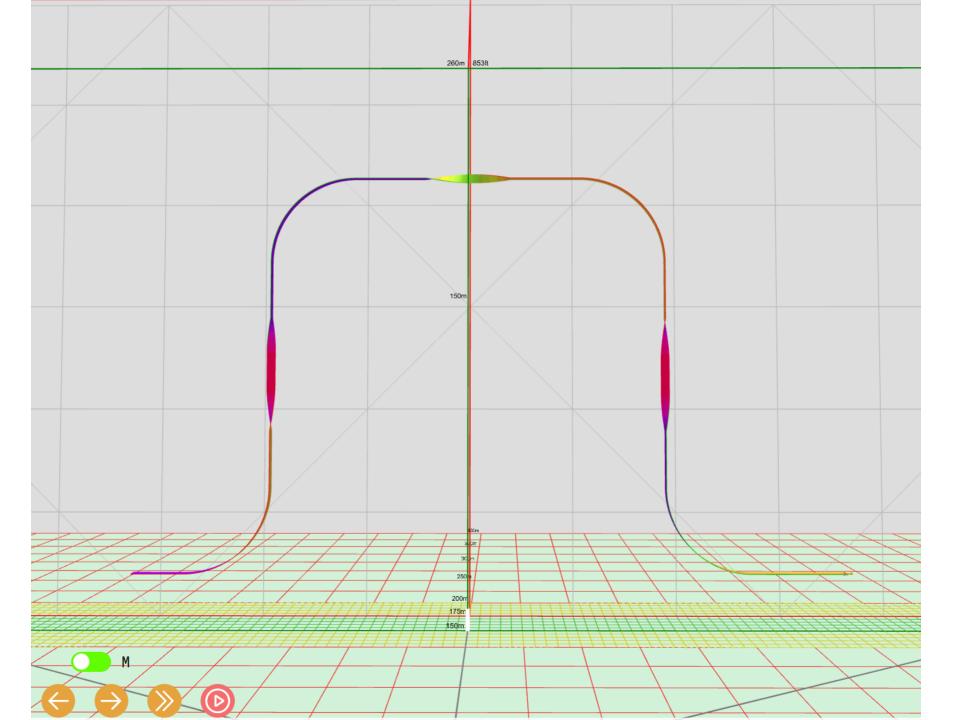
Home

The Flight Coach Project develops data driven tools for precision aerobatic pilots and judges with the aim of making the sport more objective. The project was started by a group of keen F3A and IMAC competitors, but the work is also applicable to other RC and full size aerobatic disciplines.

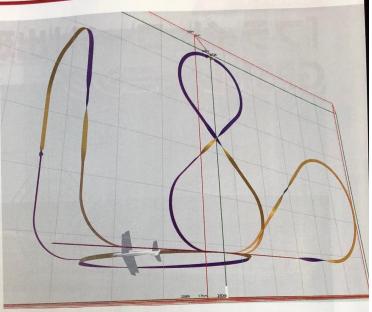
Most of our work involves installing inexpensive GPS and attitude tracking hardware in the aircraft, then post processing the data on the ground to provide feedback. All the Flight Coach project outputs are free to use (see specific license details in Instructions/Software).











「フライト コーチ」開発者からのメッセージ

オーストラリアを代表するF3Aフライヤーや技術者が中心となって開発した、飛行軌跡の3D可視化 技術と、それを司るアプリケーションの名称が「フライトコーチ」です。今回、その開発チームより本誌に メッセージが届きました。彼らのサイトへのアクセスは自由とのことなので、ぜひチャレンジルてみてください。 https://www.flightcoach.org/https://www.flightcoach.org/template-flights/





●日本のフライヤーに向けて●

ドヤイ

F3Aの飛行は難しく、正確かつ優雅に飛行す ニュアルを作成しました。 ることはさらに困難です。吉岡さん、成家さん、秋 ライトしましょう」という共通する返事が聞かれそう 評価できますか? または、あなたとあなたの指導 カードに記録されます。そして、無料で使用できる 者が飛行について意見が一致しない場合はどう Webブラウザベースの なりますか? 私たちが開発したシステムは、低コ Flight Coachソフトウェ ストで簡単に入手できるハードウェアを使用し、パアが、飛行後の分析を提 イロットが飛行場での練習中、または帰宅後快適供します。フライトコーチ・ な自宅で飛行の出来映えを客観的に評価するた システムはF3Aの難しさ

Flight Coachは、英国のIMACおよびF3Aの んが、機体の飛行経路 トップバイロットであるThomas Davidのアイデア に関する客観的なデータ から始まりました。GPS、安価なマルチローター飛 を提供し、飛行後の分析 行制御ボード、そして独自のコンピューター分析 を可能にすることで、貴 ツールを融合すれば、指導の支援に有用な飛行 重なトレーニングの支援 分析ができないか? 答えは確かにイエスでした! を提供します。 もちろん、そのようなプロジェクトの実現は複雑で実はハードウェアは、 容易ではありません。オーストラリアのF3Aパイ ログに膨大な数のパラ ロットであるArtur Uziebloは、幅広い知識とプロ メーターを記録していま グラミングスキルを持って参加しました。 Andrew す。現在、Flight Coach Palmer (ニュージーランドF3Aパイロット) はアイデ はそのうちのいくつかの アを整理し、ハードウェア・システムを開発しまし みを使用しています。こ た。Russell Edwards(オーストラリアのF3Aパイ れは将来のバージョンで

葉さん、鈴木さん、八田さん、音田さん(そして、もち た慣性航法システムです。高度なセンサーフュー 力などの推定を含める可能性があります。 ろんもっと多くの!)のような日本の偉大なF3Aパ ジョン・アルゴリズムにより毎秒15~25ポイント での姿勢情報なしで1秒あたり1~2点だけのも しています。 です。しかし、指導者なしで自分の飛行を正確にのとは比べ物になりません。データはmicroSD

を取り除くことはできませ

ロット)はシステムテストに寄与し、プロッターのマ 拡張され、パイロットがより多くの情報を利用で きるようになる可能性もあります。機体位置で 中心となるのは、GPSベースの測位を拡張しの風向、迎え角と横滑り、対気と対地速度、G

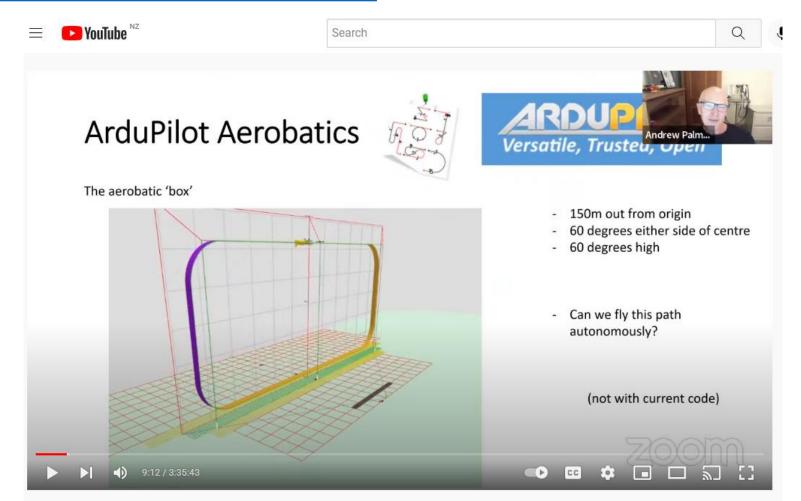
日本の皆さんがフライト コーチ・システムを体験 イロットに秘訣をたずねたら、きっと「コーチや指導のスムーズで正確な飛行経路と姿勢のログを提できることを願っています。練習に時間と労力を 者からの評価やアドバイスに従って、何千回もフ 供します。これは一般的なGPSのみのシステム 費やせば、それだけ飛行の改善に役立つと確信

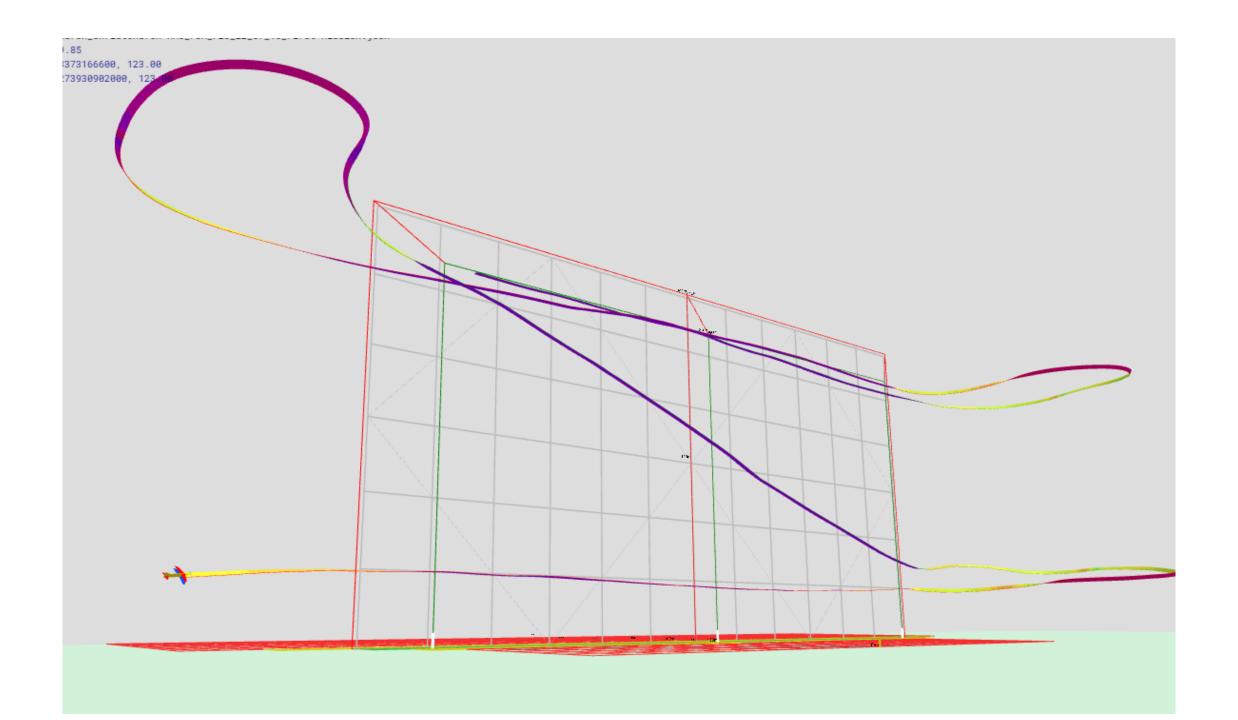
Andrew Palmer (訳/佐々木哲)

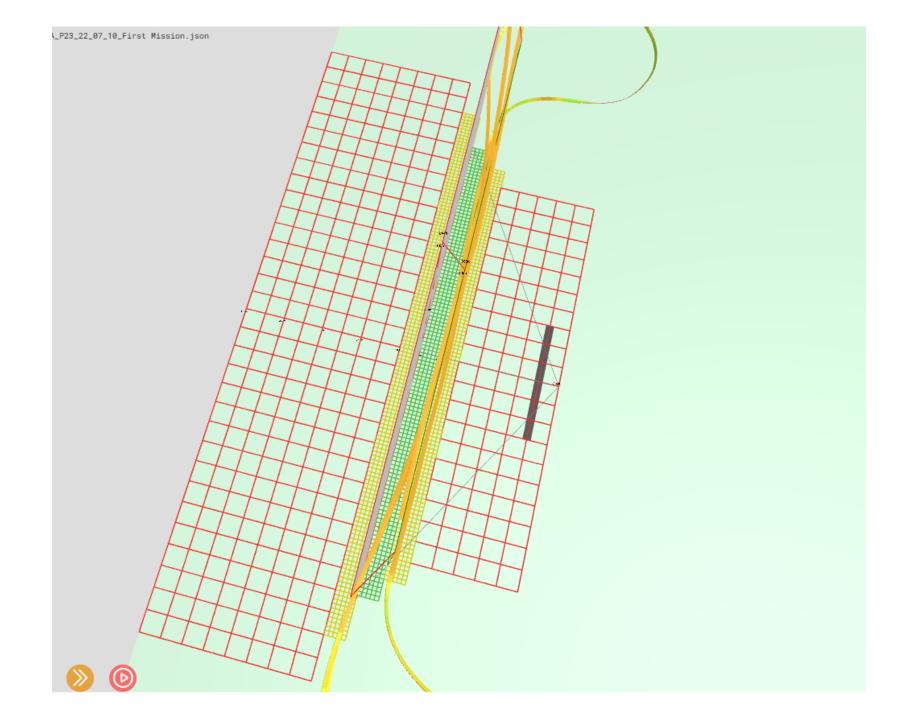


Ardupilot Autonomous Aerobatics Project

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmUDC3A7Ntk











Next time

- I still have 4 x sets of 10 questions to go!
- Walk through each of the pattern sequences (Clubman, Expert, Masters, F3A) – from a flying and judging perspective
- Electronic score entry systems

Any Questions?