

# East Devon Radio Control Club

## Training Policy

(Issue 1/05)

### Introduction

The club is dedicated to promoting and developing the hobby of aeromodelling and in particular, the flying of model aircraft. Training new members is a significant part of this objective. In model flying safety is a key factor and it is in the interests of all to ensure a high standard of safety is practised by club members, especially as they share the Common with other members of the public. For these reasons it is the club's policy to offer training to those who need it free of charge. This offer is dependent on the availability of club members willing to undertake training.

Club members in need of training can approach an individual member directly for training or be referred through the Training Coordinator.

The latter method is preferable as a structured training programme can be given.

### Training administration

The Training Coordinator will maintain a list of those members able and willing to act as trainers. Should any such individual have or wish to place conditions on the type or extent of the training he is willing to provide, the Training Coordinator will record them.

The Training Coordinator will allocate referred trainees to a suitable trainer (taking account of any conditions set by that individual) and make the arrangements for an initial training session with as little delay as possible. More than one trainer may be used at different phases of the training scheme.

The Training Coordinator will assist those members who wish to gain CRB clearance.

Trainees often require help and information to obtain, assemble, set up and test their model. The Training Coordinator will also maintain a list of those members willing to act as a "Buddy" or mentor for these purposes. He will allocate each trainee a "Buddy" as and when one is available. Apart from providing general help and advice to supplement the trainers' efforts, the Buddy should try to ensure that the trainee's model is properly prepared for flight prior to each training session so as to maximise the benefits of the time allocated to flight training.

The Training Coordinator will obtain regular reports of the trainee's progress and will attempt to ensure that the trainee's development progresses up to final qualification without significant delay.

The training scheme is organised into 4 phases as follows.

#### 1. Ground training:

- Safety
- Checking the trainee's model for flightworthiness
- Theory of flight
- The radio control and how to use it
- The engine and how to use it
- And many other things that the novice needs to know before flying their model.

#### 2. Flight training:

The novice is passed on to the person who will be their flight trainer. He will instruct the trainee using buddy box controls to a standard where the novice is able to fly, land and take off their model without being closely supervised, i.e. without the benefit of a buddy box.

#### 3. Practice:

The trainee can then develop their skills by practice under supervision to a standard that will satisfy the Training Coordinator that his/her safety and flying skills are of a standard sufficient to achieve safe solo flying, without supervision.

#### 4. Qualification:

At this stage all trainees will be encouraged to prepare for and take the BMFA. RC Achievement Scheme 'A' Certificate test under the control of one of the club's examiners. The 'A' Certificate is a national standard and is recognised by all clubs throughout the UK and beyond as proof of flying ability and safety.

Attempting the 'A' Certificate test is not compulsory. However, if the trainee chooses not to attempt the test he/she will have to demonstrate a level of skill sufficient to convince a club examiner of his/her ability to fly without causing danger to club members or the public before being allowed to fly without supervision.

### **Training junior or disabled members**

In these cases the trainer must have been cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau before acting in this capacity and should ensure that the trainee's parent, guardian or carer is fully aware of the requirements of training and in particular has signed the Physical Contact form (see Appendix).

Trainers should read the "EDRCC Policy on Children and Vulnerable Adults", the "Guide to the Children Act" and the "Guide Lines for BMFA Affiliated Model Clubs with Disabled or Special Needs Members" as appropriate.

All junior and disabled members are to be supervised at all times by either the parent/guardian/carer or an adult member of the club by agreement of the parent(s). The level of supervision can vary, depending on age, experience and maturity, but must be commensurate with the well being of the person being supervised.

Trainers are not obliged to accept responsibility for supervising juniors except during training sessions. However, should they undertake to supervise junior or disabled members at other times, they should encourage the parent/guardian/carer to remain in attendance at the flying site, or otherwise ensure that arrangements for returning the junior to the care of the parent are made in advance.

Trainers should ensure that the acts of accepting and returning responsibility to the parent, guardian or carer are unambiguous.

Physical contact should be avoided unless the trainee's safety is at stake or it is a necessary aspect of training procedure.

No junior must be allowed to undertake any activity likely to compromise safety.

Juniors under the age of fourteen years shall not be allowed to start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless under the supervision of the trainer or a responsible adult member.

**APPENDIX**  
to  
EDRCC Training Policy

**Welfare and Care of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Model Flying**

**EDRCC Policy on Physical Contact of Children and Vulnerable Adults whilst  
under Instruction**

*(Although, the word ‘child’ has been used throughout this statement, it also equally applies to ‘Vulnerable Adults’)*

Physical contact or proximity with your child during training should be limited to the following.

1. Placing a hand around the waist of your child such as when instructing ‘Control-Line’ flying.
2. Placing a hand on the shoulder or arm to reposition your child on the ‘Flight Line’.
3. Occasionally, it may be necessary for the Training Officer to put his/her arms around a trainee in ‘Radio Control Flying’ to give ‘stick’ instruction if a ‘buddy box’ is not available, or to instruct on ‘stick’ movement.
4. All other physical contact should not be necessary other than the necessity to reasonably physically restrain your child to prevent he/she placing themselves in a hazardous situation.
5. Please note that in a high-risk safety situation, priority will be given to the safety of your child before the protocols of handling.

**PARENT, GUARDIAN or CARER**

I have read and understood the need to physically touch my child as set out in the ‘statement’ shown above and sign below that limited predetermined physical contact, as detailed, is appropriate whilst my child is undergoing training.

**Print child’s name** .....

**Signed** ..... **Date** ...../...../.....

**Print name** .....

Parent / Guardian / Carer ( Delete that not applicable )