



BATH, WILTS AND NORTH DORSET GLIDING CLUB

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YOUNG PILOTS POLICY

FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PILOTS

Advice Concerning Young People at The Bath, Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club

Introduction

The Bath, Wilts and North Dorset Gliding Club (BWND GC) wants parents to be fully aware of the limited levels of supervision the Club can practically provide for their child at BWND GC, especially at times when the child is not involved in flying activities. Although we do not want to put unnecessary restrictions in the way of any young person keen to participate in gliding, we consider it important that parents clearly understand what they can, and cannot, expect the club to do towards caring for their child whilst on BWND GC Airfield. To this end we ask you to consider the following and if you understand and agree with it, to return one copy signed as indicated.

Children under the age of fifteen

Children under the age of fifteen are only allowed on the airfield and premises if they are in the continual care and supervision of their parents or an adult nominated by the parents. Children under 15 can be given a Trial Lesson. They must be heavy enough for the safe operation of the glider and they must be big enough to be strapped in safely and to see out. They would need to be close to 5 feet (1.5m) tall and weigh at least 98 lbs (45 kg). This makes fourteen years old the clubs minimum age for cadetship.

Young people who are fifteen and older

BWND GC accepts flying members from the age of 15 upwards and we accept that young people in this age group will often not have parental supervision whilst here. However, during the 'flying hours' of the club, usually 9.00 am to 6 pm, BWND GC will agree to no parental presence, provided the Chief Flying instructor has agreed and the young person accepts he/she stays within the club grounds preferably near the launch point. The club must also have a contact phone number on which there will always be someone available.

What parents can expect BWND GC to do

BWND GC sees flight safety as its highest priority. The Club will do all it can to ensure your child is safe whilst involved in flying activities both on the ground and in the air. This starts with a briefing that points out the immediate hazards and further briefings are given as an integral part of learning to fly a glider. Air and ground safety tuition continues well past the first solo stage.

Once the young person goes out to the launch point to fly, their flying and safe conduct on the ground is the concern of the instructors involved, although the instructor does not have a duty of care for the young person. The safety aspects of flying and ground operations are structured

and are the responsibility of the Chief Flying Instructor. He devolves safety through all the instructors under him.

Parents need to understand

Any young person joining BWND GC is joining an adult members club and all members of any age come and go when they please with no formality. For young people this means that, unlike going to school where teachers take on some parental responsibility for part of the day, or a Scout camp where Leaders do the same thing 24 hours a day, coming to BWND GC is different. There is no one at the club who checks a young person has arrived and who accepts any degree of responsibility for them.

Please read appendix 1 one as expectations of parents.

What BWND GC cannot do

BWND GC does not attempt to provide supervision for young people other than that associated with our flying activities. When any young person is not flying the club does not and cannot supervise their actions. BWND GC tries to treat all members the same regardless of their age but certain rules and procedures do apply to those under 18.

1. Under 16's cannot stay at BWND GC overnight except with a parent or guardian. There are no barriers to prevent access to the airfield and therefore BWND will not accept responsibility for any young person staying overnight. Parents must satisfy themselves that any overnight arrangements they make with their children are sensible and safe. No overnight camping is permitted except during flying weeks and occasional weekends when other adult members are staying.

3. No alcohol is served to anyone under 18 in the bar.

4. Anyone without a full UK driving license is not allowed to drive any vehicle on the airfield, except the Gators and then they must be 16 years or older. The young person, however, has to be checked out as competent by nominated club member. This prohibits young people driving BWND GC's vehicles without the necessary age or having been cleared by a club member from being insured to use them and our insurers have stipulated they will not insure them to do so.

5. Another area of concern is transport to and from the airfield. BWND GC has virtually no public transport and most children rely on their parents for travel. Parental transport is obviously ideal but not always possible. Your child may get to know a member here and be offered a lift, which may be acceptable to you or not. The important thing you need to know is that if this happens it will not be an arrangement made with the agreement and consent of the BWND GC, simply because the Club will not know about it.

6. Young people are welcome to be members and fly at BWND GC but, because they represent a tiny proportion of the membership, it is difficult for the Club to make special arrangements for all their individual needs. If a young person has any concerns about his or her treatment at BWND GC they should be advised to contact you, the parent, immediately, there is a phone available 24 hours a day in the clubhouse. A young person with a problem should also report it to the club secretary or the nominated club member for young people.

If any parent has any concerns about the information in this note or related issues or has any questions about the points raised in this document please contact the BWND GC Secretary.

As parent of..... I acknowledge receipt of the above information and agree to my child abiding to the conditions.

Signed..... Date

Two copies of this document are given to you. Both copies should be signed. Parents keep one copy and the other to be returned to the BWND GC.

Gator Driving for Young People

As part of the training and integration of young people into the gliding club the club will train young people under the age of 17 years to drive club gators. This training will only be given once the young person has shown some degree of aptitude on the airfield and is of sufficient stature to handle the foot pedals, gears and steering. This will be determined by an instructor.

There are rules regarding the use of gators on the field and your child will be asked to read, observe and use them at all times and to take no risks with aircraft or with other people.

This training will only be given if parents give their permission. As a parent you are asked to consider this and sign the section below if you are happy for your child to be trained and drive the gators.

As parent of..... I acknowledge receipt of the above information and a copy of the gator driving rules and agree to my child abiding to the rules given.

Signed..... Date

Medical declaration young pilots: For those under the age of 25, a self-declaration to DVLA group 1 standard to be held by the club. **Please complete and return the form below:**

Young pilot declaration form for Cadets and Juniors only.

Declaration of fitness (BGA only – not valid for NPPL or PPL)

This may be signed as an alternative to the holding of a driving license by glider pilots under the age of 25 years. It expires on the 25th birthday and if by then a driving license is not held, a NPPL or another medical certificate must be obtained.

BELOW: Cadet or Junior member - I declare that I can read a car number plate at 20m and do not suffer any medical condition that would disqualify me from holding a private driving licence. (In cases of doubt, guidance on the medical standards required can be obtained from the DVLA web site).

Club holding declaration is: **BWND Gliding Club**

Full name: Date of birth:

Signature: Date signed:

Signature of parent or guardian if under the age of 18 years:

Appendix 1

JUNIOR GLIDING CODE OF CONDUCT.

Being a “Cadet or Junior” means you are a part of a community who all show a common interest in gliding. Within this group, there are some basic expectations that we must all abide by to ensure it remains well represented and fun for everyone.

- Junior Gliding Code of conduct is.
- I would treat everyone with respect and as an equal and will not behave inappropriately towards others.
- I will respect the rules of the air and never deliberately perform actions which will put myself or others in danger.
- I understand that the future success of cadets and juniors (and gliding as a whole) relies on being safe and maintaining a good reputation.
- I will abide by the national law on alcohol consumption.
- When visiting other airfields, I will respect the club and its members and abide by its rules.
- UKJG leaders are always available to assist in resolving issues. They operate an impartial, confidential and supportive “open door policy”. Where concerned for myself and another, I will speak to a club official.
- I will do my utmost to contribute positively to the Junior community.

Appendix 2

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Bath, Wilts and North Dorset Gliding club believes that Club members, their guests and visitors to the club are entitled to expect courtesy, consideration and to be able to operate within a culture of safety. The development and maintenance of such a safety culture relies on everyone being able to trust one another, and for each person to show consideration and to have a duty of care for fellow participants. To this end, the Club Management Committee expects certain minimum standards of behaviour from Club members, their guests and visitors to the Club. This includes a responsibility for all Club members, their guests and visitors, to bring to the attention of any Club official any situation which is believed to constitute a hazard, so that adequate mitigation can be applied, or risk of exposure to the hazard can be removed.

As the Parent / carer of the young person we ask that you will:

- Support their involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Encourage them to learn good airmanship and the laws and rules governing gliding and safe behaviour around aircraft and airfields.
- Encourage them to treat others in the way they would like to be treated themselves.

- Help them to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force them to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a young person for making mistakes.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Liaise regularly with club officials where necessary.
- *Co-operate with club officials where appropriate, especially on matters of safety.*