

2026 NZ Aerobatic Championships

Newsletter 1



The last Nationals was a great event, it is time to repeat the fun.

Where - Hood Aerodrome (NZMA) Masterton

When – **March 11th to the March 15th 2026 (practice day March 10th)**

This is our premier event and all categories from Primary to Unlimited and the 4-minute Freestyle will be flown.

Event organizer & contest Director Morris Tull, Grant Benns, Mike Fowler and Gill Phillips and Steve Geard are working hard on this event.

Our philosophy is to help you have fun, learn, improve, have a go, score well, and we are all here to help.

Accommodation - Book now!

We moved our dates this year because Hotels/motels are in short supply due to the Golden Shears event from 4-7 March.



Now is the time to grab your friends and get a Book a Bach or an Airbnb asap. Alternatively, we have permission to erect a tent/camper/van 'City' adjacent to the Aero Club (like they do at Oshkosh).

The Aero Club has full kitchen and bathroom facilities to support us, so we should have a fun time being right on the field. If you have your own tent, van or camper - great! If not, flick us a message any way you can so that we can help sort out something for you. I can't stress enough how important it is to sort out some accommodation ASAP.

Entry Fees are based on being \$60 per judged flight- Primary \$180 / Recreational \$180 / Sports \$180. Intermediate to Unlimited is \$240. We are adding prepayment for 4 lunches at \$15 each to the event entry cost to save hassle. We are also going to collect \$20 per evening for dinners/BBQ and \$70 for the prize giving night at Legend Aviation or the Aeroclub.

Remember you need to be a paid-up financial member of the club to compete, it is a measly \$35.

You may enter up to two categories, with the permission of the Contest Director, however if you fly the same aircraft in both categories only the scores for the higher category will count. Experienced pilots also flying a lower category may have a handicap applied to their scores to balance the playing field.

If you want to fly 2 different aircraft in the same category, you will have to nominate which aircraft counts towards the category trophy first and fly the Unknowns in that aircraft first.

While you are preparing your sequences and documents, flick Morris, or Grant a WhatsApp, email or message that you are planning to attend.

Most Valuable Assistants, Volunteers and Helpers. We can't run these events without a bit of extra help and if you can join us for the week, we will shout you lunch and maybe a few beers or a ride. If you know someone that may be interested like a Young Eagle, ATC cadet or retiree in the area, please put them in touch with us.

Sequences.

Sequences to be flown in the 2026 event are available on our website www.aerobatics.nz under "Sequences" or within [OpenAero](#) under "Library 2026".

All Free and Free-Known sequences must be submitted on the entry form in OpenAero.seq format.

Please ensure you've checked your sequences against the NZAC rules in OpenAero prior to submitting them.

Your Free or Free Unknown sequences should be uploaded during the entry process. You are able to go back to your form and change and/or upload additional files after it is submitted originally.

This is a new Google Forms and spreadsheet process and has been working well, let us know if you encounter any difficulties. Control + Click or Copy and paste to Enter via this link.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9wWBzEQbPIOZfaMoK44r5OUTYdywFReV_0WyWQumoWPgFtA/viewform?usp=dialog

For those members new (and not so new) wishing to partake in upcoming NZAC events, this serves as a reminder of the sequences to be flown in the various programs of our aerobatic competitions, in accordance with the NZAC rules (which can be found on the NZAC website). Note - not every event will include all the programs, so check the event notification/info as to which programs and sequences will be flown.

Program 1 - 'The Known Compulsory Program' - sequences for Primary Known 1 and Recreational Known 1 do not change from year-to-year, however for Sports to Unlimited we adopt the International Aerobatic Club sequences from the previous season. Everybody in a particular category will fly the same Known Compulsory sequence, and hopefully with ample practice given the early availability of the sequences! They may be downloaded, now, from two sources:

NZAC website - www.aerobatics.nz then choose the appropriate sequences for your category under the Sequences drop down

OpenAero – www.openaero.net (Library / 2026 / NZAC). Note - OpenAero works best with the Google Chrome browser.

Program 2 - 'The Free Program' - sequences follow a different pattern between the categories. Primary competitors will fly the Primary Known 2. Recreational will fly the Recreation Known 2. Sports competitors have the option of EITHER flying the Program 1 sequence again OR creating their own sequence in accordance with the NZAC rules. Intermediate to Unlimited competitors MUST create their own sequences, using the CIVA rules and prescribed Free figures from 2025.

OpenAero is the place to design your sequence, as the 'rules' for each category are built-in, meaning only the prescribed/allowable figures are available for the category you choose to fly, and pushing the 'check sequence' button upon completion will confirm compliance with the rules. The beauty of the Free Program is that YOU can design the sequence to suit your plane and your style of flying. And you can practice it to perfection too!

Program 3 are the Unknowns - sequences provided by the Contest Director at the competition which cannot be practiced.

Primary and Recreational will now fly the Known 3 published sequence and are lucky in that you can practice them in advance.

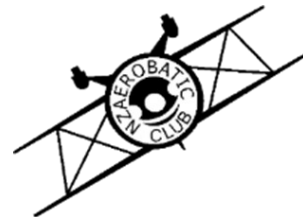
Program 4 are the Free Unknowns, a CIVA-based set of rules that allow Intermediate to Unlimited pilots the freedom to submit, at the competition, figures that can be combined to produce an Unknown sequence with some latitude for variation to suit the plane or pilot, albeit

another sequence that cannot be practiced. We will design these sequences on the Thursday evening. Great fun!

Finally, **the 4-minute Free** is a true freestyle program, normally available only to Advanced, Unlimited or invited pilots to display their skill, flair and art in an airshow-type display. We encourage more to try the freestyle, so contact me if interested.

To ensure 4-minute Freestyle pilots are practiced, prepared and maneuvers are appropriate for their aircraft and ability, a copy of their Freestyle sequence may be requested.

And here is the Box that you will try to keep your aircraft over. Good luck with that.



Event Timetable – March 2026

Mon 9th-10th March. Arrivals / Practice. *Put box markers out. Tech inspections.*

Tue 10th March. 1200-1300 Lunch/Briefing. 1300-1800 In Box practice allowed. Lone Star dinner.

Wed 11th March. 0800: Briefing (Aero club briefing room).
 0900: Practice.
 1230: Lunch.
 1330: Competition begins. Knowns all categories. *LLDA or Judging courses?*
 1900: Box closed. Bar opens at 1800. Welcome BBQ at Clubrooms.

Thurs 12th Mach. 0800: Briefing (Aero club briefing room).
 0900: Once Knowns are complete, Free-Knowns/Known 2's commence.
 1230: Lunch.
 1330: Free-Knowns and Known 2's until complete.
 1900: Box closed. Bar opens 1800
 1900: AGM.
 2000: Free Unknown design session, Pizzas delivered to Clubrooms.

Fri 13th March. 0800: Briefing (Aero club briefing room).
 0900: Unknowns (Inter/Adv/Unl). Primary and Rec fly Known 3.
 Once Unknowns complete, Free Unknowns (Inter/Adv/Unl).
 1230: Lunch.
 1330: Free Unknowns until complete.
 1900: Box closed. Bar opens at 1800. BBQ hosted by the Wairarapa Aero club

Sat 14th Mar. 0800: Briefing (Aero club briefing room).
 0900: Free Unknowns until complete (Inter/Adv/Unl).
 1200: Lunch.
 1300: Free Unknowns until complete then 4-minute Free-Style.
 1700: (1800 if necessary) Box closed. De-brief at Aero club.
 1700: Bar opens.
 1830: 3 course catered buffet dinner at Legend Aviation or Aero Club
 1900: Prize Giving.

Sun 15th Mar: 1000 -1300 possible last competition flights if weather delays are encountered.
 Presentation and lunch. Collect box markers, tidy up Aero club & hangar, & depart.

Documentation.

It's never too early to check your expiry dates and prepare copies of pilot and aircraft documentation (BFR, Aerobatic Bi-Annual, LLDA, Medical, Aircraft Insurance) (please find a profile picture of you and your aircraft to send as well) You will need these documents scanned or photographed to complete the entry process. We do have to sight current documents to participate so please get current and legal early, - again this is preferable rather than chasing this after the opening briefing at Masterton! Please make sure your aircraft checks are valid for the period of the competition, i.e., the 50-hour check, Annual, Radio and compass checks etc.

Trophies:

We need these back. If you won something last time, please engrave it with your name in the same style as previously, then polish it and either bring it back with you, or send it to us c/- the Wairarapa Aero Club.

Entry process and cutoff date January 31st.

We need your completed entries ASAP but by the latest of January 31st. Beyond that we will only accept late entries with begging to the contest directors and a \$50 bar tab donation or contribution to the poorest pilot's ferry flight costs. There are so many ways you can let us know you plan to attend so immediately send Grant or Morris a message to say you will be there then follow-up with the entry form ASAP please. I hope I have explained what you need to prepare for the entry form and how it works so now you can enter here via our Google forms entry process. Control + click or cut and paste to enter via this link.

If you do not have a google account to do the online Google form, print the form and send it to me old school.

Any questions, contact Morris, Grant, Mike, Steve or Gill for assistance. We are looking forward to seeing you all at Masterton.

Cheers, Morris Tull, Club President and Contest Director.