



**RAMSEY  
MODEL AERO CLUB**

**201922**

**OPERATING AND  
SAFETY RULES**

## 1) Conduct

- a) The committee reserves the right to suspend the membership, pending an inquiry, of anyone who wantonly disregards the operating and safety instructions of RMAC and/or repeatedly conducts themselves in an anti-social or un-gentlemanly way without due regard for the safety and well-being of other club members or visitors to the club.

## 2) Evidence of Membership

- a) Members must bring a current Membership Card with them when they visit the airfield. Proof of membership may be sought from, and by, any participating member on the field.

## 3) Flying Site

- a) Flying will take place from the club site (The John Stokes Model Flying Field) situated on the old Warboys airfield. Flying may take place during day light hours, at any time during the year excepting when prior notice is given. Only fully paid up members and Honorary Life members are permitted to fly from the club site, apart from specifically invited guests who must be insured.

Guests can be:

- i) Competitors participating in a Club or BMFA organised Competition or Meeting.
- ii) Individual guests of club members accompanied by the host member who shall be responsible for them at all times. Such a guest may be invited to fly on an occasional basis but not more than three times total in any twelve months. The host member needs to request and receive committee approval, via email to the secretary, prior to the guest, who wishes to fly, attending the field each time. Non flying guests (spectators) do not require committee approval.
- iii) First time inexperienced flyers as defined in the BMFA Handbook.

- b) In both i) and ii) above, guests must be members of the BMFA, or SAA, and furnish proof of insurance comparable with the BMFA insurance scheme. They must also hold a minimum of a BMFA 'A' certificate for flying competency unless they are trainees in the RMAC training system.

#### 4) Trainee Pilots

- a) The Club conducts regular training sessions for BMFA "A" and "B" Certificates of Achievement for fixed wing. BMFA "C" Certificate training can also be arranged.

#### 5) Access

- a) Access to the flying field is via the Tythe Farm entrance. The security gate in the yard is secured by a combination lock. After driving through ensure that the gate is closed\* before driving on.

*For the safety of yourself and other club members do not lock the gate behind you when entering the site and only lock it when leaving if you are the last person to leave. If the gate is open when you arrive do not close it, it may have been left open by the farm workers. For additional security, **don't forget to jumble all the lock numbers.***

The access road to the flying field is maintained jointly by our landlords (the farmers) and the club. Please be very cautious in the farmyard and observe a ~~A maximum speed limit of 2015mph must be observed in the farmyard.~~ It is in our own interests to avoid excessive wear of the road surface – Recommended speed limit on the road between the farm and the field is 30mph. Drivers should stop at the corner next to the north-east corner of the flying field to ensure it is clear before continuing. On exiting the field, drivers should stop at the south-east junction and again check that it's clear. In both cases if necessary, sound your horn to obtain clearance to proceed before continuing.

Clearance is normally a hand signal from a club member in the pits, or at the Tardis.

On exiting the car park please observe extreme caution when crossing the runway. Please check for both departing and arriving aircraft.

## 6) Parking

- a) Cars and other vehicles should be parked in the car parking area and not parked on or driven across the grass, unless otherwise directed.

## 7) Dogs

- a) Dogs are not permitted on the flying field ~~or in the pits area~~ except for assistance dogs. Dogs under close supervision are permitted in the car park and around the seating area of the pits (picnic benches area only) when on a short (less than 2m lead – not extendable) and under the control of an adult.

## 8) Children and Caring for Vulnerable Adults

- a) Children must be kept under supervision at all times. See BMFA Members Handbook for further guidance.

## 9) Radio Frequencies and Transmitter Control

- a) Flying from the club field will only be on the frequencies; 27MHz; 35MHz, 459MHz, 900MHz and 2.4GHz. Please note that because the 459MHz band is shared with other users, in particular between 458.95 and 459.1MHz, it is recommended that aircraft use frequencies above 459.1 MHz.

~~All transmitters, (with the exception of 2.4GHz) must be put on the transmitter table in the pits area when not in use.~~

- b) RMAC operates a 'Peg On' frequency control system. A peg carrying a 50mm x 25mm tag displaying the frequency, channel number and the pilots name must be clipped on the frequency control peg board over the corresponding

channel number, before the transmitter is switched on. On completion of the flight the radio equipment must be switched off, the frequency peg removed from the peg board and put on the transmitter and the transmitter returned to the transmitter table. (Please note that, 'peg on' is not necessary for 900MHz and 2.4GHz).

## 10) Before Flying

- a) The **large** club hut should be unlocked to give immediate access to the first aid box should it be required. The windsock (also kept in the **large** club hut) should be hung from the Tardis. The 'Long Grass Patches' (which are separated from the main pits area by a 'short grass' walkway) have paths cut into them to enable easy access to the flying area. They provide a barrier between the flying area and the pits making a permanent fence unnecessary. DO NOT take short cuts through the Long Grass as this erodes the effectiveness of the area, increasing the risk to others safety.

## 11) Pits Area

- a) The Pits area is clearly defined, and members should use the hard-standing to start-up and tune prior to flying. Propeller models must be faced outwards from the pits at this time. The use of a restraining device is strongly recommended for all models except helicopters. In addition, aircraft fitted with gas turbines or piston engines larger than 20cc should be restrained by a helper when starting and running on the ground.
- b) Hand launched models should be throttled up, facing outwards from the pits area and not in the pits, or on the picnic tables. After flying the motor battery must be disconnected and not left armed in the pits. Refer to Electro flight section in BMFA members handbook for additional information.

- c) Ideally all electric models should have the ability to disable their motor function programmed into the TX. This function (motor disabled) should be enabled until the model is ready for taxiing (outside of the pits area) or take off. It should be re-enabled after landing and prior to the plane coming into the pits. The aim behind this is to try and eliminate unexpected motor runs.

## 12) Engine Noise

- a) Prolonged engine running in the pits area is to be avoided and should only be carried out by the tractor shed well away from other members. The maximum permitted noise level is 82 decibels at 7 metres. The club possesses a noise meter and arrangements can be made to check for excessive noise. See BMFA Members Handbook for further guidance.

## 13) Warning Calls

- a) Before take-off, landing or making a touch and go, pilots will call loudly their intentions for the advice and safety of other pilots, i.e. "Take-off", "Landing" or "Touch and Go". Similarly, in the case of the engine(s) stopping in flight, the pilot should call "Dead Stick" immediately. The other pilots are obliged to keep their aircraft well clear of the field. Should another member be on the airfield retrieving a model when dead stick is called, they must ensure they do not obstruct the dead stick aircraft. When the dead stick aircraft has touched down, the pilot is to call, "Dead Stick Landed". Any other manoeuvre which might cause distraction to other fliers, for example "Low Pass" or "Bomb Dropping" etc. is to be announced loudly.

## 14) Take-Off and Landing

- a) The Pilots Box marked on the field is 5 meters from the semi-circular long grass patch, it is 10 meters by 5 meters. It designates where Pilots and anyone else **involved** should

stand or immediately make for after placing down, launching, towing or any other activity involving a presence on the air field. ~~This excludes model retrieval.~~

Pilots or their helpers may exit the Pilots Box for model retrieval purposes.

The Pilots Box is strictly for Pilots and Helpers/Spotters. **Models are not permitted in or behind the Pilots Box. No models should be within 5m of the Pilots Box. Or within 5 metres of it**

**Spectators are not permitted in the Pilots Box. Spectators should remain within the seated area. Please see Rule 15b)**

- b) Aircraft taking-off and landing must **not** come closer than 5 metres to the Pilots Box as shown in Figure 1. Under no circumstances must an aircraft be taxied into the pits; nor must the pits be over-flown. Refer to Figure 2 for specific instructions about the “NO FLY and NO TAXI ZONE” surrounding the Tardis, pits, huts and car park and farm land to the south of the car park.
- c) Pilots must ensure that all take-offs and landings are performed in front of the pilots in the Pilot Box and normally parallel to the wind direction, see Figure 1.
- d) Taking-off from behind the pilots in the Pilot Box is not permissible at any time.
- e) Aircraft that are landing always take priority over those ready to take-off. Dead-stick landings always take priority over powered landings.

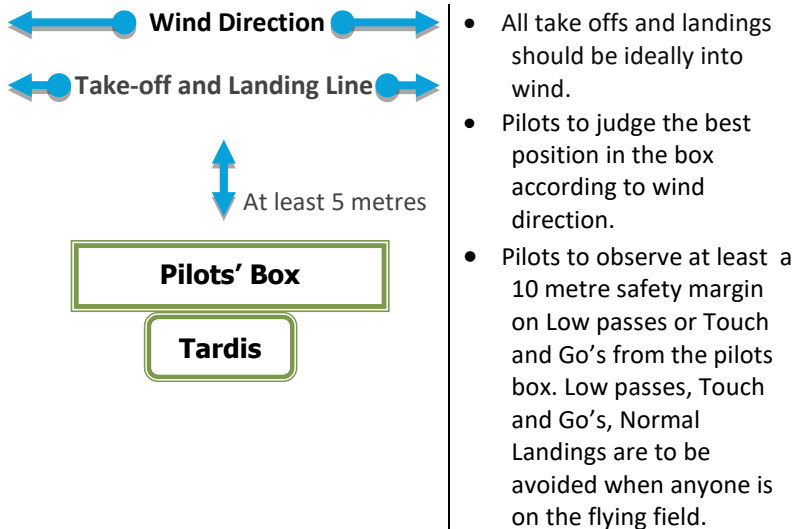


FIGURE 1 - FLIGHT LINE – SEE TEXT



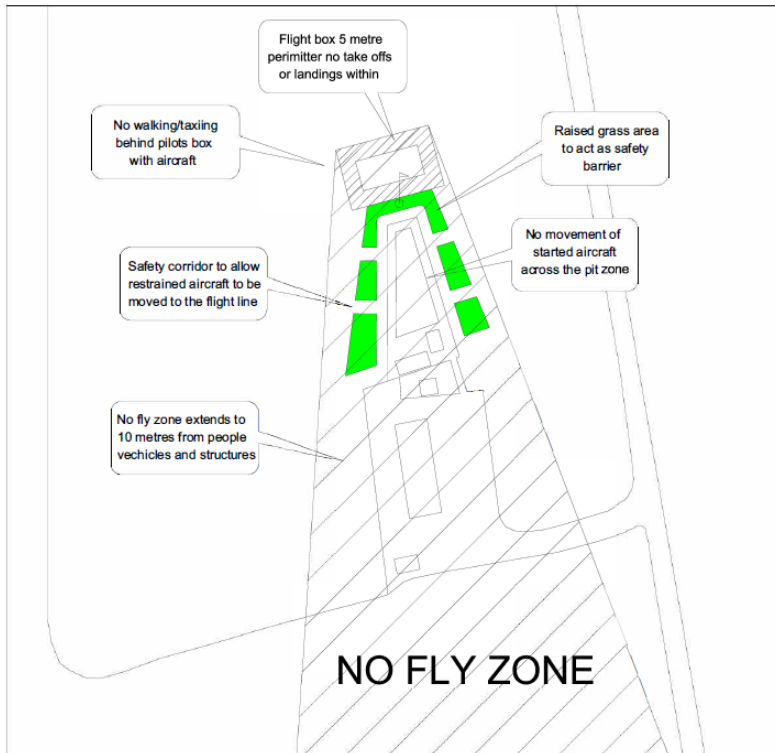


FIGURE 2 – NO FLY ZONE

## 15) After Landing

- a) Having completed the flight, the aircraft may be taxied back parallel with but not directly towards the pits area. If the pilot should choose to recover the aircraft, a warning call of 'retrieving' should be made and is to ensure that other fliers have heard it. The call 'clear of the field' or 'model retrieved' should be used to let other flyers know when you have completed the retrieval of the model.
- b) Once an electric powered aircraft has landed the motor should be disabled, via the TX, prior to it being retrieved.

- c) On return to the pits area, radio equipment should be switched off as soon as possible and where applicable the frequency peg removed from the board.

## 16) Unattended Aircraft

- a) Aircraft should not be left unattended with the engine(s) running and electric models should have the motor battery disconnected.

## 17) Recovery of Aircraft

- a) In the event of an off-field landing, every care is to be taken when recovering the aircraft, not to damage crops/ property, walk where possible between the rows of crops. In the event of a crash the area must be searched to recover as much of the remains as possible.
- b) Crashes should be dealt with immediately and with haste. Ideally the pilot should be accompanied ~~with the~~ by a spotter to the crash site. If a fire takes hold, and preventative action is not successful or is not reasonable, practicable or safe, the emergency services must be called, and the farmer notified.

## 18) Helicopter Flying

- a) Apart from hovering practice, helicopter flying can be treated as fixed wing flying and the above rules apply. Hovering should be under-taken well clear of the rest of the flying and in an area, not to obstruct the take-off and landing areas of fixed wing aircraft.

## 19) Pilots' Qualifications

- a) It is the policy of the Ramsey Model Aero Club to follow the guidance of the BMFA and have all pilots holding a BMFA "A" qualification as a minimum. All new members will be trained or checked out to ensure they meet the required standard. Long standing members who do not hold a qualification will be encouraged to do so.

## 20) Litter

- a) No Litter to be left on site.
- b) No crashed models to be burned on site

## 21) Mobile Phones

- a) Mobile phones are not permitted outside the car park, ~~where calls can only be made or taken.~~ The exception to this is anyone flying on their own in the case of an emergency.

## 22) Accidents, Injuries and Fire

- a) Occurrence reporting procedures are to be completed should such a reportable incident or accident occur. A copy of the report should also be sent to the club Site Protection & Safety Officer. Follow the BMFA rules on the reporting procedures.
- b) In the event of injury, a First Aid Box along with an accident report book is available in the **large** club hut which should have been unlocked prior to the commencement of flying. It is strongly recommended that all pilots should have some knowledge of first aid.
- c) In the event of fire, there is a fire extinguisher available in the large club hut and another in the tractor shed. Both ~~All three~~ are suitable for tackling fuel fires. For a LiPo battery fire, there are 2 sand buckets which should be used to extinguish the fire, these are also kept in the large club hut. Those members operating gas turbine powered models must bring their own fire extinguishers

## 23) End of Flying

- a) At the end of flying, the windsock should be recovered from the Tardis and stored in the **large** club hut. The site should be checked for security (windows closed, doors locked etc). Unless the farm workers are using it, the barrier should be closed by the last person to leave, the combination lock secured, and the numbers scrambled.

## 24) Public Safety and Awareness

a) A public right of way exists on the northern and western boundaries of the flying site. Notices advising the public of RMAC operations are located at both ends of the western perimeter. **Walkers may be able** to attract the attention of pilots for clearance to proceed but do not rely on this. Anyone who sees walkers should alert the pilots who are flying by the call 'walkers'. Models should be flown at a good height and ideally in a different part of the site well clear (RMAC suggest at least 50m) of the walkers as they transit the boundary.

The orange lines indicate where members of the public may be spotted. Essentially all around the field. Hence the requirement to be very vigilant at all times.



- b) Full size light aircraft operate out of ~~RAF Wyton and~~ Connington airfields and ~~often~~ very occasionally overfly the RMAC flying site. The ~~local police and air ambulance~~ helicopters and ~~military jets~~ may also occasionally overfly at low level. Military jets can also operate in the area. Anyone seeing a full-size aircraft in the vicinity of the airfield should alert the model pilots who are flying at the time by the call 'full size aircraft', or 'helicopter'. When a full-size aircraft is nearby model pilots must land immediately or, if this is not possible or safe to do so, must keep their model well clear of the full-size aircraft. Incidents between models and full-size aircraft could cost us our flying site and endanger the hobby as a whole.

## 25) Gas Turbines

- a) All model jet pilots will hold a BMFA 'B' rated certificate.
- b) All pilots shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher (no extinguisher no flight)
- c) Flying will only take place with an observer present at all times, the observer will also act as the fire person.
- d) All models will be started with turbines parallel to the pits when the wind direction allows it, otherwise models to be started into wind to reduce the risk of flames pushed into the model interior.
- e) All non-flying personnel should be told to stay back when starting the turbine
- f) No jet pilot will fly alone at the field

## 26) Multi-rotor Model Aircraft (Quadcopters / unmanned surveillance aircraft)

- a) All pilots to hold an 'A' fixed wing certificate and follow the BMFA legal requirements and guidance which can be found on the BMFA website: <https://bmfa.org/Multi-Rotors>

<https://britishdroneflyers.org>. All flights to be conducted within Article 16 requirements.

## 27) Petrol Engines and Jet Engines

- a) During the harvest period and times of high fire risk the use of petrol engines and jet engines is not permitted on Warboys airfield. A notice will be posted in the club huts shortly before and during restricted periods. The farmer will also display the sign shown below on the entrance gate during restricted periods.



## 28) Regulation of Model Flying

- a) All model flying is to be conducted in accordance with Article 16 and CAP722. Details of which can be found at <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/article-16> & [https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP722%20Edition8\(p\).pdf](https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP722%20Edition8(p).pdf) All model flying is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Publication 658 which can be found on the web at [www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/cap658.pdf](http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/cap658.pdf)

# SAFE FLYING

# Quick Start Guide

## to the regulations for model flying



### THE LAW HAS CHANGED

- ⦿ The regulations for operating unmanned aircraft (including models) have changed. The full requirements of the new regulations (as they apply to everyone in the UK) can be found in CAP 722.
- ⦿ The BMFA has obtained an updated 'Authorisation' from the CAA which defines different and more flexible operating requirements for members operating aircraft up to 25Kg. To benefit from the Authorisation, you must familiarise yourself with the requirements.
- ⦿ For full details, please see <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/article-16>.



### HOW HIGH CAN I FLY?

- ⦿ The height limit for all unmanned aircraft in CAP 722 is 400ft (120m) above the terrain.
- ⦿ BMFA members are authorised to operate above 400ft with aircraft (excluding multi-rotors) which weigh less than 7.5 Kg.
- ⦿ BMFA members are permitted to operate sailplanes over 7.5 Kg, (but not exceeding 14kg), up to 400ft above the pilot.
- ⦿ Model aircraft weighing more than 7.5 Kg must not be flown higher than 400ft without permission from the BMFA.



### MANNED AIRCRAFT

- ⦿ You must do everything possible to avoid conflict with any manned aircraft.
- ⦿ It is illegal to fly any unmanned aircraft (other than a control line aircraft) within a Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ) around an airport/airfield without permission (see our guidance for details).
- ⦿ To ensure that you are not operating in an FRZ, please see <https://dronesafe.uk/restrictions/>.
- ⦿ Endangering the safety of a manned aircraft could result in a five-year prison sentence.



### LINE OF SIGHT

- ⦿ You must operate your aircraft within visual line of sight (VLOS).
- ⦿ If flying using first person view, you must have a competent observer next to you who maintains VLOS with your aircraft. Special rules apply to FPV drone racing within a 'sterile area'.
- ⦿ Free flight aircraft must not be deliberately flown beyond VLOS.



### FLY SAFELY

You must not endanger the safety of any uninvolved person or any vessel, vehicle or structure not under your control when you fly your unmanned aircraft.

For aircraft under 7.5kg, do not fly within

- ⦿ 30m of uninvolved people
- ⦿ 30m horizontal distance from an assembly of people

The distance can be reduced to 15m for take-off and landing in some circumstances.

For aircraft over 7.5kg, do not fly within

- ⦿ 30m of uninvolved people
- ⦿ 50m horizontal distance from an assembly of people

Flying within 'built up areas' is only permitted subject to the conditions outlined in our guidance.



### REGISTERED & COMPETENT

- ⦿ It is a legal requirement for most model flyers to register as an Operator with the CAA (if 18 or over) and have evidence of their competency (regardless of age).
- ⦿ **You can register as an Operator through the BMFA and existing BMFA Achievements are accepted as evidence of competency.**
- ⦿ Those without a recognised BMFA Achievement must pass the BMFA or CAA online test before they fly.
- ⦿ A CAA Operator I.D. number must be displayed on (or be easily accessible within) the aircraft.

## YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE



- ⊙ You are legally responsible for ensuring that your flights are conducted safely. It is essential that you are aware of the laws which apply.
- ⊙ Our Authorisation covers flying for sport, recreation, education and demonstration. It excludes any flying for commercial purposes.
- ⊙ For further details of Operator and Remote Pilot responsibilities, please refer to our full guidance.
- ⊙ Failure to operate lawfully could result in criminal prosecution.

## MINIMUM AGE



- ⊙ There is no minimum age for a remote pilot, but they must have evidence of competency if operating without the supervision of a competent remote pilot.
- ⊙ Under 18's will need someone to act as their Operator and be registered with the CAA.

## AIRCRAFT LESS THAN 250G



- ⊙ Unless the aircraft is fitted with a camera, there is no requirement to register as an Operator, but evidence of competency is still required to operate within our Authorisation.
- ⊙ Alternatively, you may operate within the Open Category requirements - defined in CAP 722 - for aircraft of less than 250g.

## IF THINGS GO WRONG



- Our Authorisation includes the requirement to report:
  - ⊙ Serious accidents and incidents to the AAIB
  - ⊙ Serious incidents and a range of other occurrences (including breaches of the terms of our Authorisation) to the CAA.
- ⊙ The BMFA has made this process as easy as possible: <https://reporting.bmfa.uk/>

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS



- Our Authorisation also includes special arrangements for:
    - ⊙ Trial flights for non-members
    - ⊙ Visiting flyers/competitors from overseas
  - ⊙ Display flying
  - ⊙ Permitting flights above 400ft with aircraft weighing more than 7.5Kg
- For further details, please see the full guidance.



## THE BMFA

- The BMFA has been working hard for UK model aircraft and drone flyers since 1922. Our unbeatable membership benefits include:
    - ⊙ Insurance – a class leading package including £25 million liability cover and £35K personal accident cover.
    - ⊙ CAA Operator Registration - made easy as part of our membership process.
    - ⊙ The BMFA NEWS – 60+ glossy pages of everything happening in our sport, delivered to your door 6 times per year.
    - ⊙ Achievement Scheme – dedicated to raising flying standards and safety whilst making learning fun.
    - ⊙ Access to competition – membership provides access to local, national, and international model flying contests.
    - ⊙ Guidance – we publish an extensive range of guidance material to help members have fun, fly safely, and remain within the law.
    - ⊙ Assistance – our experienced staff are there to help, advise and support whenever required.
    - ⊙ Representation - we represent the model/drone flying community at the highest levels nationally and internationally.
- All this and much more for less than 11p a day!*

[www.bmfa.org](http://www.bmfa.org)