

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS DRIVING MINIATURE TRAINS AT NON-PUBLIC RUNNING DAYS

The AALS seeks to foster the involvement of junior members (including the children of full Club members) at private running days or other closed events when the members of the public are excluded from Club facilities, by publishing guidelines for their involvement in driving of miniature trains.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE NOT APPLICABLE AT TIMES WHEN CLUBS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

As it currently stands, the Operations Code of Practice requires that all junior operators who are driving be under the direct control of a full member at all times (i.e. riding immediately behind or walking beside a junior operator at all times).

These guidelines provide for junior operational activities as follows:

- Children under the age of 7 years shall not be permitted to operate trains or road models in accordance with the AALS Code of Practice clause 5.2.3. However this should not preclude a child from “driving” a model when ultimate control is in the hands of an Operator who is 18 years or older.
- Children aged 7 years or older should be permitted to operate trains and road models based on their competency as assessed by the Club’s Competent Person as defined in clause 4.6.2 or the Club’s driving examiner where such a person is nominated in a club.
- Driving competencies should be based on the following levels of autonomy:-
 - A. Permitted to drive only under direct supervision as defined under clause 3.6 of the Code of Practice.
 - B. Permitted to drive solo while within direct eyesight of a nominated supervising club member – either on a mainline or in sidings or in the case of model road vehicles, within enclosed grounds.
 - C. Be permitted to drive solo while within direct eyesight of any club members (driving through tunnels and behind vegetation or buildings is deemed acceptable).
 - D. Be permitted to drive with passengers other than a direct supervisor on the train (limited to other club members or their signed in family members).
 - E. Be permitted to drive solo, unsupervised and anywhere within the Club’s track or facilities whether carrying other Club members or not.
- The Board interprets the levels of driver supervision as follows:
 - A. Direct close supervision. Supervisor on-board unless that's not practical.
 - B. Direct supervision. Supervisor not required to ride but must be watching closely, others not allowed to ride.
 - C. Under indirect supervision, others not allowed to ride. All members should be attentive.
 - D. Under indirect supervision, introduce non-supervisory passengers.
 - E. No supervisor required.

It is recommended that any driving competency other than “A” should be documented in a Club register and a competency card (endorsed “Steam” or “Non Steam”) issued to the member which states the limits described above. It should also state if the permit includes steam-powered operation or not.

Those Clubs whose facilities are not enclosed (i.e. in a public park) and opting to adopt the forgoing provisions for junior or family members, will need to consider additional safeguards or limits to ensure that the public do not become involved with the operations of junior/family members.

FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE TO OPERATE SAFELY, ALL FULL CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT WILL NEED TO REMAIN BOTH VIGILENT OF AND HELPFUL TO OUR UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP.

WITHOUT AN EFFORT TO SAFELY TRAIN AND ALLOW ENJOYMENT TO OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS, OUR HOBBY WILL SUFFER FROM DECREASED MEMBERSHIP IN THE FUTURE.