



GUIDANCE NOTES  
FOR  
JUNIOR MEMBERS

### Chair's Welcome

On behalf of the Club, may I welcome you to Rufforth as a Junior member of the York Gliding Centre? You are about to embark on one of the oldest, and still one of the most skilful activities in aviation and we hope that for you, this will be the start of a lifelong passion in flying.

For Junior member, there are a few restrictions on you which do not apply to adult members of the club, they are listed in this booklet, and you must abide by them at all times.

*Payman Nayeri*

Chair



**enjoy**

## 6. ALCOHOL



Members under the age of 18 are **FORBIDDEN** to consume alcohol on any part of the club's property.

## 7. GENERAL

All the information in this booklet is designed to keep you safe, and the York Gliding Centre within the law regarding how minors and vulnerable persons are supervised. Whilst we appreciate that you are approaching adulthood, we ask that you see it from the club's point of view, in that for us to remain operational, we have to abide by the law and that means that you have to be restricted in some areas.

Given all that, we want you to enjoy your time with us. Your instructors and the other members will do their utmost to get you safely flying solo in the shortest time possible, so that you can go on to pursue the more advanced aspects of our sport.

If there is anything in this booklet that you don't understand or are not sure about, don't be afraid to ask. There's a saying amongst pilots, 'There's no such thing as a stupid question, just avoidable mistakes'.

That's it, welcome and **enjoy your flying.**

## 1. SAFETY



Airfields can be dangerous places for the unwary. A powered aircraft is equipped with a propeller and is one of the finest mincing machines known to humanity.

The glider was the first stealth aircraft to be invented, and it can approach the ground quickly and silently, the first thing the unwary know about its presence is when it hits them. Therefore, you must adhere to all safety rules imposed by the club, as well as using your own common sense.

You must **NEVER** enter the aircraft manoeuvring area or attempt to cross the runway or winch cable lines without supervision from a responsible adult, until you have received a thorough airfield briefing from a qualified instructor and s/he has signed off your training record to signify that you understand our requirements.

Every club member has a responsibility in the safe operation of all club activities. If you think you've spotted something happening that doesn't look right, yell **STOP** as loudly as possible and direct an adult members attention to the problem. Even if it turns out that there wasn't a problem, you've done the right thing. **Nobody is ever reprimanded for a well-intentioned false alarm.**





The use of mobile phones and wearing of headphones or earbuds anywhere on the aircraft manoeuvring area or vehicle manoeuvring areas (car park, driveway, area adjacent to the winch shed) is

**ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN.**

It is also prohibited to use any of the above when carrying out any of the following:-

- ⊗ Assisting with 'unstacking or stacking' the hanger.
- ⊗ Assisting with glider daily inspections.
- ⊗ Assisting with glider towing (walking the wing or overseeing the cockpit rope release)
- ⊗ Assisting in any way with the launching of gliders.
- ⊗ Crossing runways or winch cable lines.
- ⊗ Walking from the clubhouse area to the launch-point.

The above is by no means a comprehensive list and you are expected to use your common sense. Whilst we realise that you are surgically attached to your mobiles, all the adults here managed to go through their teenage years without one and survived, we want you to survive as well.

You are also expected to act sensibly at the launch point.

There can be long periods of inactivity and waiting around, during that time, you are expected to act in a way that will not put yourself or anyone else in danger.



## **5. CARAVAN SITES.**

There are two caravan sites at Rufforth, The static site and the touring site. There are also two power points on the wall of the west hanger to accommodate motorhomes. **Subject to receiving permission from your parent/guardian AND the club committee**, 16 to 18-year-old members may be allowed to camp for short periods (a course week for example) on the touring site during the summer months.

Junior members are **EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN** to enter the caravan, motorhome, or tent, of an adult member, **with or without** an invitation to do so. Nor must you accept offers from adult members to **camp or stay anywhere else**, no matter how well intentioned such an offer may be.

#### 4. CLUBHOUSE.

As a member, junior or otherwise you have access to the clubhouse and any facilities it offers, with three exceptions:-

THE FRONT OFFICE (this also applies to adult members) unless you've been invited in by the Office Manager/Receptionist for a task that s/he may require help with.

THE BEHIND THE BAR AREA. This area is accessed by a door in the kitchen. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN FOR ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO ENTER THIS AREA!**



THE FRONT OF BAR AREA. This is defined as the area in the clubroom between the bar shutters and the bookshelves. You may use this area **EXCEPT WHEN THE BAR IS OPEN.** During bar opening times, you may only use the tables and chairs on the fireplace side of the clubroom, or between the bookshelves and the patio doors.

#### 2. Attendance

As a club we have a Duty of Care to all our members. Whilst adult members have a degree of responsibility for their own safety, by law, as a junior member you are considered to be a vulnerable person, therefore the club has an extra responsibility towards you.

If you are under 18, you are not allowed to be anywhere on the airfield alone, you must always be accompanied/supervised by a responsible adult. Depending on which activity you are engaged in, the supervising adult must be trained in that activity (e.g., If you are assisting with the winch or cable towing, you must be supervised by a qualified winch driver)

If you are under 16, you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at any time you are on the club premises. After a suitable period of time the clubs Chief Flying Instructor and Child Protection Officer may decide that you do not need full time parental supervision and will confer with your

parent/guardian, and an agreement may be signed by them to allow you to be on the club premises without your parent/guardian being present.

However, the signing of this agreement depends largely on how you conduct yourself while attending the club.

### **3. FLYING OPERATIONS**

Gliding is very much a team effort and very labour intensive. To put a solo pilot into the air requires a number of people. The glider pilot, the tug pilot, a number of ground handlers to move the glider onto the launch point, the rope handler to attach the tow rope, the wing runner, a log keeper, and the Launch-point Supervisor on the launch radio. If it's you that's flying, we can also add your instructor into the mix, and finally, a retrieve crew to move gliders that have landed back to the launch-point. If we are winching as well as aerotowing, add in the winch driver and cable retriever.



All these, and many other jobs (grass cutting, aircraft maintenance, site maintenance, etc) are done by club members on a voluntary basis, and no one receives any payment. Junior members, although being supervised are also expected to pitch in and help out where necessary, indeed, it is only by helping out that you will appreciate the amount of effort put in by club members to get you and others airborne.

Members who keep a 'low profile' sitting in launch point vehicles or the log keepers cabin using mobiles and tablets are actively discouraged.

You will appreciate that gliders do not magically appear on the launch point at the beginning of flying. They have to be 'unstacked' from the hanger, given a daily inspection, equipped with parachutes and batteries from the clubhouse and towed to the launch-point. Likewise, at the end of the day, the parachutes and batteries have to be removed to the parachute room and the gliders 'stacked' in the hanger. Again, all of these activities require manpower, and you are expected to play a part.

We appreciate that you may not be able to spend the whole day at the airfield, especially if you are being accompanied by your parent/guardian who may have other things to do. What we do want to see however, is that you are there for a least the beginning or end of flying, so that you can help out with unstacking or stacking and generally making yourself useful.

