

## Policy for the Accompanying of Junior Members

The York Gliding Centre welcomes young members and offers discounted membership rates as an encouragement. There is a comprehensive protection policy in place and this can be viewed on request.

Our primary concern is the safety of members and visitors and the welfare of young members is paramount. Airfields and aviation can involve exposure to more hazards than everyday life. We need everyone to be aware of these hazards and to conduct themselves in the safest possible way. This requires sufficient maturity to sense hazardous situations and the judgement to adopt the safest possible practice.

In law, until the age of 18 young people are classed as children. Young people mature at different rates. It is difficult to identify a precise age at which young people have become sufficiently mature to conduct themselves safely on the airfield.

It is essential that young people under the age of 16 be adequately supervised at all times. When a young person first joins the club, it is mandatory that there be supervision by a parent or other nominated adult. This will probably involve the adult being present on the launch point. Once a young member has gained sufficient awareness of glider operations to be considered safe, then the adult may be able to remain in the club house. Indeed, this may be desirable in order to foster a degree of independence for the young member. At a later stage, it should be possible for direct parental supervision to be stopped and for parents to leave their son/daughter/ ward at the club as long as the parent or carer can be contacted at all times through the day by telephone. The Chief Flight Instructor shall make a decision as to whether this is appropriate.

Even though a young person may not need direct supervision, it has to be recognised that glider operations vary from day to day and as a consequence so do the risks. Management of risk is key to safety and there may be occasions when it is not appropriate for a young member to remain without parental supervision. It is therefore essential that responsible adults check in with the office to ascertain whether they need to remain on site. It is not acceptable to simply drop off a young person in the car park without making sure that the duty instructor judges this to be appropriate.

In summary, the policy of the York Gliding Centre is:

- On first joining the club, all members under the age of 16 must initially be accompanied by a parent or guardian throughout their stay on the airfield.
- After being members of the club for six calendar months and with the explicit agreement of both the Club's Chief Flying Instructor and the Child Protection Officer, this requirement can be waived on condition that we have the contact details of a parent or guardian who must be available to collect the young member at any time during the day. If either the CFI or the Child Protection Officer feel that this would not be appropriate, the requirement for a parent or guardian to be present will remain until such a time as the officer concerned is satisfied.

- Explicit agreement by Club's Chief Flying Instructor and the Child Protection Officer will be recorded on the attached form which the Parent/ Carer must produce each day.
  - Members who have reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday but have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday may remain on the airfield unaccompanied as long as we have the contact details of a parent or guardian who must be available to collect the young member at any time during the day. If either the CFI or the Child Protection Officer feel that this would not be appropriate, the requirement for a parent or guardian to be present will remain until such a time as the officer concerned is satisfied.
  - For each day that the unaccompanied junior member remains on site, the contact details of a parent or guardian must be left with the Office or Duty instructor. For members under the age of 16, this can be added by the parent or guardian to the signed form each day.
  - Young people who have achieved the age of 18 are not required to be accompanied.
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**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS : Parent-Club Agreement**

To be signed by the Chief Flying Instructor , the Child Protection Officer and the Parent or Guardian

Name of junior member \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Having observed the conduct of the Junior Member named above, we are of the view that it is appropriate for the Junior Member to remain on the airfield unaccompanied provided that:

- On each day that the junior remains on site, the Club is provided with the contact details of a Parent or Carer who is available to be contacted at any time during the Junior Member's stay and is able to collect the Junior Member within one hour of notification if required.
- The general safe conduct of the Junior Member remains of a sufficiently high standard as judged by both the Chief Flying Instructor and the Child Protection Officer

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Flying Instructor Child Protection Officer

In signing below, I am confirming that I understand that my son/daughter/ ward

\_\_\_\_\_ will not be under the specific care of any individual while on site and that he/she will be required to maintain mature and sensible conduct in the best interests of the safety of him/herself and others.

I agree that should concerns arise a parent or carer will be available to return to the club at one hour's notice to collect her/him.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Carer Parent/ Carer

**THIS FORM, ONCE SIGNED, IS TO BE RETAINED BY JUNIOR MEMBER WHEN ON THE AIRFIELD. A COPY OF THIS PAGE IS TO BE PLACED ON FILE BY THE OFFICE**

