

Invicta Model Flyers - Flying Site Rules

Dear Members

The following rules are for all IMF Club Members benefit to ensure we have safe and enjoyable use of the club's flying facilities. Please comply with them, and if you see others breaking them please point this out to them. Failure to comply may not only cause potential injury and/or damage to property, but may compromise our use of the site.

Remember it is no use the club issuing rules if YOU don't read them or comply with them. Any suggestions or changes please let one of the committee members know. Above all enjoy your use of the flying field and act responsibly.

If members are found to be breaking the rules, the committee reserve the right to cancel the membership of the offender after consultation with other club members.

Displaying Membership Cards

When visiting either site, remember to take your Invicta Model Flyers membership card for the current year and display on your dashboard. If you share a car, then display one card per person please.

This is important as both the Farmer at Sutton Valance and the Estate management have stated their intention to check people at both sites.

Flying Times

We are fortunate that we do not have any specific flying times imposed at either site, however please be considerate by not arriving too early or leaving too late. No night flying.

Guests

Generally, guests are not permitted. However, in exceptional circumstances; guests may be permitted subject to the prior approval of a Committee member.

Qualifications

1. Pilots must comply with the requirements of the CAA Drone and Model Aircraft Registration & Education Scheme (DMARES). From 1st January 2021 BMFA Members can operate under an 'Article 16 Authorisation' and our Registration Competency Certificate test has been updated to cover the elements of the authorisation. By taking and passing this test you do not need to take the CAA online test and also do not need a CAA Flyer Id. You do however, still require a valid Operator ID on your aircraft. You must also be able to provide documented evidence of competence (i.e. keep a copy with you when you fly)
2. New members or novices should only fly under the guidance of one of the club's experienced pilots; in the early stages this could be using a buddy box. This is to ensure that they are competent and safe to fly.
3. Pilots are also encouraged to take part in the BMFA achievement scheme to increase competency.

Safety & Regulation - Remember SAFETY is no accident- you have to think and do something about it.

1. We are all responsible for our own actions to make sure we all fly and operate our models in a safe and sensible way. We should always act as safety officers for each other. Please read the BMFA handbook for further guidance on operating safely.
2. In respect to regulations, simply you must comply with current laws and regulations. You should familiarise yourself with the latest regulations on the BMFA website before flying.
3. Members are encouraged to download and use the Drone Assist mobile app and check for any Temporary Restriction Zones (TRZ) such as Royal Flights on the day of flying.
4. Pilots should always stand together when controlling flying models to aid communication & safety.
5. When flying line launched (bungee or winch) gliders, other members present should be consulted, before any flying takes place so that the area may be freed up to accommodate the special requirements for these models.
6. If flying at distance, consider model height to ensure you can land within the confines of the site, but should you land in an adjacent field then avoid damaging fences or crops when retrieving the model.
7. Be aware of hazardous areas such roads and property and avoid putting the model in a position where it may come down on roads or property.
8. No pet animals to be brought onto the site due to consideration of livestock.
9. As part of our authorisation, we are required by the BMFA to report Serious accidents and incidents to the various authorities. The BMFA has made this process as easy as possible: <https://reporting.bmfa.uk/> You must also report instances to one of the committee members.

Types of Models

1. **Silent & quiet electric assisted models only** - Models with internal combustion, jet or rocket propulsion are expressly forbidden on all IVM club sites.
2. Members should always use common sense when deciding to bring a large/unusual type of model to our site and ask themselves the following questions.
 - Will it be safe to fly?
 - Will I be able to see and control it at all times?
 - Am I confident in my abilities to fly it, and do others think the same?
 - If unsure about any aspect, please ring or ask a committee member for guidance.

Frequencies

1. Members may only fly on permitted UK Frequencies which are currently 27, 35 and 2.4GHz
2. Members are responsible for co-ordinating their own frequency control and must check with all flyers present to ensure no frequency clashes before switching on the transmitter.
3. If any interference is experienced with whatever frequency you are using please check with other flyers that you are not causing interference to them. If you are - don't fly and get your equipment serviced.

Flying Sites – Specific Rules for slope site at Wrotham

1. Field & Access
 - The site at Wrotham comprises a large field at the top of the slope which then extends down the slope.
 - The gate to the site normally locked and is to be kept shut at all times, unless the farmer has kept it open for his work. When climbing over the gate, use the end with the hinges.
2. Parking
 - Car parking area is adjacent to the site on Exedown Road.
 - Do not block the gate under any circumstances. Please park considerately.
 - Leave your current membership card on display in your vehicle
3. Public Safety – Although there are no public footpaths in the site, pilots must be aware of public or farm workers on the site, especially down the slope. You have the obligation to advise them of flying activity and safe areas. Before making a landing, check back towards the gate to ensure the landing area is clear.
4. If livestock are present in the field/ slope, take care not to frighten the animals when walking to the slope or when flying.
5. All club members are required to stand together to aid communication and safety.
6. Hazards/ No fly zones
 - Hazards in the local area include the M20 motorway which is 0,5km downwind of the slope. Also, Wrotham Transmitting station is located 800 m behind slope. Although there have not been any instances of interference, it is still sensible to avoid flying near.
 - In general, pilots will be flying in front of the slope therefore away from the motorway and transmitting station.
 - There is a cottage to the north- west side of the field, this is to be treated as a no-fly zone.
7. Landing Circuits - All Landings at Wrotham are to be a Left-Hand circuit only to prevent model being flown anywhere near the cottage.

Please keep the site tidy, take your rubbish home with you. Note that carbon/glass airframes may result in smaller splinters which could be especially damaging to the animals when grazing. If you see rubbish, even if it is not yours, please take it with you. Better to do that than to lose the site due to someone else's mistake

Flying Sites – Specific Rules for fields at Sutton Valence

1. Access to the fields is via the metal gate on A274 just after the brick bus shelter on the west side of the road.
2. Which Field? The flying fields will change during the year dependant on the farming activities. Our Farmer kindly allows us to use most fields that are not active.
 - No access/ flying in any fields with livestock in them
 - No access/ flying in fields with crops growing
 - If in doubt – Find the Farmer.
3. Driving – When driving on site please abide by these rules
 - Keep speed down
 - Give way to all farm machinery and livestock

- If you open a gate, then ensure it is shut and secured after you.
4. Parking - Take care when parking your car. Golden rules
 - No blocking access by parking in front of gates or blocking the farm tracks. Don't forget the farmer may have a wide tractor.
 - Access to the flying field may not be possible due to boggy ground
 - If parking in the field, ensure that your vehicle is parked against the hedge away from the flight-line and not under the landing approach.
 - Leave your current membership card on display in your vehicle
 5. Electrical Safety – A number of the fields have High Voltage power lines adjacent to, or running across the field.
 - There is to be no flying near to the power lines due to danger of electrocution.
 - When using winch or bungees to launch models, avoid launch lines falling over the power lines. Before setting up, consider where launch lines will descend in the prevailing wind and allow for some shift in the wind direction.
 - If a model or winch line does become entangled in the power lines. DO NOT attempt to retrieve them. Note that carbon models will conduct electricity and seek help from the farmer immediately.
 6. Public Safety – There is a public footpath down the main track on the site, pilots must be aware of public or farm workers. Should any member of the public venture into the flying field, you have the obligation to advise them of flying activity and safe areas.
 7. Flight line - All club members are required to stand together when flying to aid communication and safety.
 8. No fly zones – No low flying over any of the farm buildings or adjacent houses. Pilots are to avoid flying anywhere where a loss of control would result in causing a hazard to property or road users.
 9. Please keep the site tidy, take your rubbish and bits of broken planes home with you. Note that carbon/glass airframes may result in smaller splinters which could be especially damaging to the animals when grazing.

If you see rubbish, even if it is not yours, please take it with you. Better to do that than to lose the site due to someone else's mistake

Summary

And lastly please remember the following when you fly at the IMF sites.

- Have Fun
- Act responsibly with a long-term view
- Fly Safely
- Look after each other & the community
- Let the committee know if anything untoward happens