

STRPM Operations and Membership Guidelines

Welcome to STRPM! As we are all members, we want to make the experience of running our trains very enjoyable. We do not want to over burden the organization with too many rules and regulations as we are all here to have fun and enjoy our hobby. But the Membership Committee feels that it is necessary to have Standard Membership Guidelines that we all should and must follow to keep operations in order. Please read the guidelines and use them for the benefit of everybody, that we all can maintain a standard of use and enjoyment of the system. Thank you in advance for your participation and commitment! All aboard!!!!

A. Membership

a. Probation:

- i. All new STRPM members must go through a 3 month probationary period which includes at least 6 operating sessions.

B. Safety

- a. Always watch for trip hazards and remove, cover, or do whatever is necessary to prevent falls of visitors and members alike.
- b. Do not leave boxes in walkway areas.

C. Display Area and Modules

- a. Neatness is a must.
- b. No drinks or food are allowed on the layout
- c. No equipment boxes will be placed on the layout
- d. Use available chairs for sitting. Please do not sit on Train Boxes, etc. Do not use Chairs for storage or materials or other items not in use. Always leave chairs available for sitting or resting.
- e. Keep Modules clear and clean of debris and trash. When working at an area i.e. Landscaping, when complete with your work, return materials and tools back to tool boxes or storage areas. Clean area where you are working when finished for the day or complete. Verify that mainlines are kept clean and no debris is left behind which could cause trouble for running trains.

D. Members Area

a. Neatness

- i. Do not leave a mess after you have eaten. Always clean up after yourself. It reflects on not only on you, but the group as a whole.
- ii. Garbage cans need to be emptied as needed and after every operating session.
- iii. Aluminum cans are collected to be recycled with funds going to the general funds for the organization. Please place these cans in the designated receptacles.
- iv. Completely empty all cans and drink cups before disposing into the Aluminum Recycle receptacles or trash cans.

b. Microwave

- i. Always clean the microwave after you have used it.
 - ii. Do not leave food in the microwave.
 - iii. Cover food or plate before starting the microwave to reduce splattering.
- c. Refrigerator
 - i. Do not leave food in the refrigerator over the week. The power is turned off during the week and it WILL spoil.
 - ii. If you spill something in the refrigerator, clean it up.
 - iii. When drinks are present in the refrigerator, always check to be sure it is not someone else's.

E. Operations

- a. De-consist Your Locomotives

Before taking your locomotives off the layout, you must de-consist all Multi-Units(MUs) that you have created during the running sessions. The system tracks locomotives that have not been de-consisted. So we know who you are!
- b. Do not handle equipment

Exceptions being rerailling derailed equipment, applying new equipment to the layout, and removal of equipment from layout by the owner.
- c. Respect other member's equipment!
 - i. If a member requests that his/her equipment not be used when they are not present, then their request MUST be honored.
 - ii. If you break or damage a members equipment, tell them or leave a note.
- d. Stay with your train
 - i. When you are operating a train you should always be within five or six feet of the head end of the train at all times.
 - ii. Unless operating in a yard or if you are the only member present, do not operate more than one train at a time.
- e. Do not leave trains on the mainline with or without power
 - i. It is not a good practice to leave trains occupying the mainline when shutting down the layout. (Exception: Mainline can be occupied when the train is parked between switches of a siding or reverse loop.)
 - ii. Never leave a train on the mainline without consisted power on the head end.
 - iii. Do not set-up any train on the mainline. Always set up your train on a siding or freight yard that is not in use or will block the use of the mainline at any time.
- f. Motive Power Consist
 - i. Do not remove motive power from train by hand. (Refer to Rule C)
 - ii. When switching power on a train, be sure to de-consist ALL the power on the train if you are setting out the locomotives. (Example: Units NS 8742, NS 8557, and NS 9967 are the power on a train, and you want to remove the NS 9967 from the consist as a result of the length of the train being reduced. The consist is to be switched to the locomotive tracks where you de-consist the locomotive from the operation consist and leaving the unit in the designated locomotive tracks. Then your power can be restored to your train.)

- iii. When reducing the number of locomotives in a consist, do not just remove the locomotive from the tracks by hand (ref. Rule C-3). Uncouple consist from train and take consist to designated locomotive tracks. At that point, de-consist whichever locomotive you are wishing to set out of the consist.
- iv. There are two types of locomotive tracks.
 - 1. Service Tracks – Tracks where most or all of the units are deconsisted and sitting awaiting assignment.
 - 2. Ready Tracks – Locomotives on these tracks are consisted and ready for assignment.
- g. Train Lengths and operations
 - i. For ease of operations, trains are limited to no longer than 25 feet or no longer than the shortest reverse loop.
 - ii. Do not put light cars on the head end of the train. The longer the train the heavier the train will be. Light cars cause derailments and are normally carried on the rear portion of the train.
- h. Communication is the key to smooth operations
 - i. When operating with two or more people, you must always keep in communication with the other operators. This is necessary to prevent head-on collisions and over occupancy of the mainline.
 - ii. Always check with other operators before departing a siding or return loop. This will ensure that you will not need to back up because a train was already past the last siding approaching your location.
- i. Logs
 - i. Equipment Log - All equipment used on the layout must be logged as to ownership
 - ii. Operations Equipment Log – All equipment entering operations must be entered into operations