

Airspace Infringements & DHPC Sites

Two of the club's flying sites are very close to restricted airspace and breaches of the airspace rules run the risk of us losing the privilege of being able to fly in class D airspace at Dunstable Downs.

We also have guidelines for flying at Dunstable Downs to maximise a safe coexistence with the gliders that also frequent the site.

As the membership of our club grows it is felt there is a need for a more formal structure to ensure that pilots infringing airspace or breaking site rules, either intentionally or unintentionally, should be accountable for doing so. Only in this way will the pilots concerned come to realise they may have misunderstood part of the Airspace Briefing or, for those that simply choose to ignore it, that their fellow pilots and their club take the matter seriously.

Penalties have been introduced to provide proportionate consequences for those pilots who breach the rules. These are listed below:

PENALTIES

1st infringement - Pilots are expected to write to the Committee explaining circumstances and how this might be avoided in the future.

2nd infringement - Pilots are expected to write, once again, to the Committee explaining circumstances and how this might be avoided in the future and to either make a donation of £10 or to help out at a club event such as scrub clearance. They will also be excluded from flying Dunstable sites until such time as they have retaken the Airspace Briefing and once taken, on the condition to always fly with a tracking enabled device for the remainder of the season. No special Airspace Briefing will be arranged, they will simply have to attend the next available whenever that may be. Pilots would be expected to notify a club coach of the intention to fly at DHPC club sites before flying again.

First and second infringements will be recorded by the club and will reset after the end of the season if there are no further infringements.

3rd infringement - Pilots will be expected to explain themselves, in person, at the next Committee meeting. Their membership will be suspended for the remainder of the current season meaning that they cannot fly Dunstable sites. The suspension will only be lifted when membership renewals go out for the upcoming season. The pilots will have to retake the Airspace Briefing and once

taken, to always fly with a tracking enabled device for the remainder of the season. No special Airspace Briefing will be arranged, they will simply have to attend the next available whenever that may be.

A third infringement will only reset at the end of the following season and then only if the pilot has complied with the requirements to retake the Airspace Briefing, fly with a tracking enabled device and does not infringe air space for the entirety of the season. Should the pilot infringe airspace during this season it will be treated as a third infringement and the pilot would once again be suspended from flying.

Exceptions

In circumstances where any single infringement is considered to bring the club into disrepute or jeopardise the ability of DHPC to maintain existing rights to fly at any of the club sites, the committee reserves the right to immediately suspend a member.

In the event of a genuine emergency none of the above should be interpreted as impeding a pilot's right to take action to avoid an accident. For example if a pilot has a collapse and subsequent loss of height means the only safe place to land after recovery is in an exclusion zone then they should do so. Of course such an event should then be reported through BHPA Accident Reporting channels as well as to the Committee.

Reporting of Infringements

It is to be hoped that members will report both their own infringements as well as those they might have witnessed.

There is little the committee can do to maintain our flying rights at Dunstable if members do not help us by reporting any infringements they might witness.

The committee once again reserves the right to automatically suspend a member who is seen to be infringing airspace and who chooses not to report their lapse.