



MIDLAND GLIDING CLUB LOCAL FLYING RULES (Version 23)

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THE RULES

These are the rules and practices relating to flying and airfield operations of the Midland Gliding Club at the Long Mynd for members and visitors.

Definitions

In these Rules, and unless context requires otherwise:

- (1) a reference to a "glider" includes both Club and private gliders including visiting gliders;
- (2) a reference to a "member" or "members" of the Club includes a visiting pilot or pilots unless the context in any case does not require this; and
- (3) 'Club' means the Midland Gliding Club.

1. General

- 1.1 All members share the obligation to ensure smooth and safe flying operations.
- 1.2 All airfield and flying operations at the Long Mynd shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the current edition of the BGA Laws and Rules.

2. Club Vehicles

- 2.1 Club vehicles shall only be driven by members holding a Full Driving Licence for motor cars.
- 2.2 Club vehicles shall not be driven on any public highway.
- 2.3 No repairs, adjustments or modifications shall be made to any Club motor vehicle except by the winch driver or by a member authorised to do so by an officer of the Club or the MT member of the Committee.
- 2.4 Members should note that a person driving a Club vehicle may be held legally liable for any loss or injury to a person or to property caused by the driving of the vehicle.

3. Winches and Cables

- 3.1 The main winch shall only be operated by a member who is either:
 - 3.1.1 under training and being supervised by an authorised operator, or
 - 3.1.2 authorised by the winch master or the Committee to be an operator.
- 3.2 The retrieve winch shall only be operated by a member who is either:
 - 3.2.1 under training and being supervised by a Club instructor or a launch director, or
 - 3.2.2 authorised by a Club instructor or a launch director to be an operator.
- 3.3 No dead cable shall be made live (i.e moved by a winch) until the operators of both the retrieve winch and the main winch has agreed the operation. This applies ordinarily to a launch, but it also applies to a failed cable retrieve and to cases when a repair or adjustment is being or has been carried out to a winch or cable. The operating key on the retrieve winch shall be removed whenever a repair or adjustment is being made by the main winch driver to the cable or to the main or retrieve winch, and the key shall only be returned on instructions from the main winch driver.
- 3.4 No repairs, adjustments or modifications shall be made to any winch except by the main winch driver or by a member authorised to do so by an officer of the Club or the MT member of the Committee
- 3.5 No person shall approach a live cable until it has come to rest.

4. Access to the Club and onto the airfield by vehicles

- 4.1 The barrier at the entrance to the airfield shall be kept closed at all times during flying operations.
- 4.2 No private motor vehicle shall be driven on the airfield and other land of the Club except by a person holding a Full Driving Licence for motor cars.
- 4.3 Members driving private motor vehicles on the airfield and other land of the Club do so at their own risk. Members are advised that insurance policies for vehicles on the airfield may not provide cover in respect of any loss or damage to persons and property. The definition of 'airfield' for the purposes of the policy may include all land surrounding the airfield including



the access roads, car parks and caravan enclosure.

5. Mynd Progress and Log Book

5.1 Full flying members of the Club shall keep a Mynd Progress and Log Book which is to be kept fully up to date until they hold a LAPL or Silver 'C'.

5.2 Full flying members of the Club who hold a LAPL or a silver 'C' shall keep an adequate record of their flying to prove that they meet, as appropriate, the BGA requirements for training and solo flying and for the renewal of ratings and MGC stages.

5.3 Members of the Club intending to fly P2 should present their Log Book to the instructor so that the instructor can decide what training or briefings are appropriate.

5.4 Members of the Club intending to fly P1 may be required to produce their Log Book to the launch director or the duty instructor.

6. Launching operations

6.1 No launch by winch or aerotow shall take place if the main or retrieve winch drivers consider that a vehicle or person walking, cycling or horse riding within the airfield boundaries would be endangered or at risk if the launch proceeded;

6.2 In the case of any doubt in the minds of the main or retrieve winch drivers in respect of safety to launch, the launch shall be stopped and a decision to proceed or not shall be made by the Launch Director or an Instructor on any advice from the duty winch driver; and

6.3 Any member perceiving a hazard or risk to persons, aircraft, property or animals if a launch by winch or departure by any aircraft (including an aerotow) proceed shall immediately raise their arms and shout out loudly "STOP".

6.4 Notwithstanding the generality of the provisions set out in paragraph 6.1, the following provisions apply in any event:

6.4.1 no launching to the south, southwest or north by winch or aerotow shall take place if vehicles or pedestrians are situated in, or are about to enter the Port Way within the area between a line running eastwest through the launch point and a line running eastwest through the main winch position.

6.5 No launching by winch or aerotow in any direction shall take place if there is a person visible from main winch or launch point riding a horse on any footpath or bridleway within the boundaries of the airfield including the PortWay and that part of the Starboard Way lying between a line running eastwest through the launch point and a line running eastwest through the main winch position.

6.6 In respect of short west launches by winch:

6.6.1 The launch setup should be arranged so that the nearby parts of the starboard way and the ridge, the siteroad and the portway can be seen. This may be achieved directly by the positioning of the main winch and launch point or indirectly by means of a radio-equipped watcher. Duties are to be agreed before launching begins.

6.6.2 warning signs for those using the Port Way shall be positioned close to the main gate and also at the junction of the Port Way with the track leading to the car park.

6.7 No powered aircraft shall depart to the west (including aerotows) unless there is a ridge watcher in radio contact with the pilot of the aircraft.

6.8 In respect of launches to the north, south and southwest, the main winch shall be stationed so that the winch driver has a clear view of the airfield to the front and to each side of the main winch.

7 Launching

7.1 No cable or rope shall be attached to a glider for any type of launch until the pilot has specifically requested it.

7.2 Winch launching

7.2.1 If a retrieve winch is in operation, no glider shall be winch launched unless: it is stationed immediately opposite the retrieve winch with the nose of the glider being level with or in front of the front of the retrieve winch, and the wing tip nearest to the retrieve winch is no less than 15m distant from the retrieve winch.



7.2.2 All launching signals between both winches shall be given by the lights.

7.3 A erotowing

The signals to the tug pilot for an erotow launch shall be given by radio by a competent member, who has a clear view above and behind and also in front of the tug.

7.4 The pilots of a tug aircraft shall fly an approach to the airfield which will not result in the towrope:

7.4.1 hitting or otherwise endangering any person or property within or outside the airfield boundaries, and

7.4.2 passing close to any person or property within or outside the airfield boundaries

7.5 Bungee launching

All pilots and ground crew taking part in bungee launching shall be familiar with the detailed bungee briefing notes. Duty instructors shall give a briefing based on the Notes to all members taking part prior to bungee launching being commenced.

8. Use of radios on the circuit

All pilots shall ordinarily announce by radio on 129.975 MHz that they are on the downwind leg, though flying safely always takes priority.

9. Daily briefing

9.1 Before flying commences there shall be a briefing conducted by a member of the instructing team.

9.2 All members intending to fly on the day are encouraged to attend the day's briefing.

9.3 Any pilot intending to fly who did not attend the day's briefing shall ask for a briefing from the duty instructor or his nominated deputy before flying.

10. Persons under the age of 18 years

10.1 There is no minimum age limit to fly as P2 in a glider.

10.2 A person aged under 18 years intending to fly P2 (either as a passenger or for an Introductory Flight) in a glider shall before flying:

10.2.1 become an associate junior member of the Club by completing the appropriate form endorsed with the signature of a parent or guardian or other person acting in loco parentis,

10.2.2 be fit and be capable of satisfying the medical requirements for associate membership,

10.2.3 be capable of being properly secured by the aircraft harness and of meeting the weight and balance requirements with ballast, if appropriate,

10.2.4 in addition to the normal pre-flight briefing, be instructed not to interfere with the canopy locks and aircraft controls,

10.2.5 be judged to be mature enough to understand the purpose of the flight, the method of launch, the importance of following instructions and any other relevant factors, and

10.2.5 if taking an Introductory Flight, be capable of receiving flying instruction to meet the requirements of a first lesson,

10.3 No person may fly solo before reaching the age of 14 years.

11. Persons aged 80 years and over

A member who has reached the age of 80 years may only be a pilot in a mutual flight if the other pilot is:

11.1 an instructor, or

11.2 aged 69 years or less and holds a DVLA Group 2 medical declaration.

12. Visiting pilots who are not holiday course members

All visiting pilots shall:

12.1 apply to become an associate member by completing the appropriate form,

12.2 produce to the Club office proof that they meet current BGA medical requirements before flying solo in any aircraft,

12.3 familiarise themselves with the site and its characteristics by studying and signing the



'Instructions for Glider Pilots including Local Flying Rules' available on the download page of the Club website and from the office, and walk the site (when flying is not in progress) with a knowledgeable Club member,

- 12.4 not fly solo until the duty instructor has given permission, and
- 12.5 obtain the duty instructor's permission to fly :
 - 12.5.1 at the beginning of each subsequent flying day, or
 - 12.5.2 if the direction of the launch changes, or
 - 12.5.3 if the weather conditions materially change.

13. Visiting Instructors

- 13.1 Visiting Instructors wishing to instruct in a visiting aircraft shall:
 - 13.1.1 comply with the requirements in paragraph 13, and
 - 13.1.2 be checked out by a Club instructor.
- 13.2 Visiting instructors wishing to instruct in a Club aircraft shall:
 - 13.2.1 comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 14.1;
 - 13.2.1 obtain the permission of the CFI of the Club or, in his absence, the DCFI;
 - 13.2.3 provide evidence that they are current in instructing at their home club. In this rule 'current' means that the instructor should have flown at least three launches and landings in the intended glider type using the intended launch method within the previous 90 days. In any case when this test cannot be satisfied, the instructor should fly at least one solo flight or one flight under instruction in the intended glider type using the intended launch method prior to carrying out the flight; and
 - 13.2.4 complete the annual check folder in the Club office before any instructional flight takes place and be given a copy to present to any other Club Instructor.

14. Rig checks and positive control checks

- 14.1 A rig check shall be carried out before flying in respect of each newly rigged glider in addition to the daily inspection.
- 14.2 A rig check shall ensure that the glider has been rigged correctly in all respects.
- 14.3 A rig check shall be carried out by a member who is cleared to daily inspect and who was not involved in any part of the rigging operations.
- 14.4 The glider's DI book shall be endorsed by the member carrying out the rig check, before the glider flies, that the check was satisfactory.
- 14.2 A positive control check shall be carried out on every glider before it flies, whether it has been newly rigged or not:
 - 14.2.1 before being taken to the launch point, and
 - 14.2.2 at the launch point.

15. Associate Members for an Introductory Flight and those accompanying them

- 15.1 Associate members on their first visit for an Introductory Flight shall:
 - 15.1.1 before going onto the airfield be given a briefing as to safety by the instructor in charge of any Introductory Flight or by a competent member; and
 - 15.1.2 be escorted to and from the launch point by a member or be briefed on how to do so safely.
- 15.2 An associate member for an Introductory Flight may only be accompanied onto the airfield by one person.
- 15.3 Any person under paragraph 16.2 shall at all times be supervised by a designated club member under the first lesson flight instructor.

16. Introductory Flights

- 16.1 The duty team for any Introductory Flight to take place shall include at least one full category instructor.
- 16.2 Introductory Flights by winch may be carried out by a Full Flying Member of the Club who holds:



- 16.2.1 a British Gliding Association Full or Assistant category instructor rating, or
- 16.2.2 a British Gliding Association Basic Instructor rating with a winch endorsement, or
- 16.2.2 a LAPL(S) with a Flight Instructor rating, or
- 16.2.3 a LAPL(S) with an Introductory Flight Pilot endorsement.
- 16.3 There should be a good prospect of a high winch launch and/or good soaring prospects.
- 16.4 Introductory Flight should not take place in gusty or turbulent conditions,

17. Mutual Flying

- 17.1 A mutual flight means any flight in a two seater glider with two pilots during which no flying training and instruction is to be given.
- 17.2 The prior permission of the duty instructor is required for any mutual flight.
- 17.3 The PI for the flight shall be agreed by the pilots before they get into the cockpit and the following principles apply:
 - 17.3.1 the pilot at the higher Stage shall hold a Silver C badge and have a minimum 50 hours pilot in charge shall be P1, and should have flown three takeoffs and landings in the intended glider type using the intended launch method within the previous 90 days;
 - 17.3.2 if both pilots are at the same Stage, the duty instructor shall decide who is P1;
 - 17.3.3 P2 shall be at Stage 3 or above and hold a Bronze badge with the cross country endorsement, except as mentioned in paragraph 18.4; and
 - 17.3.4 both pilots shall be cleared for solo flying, stage current and shall hold the appropriate endorsements for the flight to be undertaken.
- 17.4 The CFI may authorise a P1 who is not an instructor to fly with a pilot at Stage 2 or above who does not hold a Bronze badge with the cross country endorsement for the purposes of cross country coaching.
- 17.5 The P1 shall occupy the front seat, except that an instructor may occupy the rear seat.
- 17.6 The P1 shall be at the controls at all times when the glider is under 500' agl.
- 17.7 An instructor shall be appointed by the CFI to authorise individual members of a privately owned two seater glider to fly P1 in that glider and to carry out appropriate checks for members of the syndicate.
- 17.8 The P1 shall ensure that the launch point Log Book correctly records who is P1.
- 17.9 The P1 shall be in command at all times.
- 17.10 Flying mutually as P1 is a privilege and may lead to the CFI asking the P1 to train as an instructor, but the privilege may be suspended or cancelled in the event of any flying to a poor standard or in breach of any Rule.

18. Beat Ups

Flying beat ups is not permitted.

19. Ridge flying

Aircraft shall at all times when ridge soaring adopt the following "traffic lanes" pattern to assist in separation:

- 19.1 aircraft on a northerly heading shall ordinarily fly closer to the ridge (i.e. ordinarily maintain a track to the east of the line of the road at the foot of the hill); and
 - 19.2 aircraft on a southerly heading shall ordinarily fly further out (i.e. ordinarily maintain a track to the west of the same line)
- as well as comply with the normal ridge soaring rules.

20. Ridge running and low level ridge soaring

- 20.1 Ridge running is permitted only in the following circumstances:
 - 20.1.1 the whole length of the ridge is first observed to see what other activities are taking place,
 - 20.1.2 the pilot shall agree what is intended with the number 1 instructor,



- 20.1.3 the pilot is required to hold the relevant ridge running endorsement and be stage current, and
- 20.1.4 the number of gliders permitted to ridge run at any one time shall be limited at the discretion of the number 1 instructor but shall never exceed 3.
- 20.2 Any pilot ridge running or soaring the ridge at a low level shall:
 - 20.2.1 not fly in a way which conflicts with flying operations of hang gliders, parascenders and the model gliders,
 - 20.2.2 keep well clear of the areas in which any hang gliders and/or model gliders are operating,
 - 20.2.3 keep well clear of the area in front of the bungee point so as not to conflict with gliders being launched and powered aircraft departing, and
 - 20.2.4 not fly near to persons walking, cycling or horse riding.
- 20.3 Pilots are reminded that a glider shall not fly closer to any person, vehicle or structure than 500 feet, but there is an exemption for hill soaring (UK Rules of the Air 1996, Rule 5).

21. Incident reporting

- 21.1 For the purposes of this rule, an incident means any occurrence or lack of action connected in any way with the flying operations, whether on the ground or in the air, which is not required to be reported to the BGA but which may highlight an issue or practice which needs to be addressed by the Club or the CFI in the interests of safety or good practice.
- 21.2 All incidents shall be recorded either in the Incident Book kept in the Club Office or by completing the incident report form on the 'Download Club Documents' page on the club website and emailing to the CFI and the office .

22. Private ownership of gliders

- 22.1 No glider shall be kept at the Club on a permanent basis without the prior permission of the CFI.
- 22.2 No member shall become an owner of a glider to be kept on a permanent basis at the Club, or acquire a share in such a glider, without the prior permission of the CFI.

23. Passenger Flying

- 23.1 A "Passenger" is a person who is not at the date of the intended flight current or capable of flying solo.
- 23.2 The following may fly a Passenger:
 - 23.2.1 a pilot holding:
 - 23.2.1.1 British Gliding Association instructor rating, or
 - 23.2.1.2 a LAPL(S) with a Flight Instructor rating, or
 - 23.2.1.3 a LAPL(S) with an Introductory Flight Pilot endorsement or
 - 23.2.2 in exceptional circumstances, a pilot holding a LAPL(S) or Silver C and only then for the intended flight with the permission of the CFI, or
 - 23.2.3 with the permission of the CFI or the DCFI, a pilot with a lapsed assistant or full category instructor rating provided that they hold a valid a valid LAPL, PPL, NPPL or DVLA Class 2 medical or its equivalent, and a copy of it is held in the Club's office.
- 23.3 A Passenger may be flown in:
 - 23.3.1 a Club glider, or
 - 23.3.2 in a privately owned glider provided that the owner or owners are all Full Members of the Club.
- 23.4 The Pilot flying a Passenger shall:
 - 23.4.1 be a Full Flying Member of the Club, and
 - 23.4.2 be current to fly solo at the date of the intended flight, and
 - 23.5 be Stage current. This means that the pilot shall have flown at least three launches and landings in the intended glider type using the intended launch method all within the previous 90 days. In any case when this test cannot be satisfied, the pilot shall fly at least one solo



flight or one flight under instruction in the intended glider type using the intended launch method prior to carrying out the passenger flight.

23.6 The Passenger shall be a full or associate member of the Club.

23.7 The Passenger shall at all times while on the airfield be supervised by the pilot or a designated member of the Club.

23.8 No flying instruction may be given to the Passenger

This was copied from pdf document V22 to allow editing and sections 6.4,6.5,6.6 brought in line with current practice.

Approved by Guy Hartland, CFI, MGC 31/08/2021.