

CIAM Flyer 2-2023

Today's youth

Small and fast
impeller jets



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At all organisational levels and in nearly all disciplines, recruiting young people into aeromodelling is a difficult undertaking. Clubs, associations and specialist organisations are all committed to rising to the challenge.

Young people and World Championships

We have competition classes in which the number of competitors is increasing slightly, and others where they are stagnating or dropping. The split between

juniors and seniors is different from class to class. Juniors tend to be less attracted to classes requiring major construction effort or involving high technical complexity. Another insight from working with youngsters is that they prefer models resembling real aeroplanes. However, the increasing specialisation of competition models is heading in a different

direction. They are becoming less and less comparable to what is commonly understood to be an "airplane". The modern world of aviation is being taken over by modern youth. Small impeller jets, for example, made from foam materials and achieving remarkable levels of authenticity are currently highly popular.



What can we learn from this?

Is there a route to open rules and regulations based on what young people are looking for? A survey in specialist shops – both conventional and online –

could provide us with enough data to create up-to-date and simple competition rules (max. 1 page). Important: These junior classes should not just be for national events, but, along with other classes, should feature at World Championships, which would increase their appeal to young people.

Closeness to existing classes

Such rules for youngsters must allow or prepare for the transition to an existing class. Anyone watching the wild young jet pilots will be impressed by how effortlessly and skilfully they guide their machines through the air, executing point rolls, rolling circles, square figures, etc. Let's provide them with an opportunity to switch to F3A aerobatics in the future. The

elegant foam motor gliders are another example. Their pilots may be candidates for the F5J glider class. There are many more examples and, as everywhere, youth development is not possible without creativity and the courage to tread new paths. Good luck!



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P. S. The drawing as an example of a 4-min program for impeller jets up to 4 kg can be ordered at ebi.giezendanner@bluewin.ch