

Constitution of Wirral Radio Control Flying Society

Approved and incorporated 3rd Dec 2009
Amended December 2019

GENERAL

1. The society shall be called Wirral Radio Control Flying Society (WRCFS) and will be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association. All members of the Society must also be members of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA).
2. The society's principal aim shall be the promotion of safe and responsible radio control model aircraft flying in all its aspects. Other forms of model aircraft flying are not excluded.
3. The Society's financial year will run from the first day of October to the end of September.
4. The Society's membership year will run from the first day of January to the end of December.
5. All members, without exception, must obey all Society rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Society which may lead to dismissal.
6. Any member may inspect the Society's papers given reasonable notice.
7. When there is a joint meeting between Wirral Radio Control Flying Society and another club, the participating club must be able to provide evidence of adequate insurance cover well in advance of the event.
8. Members may invite guest fliers to the site on arrangement with the Executive Committee but they must be BMFA insured and the Society member must assume total responsibility for the actions and safety of the guest. Guests must fly under the supervision of instructors if they do not hold a BMFA "A" rating or above or if their ability requires it; and such arrangements must be made in advance of the visit.
9. A "member" means any class of membership.

10. A member may be made a life member for extensive services to the Society. Life Members can only be created by a majority ballot of society members at a general meeting.
11. The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants.
12. New members will be required to serve an initial probationary period of 6 months. During this time they will not be eligible to serve on the Committee and may have their membership terminated at the discretion of the Committee for unsatisfactory conduct.
13. New members' subscriptions shall be subject to status, plus the joining fee (if any) as decided at the Annual General Meeting.
14. Members who have allowed their subscriptions to lapse for less than one year will not normally be asked to re-apply for membership or pay the joining fee (if any), but will be required to pay a full 12 months subscription. The Committee reserves the right to ask for a formal membership application if it so wishes.
15. Members who have not renewed their membership by 28th February will be deemed to have left the Society and must re-apply as a new member (and can therefore be refused)
16. All field safety rules and regulations will be reviewed annually, and will be considered binding for 12 months, excepting where urgent action is required.
This action must then be ratified by the members at the next General Meeting.
The field safety rules are considered as a supplementary code to those laid out by the British Model Flying Association's Members' Handbook, compliance with which is mandatory within Wirral Radio Control Flying Society.
17. Any complaint concerning any member must be made in writing and signed by the complainant(s). The written complaint must then be forwarded to the Secretary so that the matter can be addressed at the next Committee meeting. Where an allegation of misconduct is made against a member, the member may be suspended from all Society activities while an investigation is carried out. (NB. A suspension carried out in this manner is considered a neutral act, implies no blame or guilt and is purely to allow an investigation).
18. The Committee may impose a flying suspension not exceeding 30 days upon any member in the event of misconduct. Any suspension must be accompanied by a verbal and/or written warning as deemed appropriate.

19. The Committee may consider removal from the role of members any member whose conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered to be prejudicial to the Society. Dismissal will be in accordance with the following procedure in order to comply with the laws of natural justice:
20. The member is to be given a verbal warning by an authorised Committee Member in which the member is made aware of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
21. If the member does not respond, he is to be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise him of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
22. If he still fails to respond, the Committee should invite him in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation, advising they are considering withdrawal of his membership.
23. If he still fails to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise him in writing that his membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why this decision was reached.
24. When the member is advised of withdrawal of his membership, he must be given the right of appeal. If he opts to appeal, this will be to the Society membership at an EGM which the Committee would call on his behalf at a previously agreed date and time. The motion to uphold the membership withdrawal or reverse it must be in accordance with the voting procedures set out in the Society Constitution.
25. In the event of gross misconduct, immediate dismissal without warnings may be considered but the member must still be accorded his rights to present his case to the Committee and be given a right of appeal in accordance with article 24 above.
26. In the event of dismissal the Committee will arrange for the member's current membership fee to be reimbursed in full.
27. The Society is aware of the requirement to protect Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Individual members are not expected to provide this protection. Therefore any Children or Vulnerable Adults attending the Society's premises, meetings, functions or sites must, at all times, be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or registered carer during the whole period of such attendance and the parent, legal guardian or registered carer shall have sole responsibility for safety and welfare of the Child or Vulnerable Adult.

28. Any alteration to this Constitution can only be made at a General Meeting called for the purpose. Any proposed alterations must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE

29. The Committee of the Society shall comprise not more than eight members including:

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Competition Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
Safety Advisor
and one Executive Member

30. The duties of any two officers may be carried out by one person. In this event, an additional committee member may be elected.

31. A quorum of any Committee meeting shall consist of four Committee Members. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall exercise a casting vote in addition to his original vote

32. One senior Society member should be appointed annually as the Society's BMFA Delegate who should represent the Society at all relevant meetings.

33. One senior Society member should be appointed annually as the Society's Safety Officer.

34. Committee members shall be elected from written or verbal nominations, at the Annual General Meeting, to serve for a period of one year. The Committee will be elected by majority vote by a show of hands from eligible members present.

35. Should a committee position become vacant, the Committee may co-opt a replacement who will then serve until the following Annual General Meeting. This will be by a majority vote from the Committee Members.

36. Members elected to office will have full voting rights at all meetings. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote in addition to his original vote

37. The Committee reserve the right to carry out negotiations and make decisions in the interest of the Society or on behalf of the membership where necessary without consulting the other Society members. Approval from the membership at an ordinary meeting must be sought for expenditure greater than £1000.00

38. Members must accept the conditions imposed by any legal contract entered into by the Society.
39. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are each required to submit a sample of their signature for banking reference purposes.
40. Money may only be withdrawn from the fund by cheque signed by not less than two of the authorised bank signatories.
41. The Secretary must be informed of any negotiations proposed by Society members that affect the Society as a whole and copies of any written correspondence must be submitted to him for record purposes.
42. No member of the Committee or Officer of the Society may be a Committee Member or Officer of another model flying club.
43. Any Committee Member or Officer wishing to resign should do so in writing.
44. Any member of the Committee who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause will automatically forfeit his seat on the Committee.
45. The Committee may pay accounts and incur any normal liabilities on behalf of the Society. If a Committee Member engages or becomes involved in court proceedings, whether criminal or civil in his representative capacity on behalf of the Society, as opposed to his capacity as a private individual, the Society will indemnify the Committee Member in respect of any fines or damages or costs awarded against the Committee Member.
46. In the event of a Committee Member being awarded damages or costs in the course of proceedings taken by him in his representative capacity, such damages or costs will belong to the Society and not the Committee Member personally and upon receipt that Committee Member will pay them to the Society Treasurer.

VOTING AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

47. All meetings should be subject to an agenda and minutes recorded. Any other business will only be accepted at general meetings if the Secretary is given at least 14 days notice in writing of the item to be discussed.
48. A quorum of any general meeting is to be at least one quarter of the membership.
49. Voting will normally be by a show of hands; however a secret ballot must be taken should any member request that this be done. Proxy and postal votes will not be allowed.

50. All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. A majority vote is required to carry any proposal.
51. Amendments to proposals must be voted upon first.
52. Members' proposals that do not require rule changes may be dealt with at normal monthly meetings.
53. Non committee members may attend committee meetings as observers by applying to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Any non Committee Member may be asked to leave the meeting subject to approval from the Committee.
54. Non Society members may attend Society meetings to observe as invited guests of the Society by applying to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Any non Society member may be asked to leave the meeting subject to approval from the Committee.
55. The Committee, through the Chairman, has the power to ask a person to leave any meeting in the event of that person disrupting the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

56. A convenient date for the Annual General Meeting will be decided each year by the Committee and it will be held prior to the start of the Membership Year. At least 28 days notice of the meeting will be given in writing to all Society members.
57. The Treasurer will present a balance sheet prior to the AGM, together with the proposed budget.
58. Annual subscriptions and the joining fee will be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
59. Subscriptions are due by 1st January each year. Any member who has not paid the subscriptions for the ensuing year by this date, in whole or in part, will not be allowed to fly until they have done so. BMFA membership must be in place before flying.
60. An Auditor or Auditors shall be elected by the Committee to examine the accounts before the Annual General Meeting to verify that the balance sheet is correct and fairly represents the expenditure and receipts of the Society, its assets and its liabilities.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

61. The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society by a resolution of the Committee stating the business to be brought before the meeting, of which 28 days notice has been given to all members in writing stating the business to be discussed.
62. The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society on receipt of a request in writing signed by not less than 10% of the membership of the Society, stating the business to be brought before the meeting, of which 28 days notice has been given to all members in writing stating the business to be discussed.
63. When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Article 62 and it is not called within 28 days, the requisitioners may themselves convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society by giving 28 days notice in writing to all members, duly setting out the purpose for which the meeting was called. Any resolutions passed at such a meeting shall have the same force and effect as if they were passed at a meeting convened by the Committee.

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

64. Should it be considered necessary or desirable to dissolve the Society, the Committee will call an Extraordinary General Meeting. Should a quorum fail to appear, the meeting will be adjourned and a further EGM must be called. The second meeting will proceed even if a quorum is not present and the motion will then be carried by a simple majority vote.
65. On dissolution and after the sale of assets, settlement of all outstanding debts, the funds remaining will be distributed in equal shares to the Society's fully paid up members without reference to length of membership.
66. All members will receive a final statement of accounts.

Wirral Radio Control Flying Society

Flying Rules

1. The Committee, Officers and Instructors, will be responsible for the running of the flying field at all times. Appointment to the position of Instructor or Examiner can only be made by a Committee decision.
2. All flying members must attain the minimum standards of flying required under the BMFA 'A' Certificate before being allowed to fly unsupervised. Supervision only by the Society's registered, approved and qualified instructors.
3. Any member whose flying standards drop below the minimum requirement solo standard will be required to rejoin the training scheme until the desired standards of flying are met.
4. WRCFS membership cards must be carried at all times when flying, and must be produced on request by police, park authorities, or members.
5. No model may be operated which gives a noise measurement above 82 dB (A) @ 7 mtrs or as per any subsequent rule laid down in the BMFA Handbook.
6. Members are expected to read and observe the BMFA Handbook and any subsequent amendments.
7. All radio equipment must be Type Approved, well maintained and operate on the 35mhz band between 34.950mhz (channel 55) and 35.300mhz (channel 90), the 2.4 ghz band or the allocated UHF band.
8. Except in an emergency, flying behind the flight line, or the extended flight line, is forbidden. Also, flying outside our designated airspace is forbidden.
9. Low flying in the vicinity of people, animals or property is expressly forbidden.
10. Never taxi directly towards any person or animal, and ensure that the engine or motor can be cut from the transmitter.
11. IC powered aircraft must be restrained at all times from commencement of engine starting until taxiing away from the flight line.
 - a) Engine start for IC powered models must be done in the pits with the model restrained.

- b) Electric models (except helicopters and multirotors - see d) below) must be restrained in the pits from the moment that the battery is connected.
- c) Engine start for turbines should take place with the model positioned close to and behind the flight line, facing the direction of take-off. A suitable fire extinguisher must be easily to hand. Again, the model must be restrained until taxiing commences.
- d) Battery connection for electric powered helicopters and multirotors should take place on the flying strip, these models should NOT be carried out of the pits with the battery connected.
- e) If fitted with a "Return to Home" device, battery connection must be at a safe distance out on the flying strip. This would mean carrying out the transmitter, contrary to Rule 13 and is ONLY acceptable if no other models are airborne at the time.

12. Never taxi in the pits or behind the flight line.

13. Pilots should stand together on the flight line, with the exception of helicopter pilots using the hovering area. Take offs and landings should be on the centreline and transmitters should not be taken on to the strip.

Lightweight electric models under 1 Kg may be hand-launched directly away from the flight line across the landing direction and then turned into wind. If this procedure is followed, the pilot or other person launching the model must stand at the upwind end of the flight line so that the model is turned away from other pilots.

14. A maximum of four aircraft to be airborne in the circuit at any one time.

15. Only one helicopter to operate on the hovering area at any one time.

16. Models over 7kg and all turbine powered models must be fitted with a failsafe.

17. Where any failsafe systems are installed, they must, at a minimum, pull the throttle to idle.

18. Models over 7kg and all turbine powered models may only be flown at the Society's sites by pilots holding the BMFA "B" certificate.

19. Prior to flying a model weighing more than 7kg, a Large Model Form must be completed and lodged with the committee.

20. No other transmitting device may be operated in the pits without consent.

21. Mobile phones must be switched off.

22. Any airframe or equipment may be subject to a safety check. Any aircraft that is suspect may be grounded until the problem has been rectified.
23. In accordance with CAA directives for model aircraft operated within an ATCZ (Air Traffic Control Zone), a maximum height restriction of 800 ft AGL must be observed. This is reduced to 400 ft AGL for aircraft over 7Kg.
24. The pit area must be no closer than 10 metres behind the flight line.
25. Frequency control is by the "peg on" system. No 35 mghz transmitter may be switched on unless the corresponding peg has been placed on the correct frequency number on the pegboard. 2.4 ghz radio sets do not require pegs to be used. 27 mghz radio sets are not permitted.
- 26.
- i) In accordance with the terms of the lease granted by Wirral Borough Council, flying at Arrowe Park is permitted between the hours of 10:30 until Dusk or 21:00 (whichever is the earlier) at any time of the year.
 - ii) Additionally, during British Summer Time, gliders may be flown during the hours of 07:00 or Dawn (whichever is earlier) until 10:30, after which all types may be flown as in paragraph i).
 - iii) Also additionally, during British Summer Time, silent (electric powered) aircraft may be flown during the hours of 09:00 to 10:30, after which all types may be flown as in paragraph i). This paragraph excludes 'Drones'.
27. Each member must have a minimum of 4 high visibility flags of suitable size, mounted on flexible canes and his membership card.
Any member using 35 MHz must, in addition, have 1 clearly marked pegboard, a frequency peg printed with his name and channel number and an orange frequency Tx pennant with his channel number on it
28. A helicopter hovering and trimming area may be set up. This will be identified by the use of four high visibility flags at least 10 metres away from the right hand end of the pit area when facing the hospital.
29. Models over 20Kg are prohibited from flying at Arrowe Park.