

# Entry Categories

- 1. Expert:** This category is for the builder-pilot and is the only category from which the Grand Champion is determined at the Championship Event. Those competing in Expert may also enter as either the builder or pilot in one Team class. Those competing in Expert may not compete in Advanced at the same contest. Regional qualifiers that include the AMA "Designer Scale", "FAI/F4C", or Top Gun "Master Class" may be combined with the Expert class at the Championships. The top 30% of "Designer", "FAI/F4C" and "Master Class" entries at these events shall be qualified to attend the Championships (see builder of the model rule on page 41).
- 2. Team:** This category is available to allow one of the Team members that exceed in piloting or building skills to participate in a competitive environment and also learn from their Team partner. The Team is considered the Pilot/Builder combination that qualified. Entries will consist of the builder of the model and a pilot of the builder's choice. The pilot may also assist the Builder to help provide guidance and ensure various airworthiness features of construction are included. The builder must be present at the contest to fulfill the definition of a team. In special cases, if the pilot is unable to be present at the Championships due to hardship, the builder may, with pre-approval from the CD, designate another pilot to participate as the builder/pilot combination. Anyone participating in Team Scale as either the pilot or builder can only participate in one Team at the same event. The top 30% in a Team scale category will qualify to fly at the Championships that fall. Team Scale will be judged along with Expert Scale for static and flight judging.
- 3. Advanced:** This category is available for top-level pilots using aircraft that are not governed by the Builder of model (BOM) rule. This includes purchased, modeler-built, or factory-built scale models including ARF/ARC (almost ready to fly/cover). Judging criteria for both flying and static are identical to Expert and Team Scale events as described in this Competition Guide. Any model used for competition in this category shall not be a past winner in the top ten places of Expert or the top five places of Team Scale at the US Scale Masters Championships. Those competing in Advanced may not compete in Expert at the same contest. However those competing in Advanced may also enter as either the builder or pilot in one Team class. Contestants who place in the top 20% of the class at a regional qualifier shall be qualified for entry in the Advanced Class at the Championships.

- 4. Open:** This category is available only at regional qualifiers as an entry-level class for new and developing scale competitors. Contestants may enter the Open category provided they have not previously competed in Expert, Team Scale, or Advanced. This category does not enforce the Builder of Model (BOM) rule and includes purchased, modeler-built or factory-built scale models including ARF/ARC (almost ready to fly/cover). Contestants who have previously competed in Team scale as a builder may compete in Open as a pilot. Static points will be awarded based on documentation provided. Outline will be worth up to 10 points based on 3 to 5 view drawings that have been published or approved. Color and Markings will be worth up to 10 points and require published drawings, color chips and/or artist's renditions. Craftsmanship will be worth up to 10 points based on accuracy of construction and extent of detail. All static judging downgrades will be in full-point increments. Flight scoring is identical to Expert, Team, and Advanced Classes. Contestants who place in the top position two years in a row at any regional qualifier in the Open Class must be moved to the Advanced Class described above. Any model used for competition in this category shall not be a past winner in the top ten places of Expert or the top five places of Team Scale at the US Scale Masters Championships.
  
- 5. Fun Scale:** This category is available at regional qualifiers only. To obtain a "static" score a fun scale contestant would provide some form of documentation proving that his/her entry is an example of a full size man carrying aircraft. Documented evidence will automatically score 5 points for static without any judging of the subject aircraft. If there is no documentation, the static score will be zero. Any scale or semi-scale aircraft is eligible for competition including ARF's. The only requirement is that the aircraft must resemble an actual full size man-carrying airplane. The contestant will be required to use the flight sheet utilized by Expert, Team and Open class and shall be subject to flight judging as if they were flying in those classes.