

Skelmersdale Model Aircraft Club Constitution

Title

The Club is called the SKELMERSDALE MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB.

Aim

The Club aims to provide a safe and friendly environment for members and visitors to fly Radio Controlled Model Aircraft.

Affiliation

The Club shall be affiliated to the National Governing Body, comply with its requirements and operate the same membership year.

Trustees

The Club will indemnify its Trustees, the lease signatories, against all liabilities incurred in their capacity as Trustees.

Officers

The Club Officers shall comprise Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and will be selected by the Committee from its number.

Committee

The Club shall be managed by a Committee comprising the Officers of the Club and others up to a total of ten members.

Committee members shall be elected by the members at an AGM and serve for a period of two years.

The Committee shall have the authority to co-opt members should a vacancy occur.

The Committee shall hold at least four meetings each year where a quorum for the transaction of business shall be six members.

In the event of a tied vote the Chairman or his deputy for the meeting shall have a casting vote.

The Committee shall have a duty to expel any member guilty of unacceptable conduct within the Club such as wilful damage, violence, theft or serious breach of the Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy.

AGM

The Club will hold an Annual General Meeting for which the agenda will include:-

Minutes of the previous year's meeting.

Statement of the Club's accounts for the year and level of subscriptions for the following year.

Consideration of any rule changes introduced during the year for permanent adoption.

Consideration of proposed changes to the constitution.

Election of Committee members as required.

Notice of the AGM, the agenda and request for Committee nominations will be sent to members at least twenty one days before the meeting. Nominations and items to be included as other business must be received by the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting.

EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by lodging a request signed by ten adult members with the Secretary. Notice of the EGM and the agenda will be sent to members at least fourteen days before the meeting.

Voting

At General Meetings, changes to the Constitution or adoption of changes to Club rules shall require a two thirds majority, all other matters shall require a simple majority.

Insurance

Club members shall be insured through membership of the National Governing Body.

Right of Appeal

Any member advised by the Committee that they are to be expelled from the Club either for unacceptable conduct or through application of the club's disciplinary procedure has the right of appeal. Should the member opt to appeal, this would be to the club membership at an EGM called for the purpose at a mutually acceptable date and time by the Committee. A member has the right to appoint another member to present their appeal to the EGM. The decision of the members to uphold or reverse the decision to expel the member would be made on the basis of a vote conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in this constitution.

Winding –up

In the event of the demise of the Club any funds remaining after settlement of the Club's liabilities shall be donated to the National Governing Body..

Skelmersdale Model Aircraft Club Rules

The rules are in two parts:

Part 1, Mandatory Rules which are conditions of the lease under which we rent the field, i.e. we **cannot** change them,

Part 2, Club Rules which are subject to change by the Committee.

Club policy is to minimise rules and maximise personal responsibility. Nevertheless, rules are necessary and binding on members, that is, when you pay your subscription you agree to abide by the Rules.

Part 1. Mandatory Rules.

These are the terms and conditions on which we lease the field at White Moss (as from November 2007) in so far as they affect members operating models.

1. The land shall be used solely for the flying of radio controlled model aircraft and gliders.

The land is defined in the lease on Plan WLP1481 held by the Secretary.

2. The Club must keep the field clean and tidy and clear of all rubbish and must not bring onto the open land anything that is or might become untidy, unclean, unsightly or in any other way detrimental to the field or area generally.

3. The Club must do nothing which might cause a nuisance, annoyance, disturbance, inconvenience, injury or damage affecting the owners or occupiers of adjacent or neighbouring properties.

4. The Club must keep in force an insurance policy to cover all claims arising from the use of the field in the amount of £5 million in respect of any one claim for death, bodily injury, disease or damage to property.

5. The Club must indemnify the landlord, West Lancashire District Council, against all losses arising out of its use of the field.

You must also comply with the requirements of the Articles in the **Air Navigation Orders 74, 73 and 87:**

“A person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property”,

“A person shall not recklessly or negligently act in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft, or any person therein” and for larger models

“An aircraft...(weighing more than 7 kg but not more than 20 kg)...shall not fly unless the person in charge of the said aircraft has reasonably satisfied himself that the flight can safely be made.”

Part 2. Club Rules.

The Club Rules are divided into General Rules which amplify the Club Constitution and Procedures and Operational Rules relating to flying at the White Moss site. The Committee has the power to make such rule changes as may be required from time to time for the proper running of the Club. Such rule changes require endorsement by the Membership at the subsequent AGM to be adopted as Club Rules.

General Rules.

1. Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October or November.

2. Club Officers.

The Secretary shall convene meetings of the Club and Committee, act upon the decisions of such meetings, deal with correspondence and keep the records of the Club.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all sums due to or from the Club and present a record of transactions at Committee meetings. The Treasurer shall keep a full account of the financial affairs of the Club, arrange for their audit and present a statement of the Club's accounts for the year to the AGM.

The Membership Secretary shall collect subscriptions, issue membership cards, keep the membership list and liaise with the BMFA on membership matters.

3. Trustees Indemnity.

A separate account will be maintained to cover the cost of reinstatement of the flying field thereby financially protecting the Trustees in the event of the expiry or sudden termination of the lease.

4. New Members.

Acceptance of prospective new members, whether qualified or not, is the responsibility of the Club Training Wing. New Members are admitted subject to a twelve months probationary period.

5. Membership Renewal.

Membership renewal fees shall be made payable to the Club during December each year, irrespective of the date of admission. Failing this, membership shall be considered terminated and a new application will be necessary.

6. Expulsion.

Members may be expelled from the Club for serious unacceptable behaviour or on safety grounds via the Club Disciplinary Procedure.

7. Child Protection Policy.

The Club operates a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy based on the BMFA guidelines. Its provisions, printed elsewhere, form part of the Club Rules.

8. Complaints.

All complaints regarding the Club's activities shall be accepted only by the Committee. Members must not get into arguments with complainants but must refer the person to a Committee member, who will note the complaint but not discuss it except in full Committee. Politeness towards complainants is recommended at all times.

Operational Rules.

1. Flying times.

Operations can only take place between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 9.00 p.m. on weekdays and between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Sundays.

2. Parking.

Vehicles may be parked at the owner's risk on the car park adjacent to the path no nearer to the airstrip than the entrance to the Club house. The path is to be kept clear at all times.

3. Spectators.

Spectators, i.e. non members should be advised not to enter the pits area and not to approach the landing strip.

4. New Flyers.

A New Flyer is a learner or any member new to the Club and SHALL NOT FLY unless under the supervision of an approved instructor.

All new flyers must pass the B.M.F.A. 'A' Certificate test of competence before flying unsupervised.

The test will be carried out by one of the Club examiners appointed by the Committee.

When first flying a more advanced or significantly faster model than that on which the member was tested, supervision from an experienced flyer should be sought.

5. Visiting flyers.

Visitors may fly at the invitation of members on up to three occasions in any one year, but must have valid third party insurance through current B.M.F.A. membership. Temporary B.M.F.A. membership, valid for one month, can be obtained through the Club on payment of the appropriate fee.

Visitors must observe all Club rules and may fly only when supervised by the host member who must not fly at the same time.

6. Safety Checks.

Committee Members or appointees are authorised to check models for airworthiness. If, in the opinion of the official, the model, radio or member is not fit to fly, the model will not be flown until the problem is rectified.

7. Frequency Control.

All flyers must use legal radio transmitter frequencies and observe the following frequency control procedures at all times. It is the responsibility of the flyer to know and understand the current procedures, which may change from time to time. Changes in frequency control procedure will normally be announced by a notice in the Club Magazine "The Beacon".

Before switching on your transmitter:

35 MHz: Transmitters must carry an easily visible channel identification pennant.

Check that your transmitter crystal frequency channel matches the number on your pennant and frequency disc.

Place a frequency disc displaying your channel number and name (legibly printed in white or black on an orange background) on the frequency board. Make sure that a disc showing the same channel is not already in place which would indicate that the frequency is occupied.

27 MHz: If there are no other fliers already operating on the 27 MHz band, place a disc with your name printed clearly on the front on the 27 MHz section of the frequency board.

Subsequent 27 MHz band fliers must liaise with those already flying on the 27 MHz to avoid frequency clashes. If no clash will occur place a disc with your name on the 27 MHz section.

2.4 GHz: Transmitters must carry a black pennant.

Place a black disc with your name printed clearly on the front on the 2.4 GHz section of the frequency board.

After switching off your transmitter:

Remove your disc from the frequency board and attach it to your transmitter in a position which can easily be seen by other flyers. Any flyer not observing the procedures and causing damage to another aircraft by his actions is expected to make restitution to the 'shot down' flyer, normally by mutual arrangement. In case of dispute, the Committee reserve the right to set restitution following complaint by either party involved.

8. Noise.

Engines must be fitted with a muffler so that models comply with the noise limits (82dB(A) at 7 metres) described in full in the Code of Practice for the Minimisation of Noise from Model Aircraft.

9. Pits Procedures.

Transmitter aerials must be retracted in the pits area.

All models must be started up and serviced only in the pits area designated for the purpose.

Whilst models are being started the model must be restrained and point towards the Land Fill Site (i.e. away from the benches and the Club House).

Models with engines running must be under restraint at all times in the pit area.

Pilots carrying models to or from the strip should watch out for any models being started and proceed with caution.

Taxiing through the pit area to and from the airstrip is not allowed.

10. Number of models.

There shall be no more than five fixed wing models and one helicopter in flight at any one time.

11. Position of Pilots.

Apart from take-off and retrieval, the pilots' normal position will be on the pits side of the airstrip. For certain wind directions, pilots may stand at the easterly or westerly end of the airstrip as close to the pits as is practical. The pilots should stand as a group so that they are aware of each others intentions.

12. Take-off and Landing.

It is the responsibility of pilots wishing to take off to first make sure that there are no aircraft in a landing circuit. Landing aircraft have the right of way but it is the responsibility of each pilot to check that the airstrip is clear before entering a landing circuit, during the circuit and before touchdown. Good communications between pilots on the airstrip is essential for observation of this rule.

Pilots and assistants are only allowed on the airstrip for the purposes of launching and retrieving models so that time spent on the airstrip is kept to a minimum. Adjusting models and tuning engines whilst on the airstrip is not allowed.

13. Flying.

Flying over the pit area, car park, track and Club house at any height is prohibited.

Models are not allowed to take off or land towards or near the pit area, car park or Club house.

Models must only fly circuits which take them over the airstrip in an upwind direction.

The direction of circuit to be flown depends on the wind direction; left hand when the wind is from the West and right hand when it is from the East.

No model shall be flown outside the boundaries to the field.

14. Stray models.

Permission shall be obtained from adjacent landowners before the recovery of stray models from their land.

15. Helicopters.

You must hold the rotor head during starting and until ready for taking off.

Helicopters must be flown only from the areas designated for the purpose.

16. Mowing.

All flying shall cease whilst grass cutting and work on the airstrip is in progress.

17. Disciplinary Procedure.

Members whose conduct at the flying field constitutes a safety hazard through continued failure to observe the Club Rules and/or the BMFA Safety Codes despite having their attention drawn to the requirements will be issued with a formal verbal warning by the Safety Officer or a Committee Member. In the absence of sustained compliance with the Rules and Safety Codes a formal written warning will be issued by the Committee. Failure to comply with the written warning will result in expulsion from the Club.