

## INTRO TO CLUB RULES

**Aim:** To learn what Club rules are and why we have them.

*Rules..... Ahhhhhh..... I've come gliding to get away from rules!!!* Well... if everyone displayed *common sense* we could dispense with many rules. Unfortunately, common sense is not as common as the term suggests! As a result, rules have been established to help all of us follow procedures that are known to work in keeping us both safe and efficient in our endeavours. In gliding, we prefer to work on education rather than regulation and endeavour to keep our rules to a working minimum.

Good rules are easy to follow as they are logical and serve a clear purpose. We may not initially appreciate why a particular rule is in place; usually it has developed out of a need to keep people from harming themselves and others or their property or that of others. As humans, we are prone to making errors despite our best intentions to do things right. While we do not set out to make errors, they occur for a number of reasons. Things like a lack of knowledge from gaps in our training or a lack of understanding of why or how a procedure is to be followed and the possible consequences of not following it all contribute to our errors. Indeed, many rules are the result of someone else's misfortune so we are able to learn from this and when appropriate, use a rule to help prevent a repeat.

So, what sorts of things are covered in Club Rules? The best way to answer this is to take a look at them. Usually, they are divided into sections that cover administration and operations. Administrative rules address things like membership and matters like when and how to pay accounts. Operational rules cover matters like who can fly what aircraft, where and when; how the operations out on the field are to be conducted and how equipment is to be used.

Club Rules will often reflect rules from a higher authority like the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Club rules can be more restrictive than Civil Aviation Rules; they can not be less restrictive. If you are unsure of what a rule means or what is required of you to ensure compliance with the rule, ASK. It is appreciated that it is not always obvious as to why things are done a particular way. Equally, if you think a rule can be amended to help ensure safer operations, then come forward with the suggestions.

The club will have procedures in place for dealing with any breach of Club Rules. This is to ensure fairness prevails in what can be delicate / sensitive issues. In general, it is acknowledged that no-one sets out to break a rule. When discovered, action is taken to put things right. However, if it is done out of negligence or repeated without fair cause, then some remedial or preventative action can be expected. Any procedure the club has should be openly known to all so there is no doubt about what such action will be.

***Don't learn safety rules by accident!***

### **Need To Know:**

- Where the Club Rules are available for reading.
- How to record that you have read and understood the Club Rules.
- How you will be informed of any changes to Club Rules.

### **Further Reading:**

- The Club Rules. These are the actual rules we are required to comply with.
- Civil Aviation Rules Part 61, 91 and 104. These are the foundation rules governing our gliding operations.