



AEROBATIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

International Aerobatic Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 3086, Oshkosh, WI 54903 USA

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1. PURPOSES

The IAC Aerobatic Achievement Awards program was formulated to promote and advance sport aerobatics. The IAC sanctions many regional aerobatic contests every year, but at the same time realizes that all pilots who fly aerobatics may or may not wish to enter competition but yet deserve recognition of their own abilities. Therefore, the IAC Aerobatic Achievement Awards program furnishes the mechanism in which a competition and non-competition pilot can work in reaching various levels of proficiency. Aerobatic competitions benefit as more people will be encouraged to enter, aerobatic education will be more widely disseminated and, finally, aerobatics as a sport will grow as more people learn of the enjoyment, fun and comradeship that is known in aerobatic circles. The IAC Aerobatic Achievement Awards program supplies a definite goal which a pilot can work toward while increasing proficiency in aerobatics. These awards are not easy to achieve and a high level of skill is required. They are, however, within the reach of every pilot. When the award is given it is something of which to be proud. Many people will be introduced to aerobatics under this program with its incentive to achieve a high degree of skill, under strictly controlled conditions, tightly monitored and with an eye always on safety.

2. GENERAL RULES

- A. The flight or flights made to obtain said award shall satisfy the definitions of the following regulations.
- B. The awards are international in scope, as is the IAC. All pilots from all countries may achieve the awards as long as they meet the qualifications and requirements of this program.
- C. An applicant for an IAC Aerobatic Achievement Award must be a member in good standing of the International Aerobatic Club, Inc.
- D. All "IAC Official Contest Rules" will prevail with the following exceptions:
 - (1) There will be no maximum altitude except that the figures must be easily seen from the ground with the naked eye.
 - (2) Technical inspections will not be required.

3. CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

- A. Power** – There are five (5) categories of achievement awards that can be earned in SMOOTH (Non-Contest environment) and an additional five (5) in STARS (Contest environment). Gradual step up of proficiency and skill is required to successfully complete the figures in progressive categories. The categories are Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced and Unlimited.
- B. Glider** – There are four (4) categories of achievement awards that can be earned in SMOOTH (Non-Contest environment) and an additional three (3) in STARS (Contest environment). A gradual step up in proficiency and skill is required to successfully complete the figures in progressive categories.

The SMOOTH categories for glider are: Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate, and Unlimited. The STARS categories for glider are: Sportsman, Intermediate and Unlimited.

4. SMOOTH AWARDS

Awards given in a non-contest environment are referred to as "SMOOTH" awards. Each category (power and glider) has a designated set of figures which must be completed for a SMOOTH award. Primary through Intermediate category Smooth awards can be earned using either Method A or Method B described below. Advanced and Unlimited Smooth awards may only be earned using Method A.

A. By flying the designated figures in front of one Judge or Chief Judge from the current "IAC Approved Judges List" who must observe from the ground and grade EACH figure with date performed, legible signature and judge's IAC number.

(1) Each figure in the Category Figure Lists, Section 7 (Power) or Section 8 (Glider), must be entered on a single application form clearly marked for that category and award.

(2) These figures can be completed in either one flight or on multiple flights on different days, in different aircraft.

(3) Each figure must earn a grade of five (5.0) or higher using Chapter 8 criteria.

(4) There is no overall score nor positioning grade as this is not a sequence nor is a marked zone required; however, contest practice days are appropriate occasions to earn SMOOTH Awards.

(5) Breaking minimum altitude limits for any part of a figure will result in a zero (0) grade for that figure. The minimum limits for power are;

Primary and Sportsman 1500' AGL
Intermediate 1200' AGL
Advanced 800' AGL
Unlimited 600' AGL

(6) In case the applicant is flying for awards in more than one category, each duplicate figure must be flown and graded for each separate application.

(7) Aerobatic maneuvers may only be performed in compliance with FAA regulations. Waivered airspace may be required.

(8) Applicant must be the sole occupant of the aircraft during SMOOTH award flights except that a "safety pilot" for insurance purposes may be carried during Primary and Sportsman flights. The applicant must be sole operator of the controls during aerobatic figures.

B. By flying the designated figures with a Grading CFI in the aircraft.
The Grading CFI must:

- a. Be an FAA Certificated Flight Instructor;
- b. Be a current IAC member; and

c. Possess an IAC Achievement Award (Smooth or Stars) that is at least ONE category higher than the Smooth award being sought, as shown in the following table:

Smooth Award sought by applicant:	Primary	Sportsman	Intermediate
Minimum Award achieved by Grading CFI:	Sportsman	Intermediate	Advanced

d. of if flying with a MCFI-A that instructor may possess at least an IAC Achievement Award (Smooth or Stars) in the Intermediate category to grade for a Primary, Sportsman or Intermediate Smooth award.

For Advanced and Unlimited Smooth awards, the designated sets of figures must still be performed in front of a current IAC judge.

Although the specific point grade for an aerobatic maneuver is predicated on what a ground-based judge observes and not on what the pilot sees, a CFI who is a current IAC member and who also has earned an Achievement Award (Smooth or Stars) that is at least ONE category above the Smooth award being sought is capable of determining whether a designated figure would earn a qualifying point grade. The qualified CFI will therefore not assign a grade, but notate a "Q" (stands for Qualifying), on the award application.

All other criteria of the Smooth award, such as minimum altitudes, figures completed in one day or several, completed in a variety of airplanes and flown in compliance with FAA regulations will still apply as indicated in the previous Smooth award guidelines in Method A.

Under this rule, Grading CFIs could be required fill out Smooth award application forms as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Judge's Name & IAC #</u>
Q	John Instructor, CFI 00000, X-YY

Where: "Q" stands for Qualifying

Note: This is the only grade possible by a Grading CFI

"John Instructor, CFI" is the Grading CFI's name and designation

"00000" is the Grading CFI's IAC Number

"X" is the Grading CFI's own achievement award level, either:

- I = Intermediate
- A = Advanced
- U = Unlimited

"YY" is the type of award achieved by the Grading CFI, either:

- SM = Smooth
- ST = Stars

5. STARS AWARDS

Awards given in a contest environment are referred to as "STARS" awards. STARS awards must be earned in competition at an IAC sanctioned contest.

- (1) A minimum raw grade of five (5.0) or higher must be awarded on each figure and on positioning of all flights completed in a contest with four or more judges, except ONE grade on EACH figure and on positioning may be less than 5.0. In a three judge contest, ALL grades must be 5.0 or higher. The unlimited Power 4-Minute is not to be included as a flight.
- (2) Each applicant desiring a STARS Award will complete an application and submit it along with an official copy of all raw grades for all contest flights to the Chief Judge of the category for validation and signature. Forward approved application to the Achievement Awards Chairperson noted on the application.
- (3) Contest flights may not be used to qualify for the Smooth Award.
- (4) Intermediate, Advanced (power only) and Unlimited must fly at least two flights to qualify for a Stars Award. A contest that is able to fly only one flight for these categories cannot qualify a competitor for a Stars Award. All applicants must fly and qualify in all flights available at a contest in their category.
- (5) The alternate Known sequence cannot be used toward earning a STARS Award.

6. CERTIFICATES, PATCHES, PINS AND DECALS

- (A) A certificate suitable for framing will be issued for each award certified by the Achievement Awards Chairperson.
- (B) Distinctive patches, pins and decals will be available for purchase by applicant.
- (C) **Power** - A unique ALL-FIVE achievement award will be given free upon earning all five SMOOTH awards, and a unique ALL-TEN achievement award will be given free to applicants earning all five SMOOTH and all five STARS awards. The names of the ALL-TEN recipients for the previous 12 months will be announced each year at the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships by the President of IAC.
- Glider** – A unique ALL_SEVEN achievement award will be awarded free to applicants upon earning all four SMOOTH awards and all three STARS awards. The names of the ALL- SEVEN recipients for the previous 12 months will be announced each year at the U.S. National Glider Championships by the President of IAC.
- (D) A permanent list of all applicants and recipients of both SMOOTH and STARS awards will be maintained by the Achievement Awards Chairperson.

Applications for Achievement Awards can be obtained from the Achievement Awards Chairperson, from the Registrar at a sanctioned contest, or downloaded from the IAC web site – www.iac.org.