



Rules for BHPFC Competitions

1. Introduction

The aim of the BHPFC (British Human Powered Flying Club) is to promote human powered flight both technically and as a sport; potentially at some time in the future an Olympic sport. The following rules and regulations have been based on experience gained in the 2012 and 2013 Royal Aeronautical Society Icarus Cup events, and the BHPFC 2014 Rally.

The BHPFC is affiliated to the BHPA (British Hang gliding and Paragliding Association - www.bhpa.co.uk). Competing pilots must be flying members of the BHPA and hence be covered by their insurance – see Appendix 1. Non-flying team members are not required to have this cover. Experience has shown that most minor injuries happen to ground handlers and marshals from situations such as falling off bicycles or tripping over or falling onto aircraft. At least one first aider will be present at all competitions, but in addition to this, all teams are strongly advised to have one team member who has a certificate in basic first aid.

A fee for entering the competition will be charged per aircraft and will include access to the airfield for up to 8 named team members. Any guests will incur a small extra charge.

For further information, including any future updates to the competition rules, please visit the BHPFC website at: <http://www.bhpfc.org.uk>.

2. Competition Tasks

- 1) Duration
- 2) 200m time trial
- 3) 1km time trial
- 4) 500m slalom course
- 5) Distance around a triangular course
- 6) Unassisted takeoff performance
- 7) Landing accuracy
- 8) Takeoff from grass
- 9) 200m time trial with takeoff from grass

3. Applicability

The competition is open to aircraft which are solely human powered by the pilot. The following are **not** permitted:

- 1) Energy storage except for powering avionics and controls.
- 2) Lighter than air devices.
- 3) Towing, winching, or kite assistance.
- 4) Control of the aircraft by persons other than the pilot.

The following are permitted:

- 1) Auto stabilization
- 2) An autopilot which can be overridden and turned on or off by the pilot.
- 3) Takeoff assistance from up to 3 runners except in task (6) above, where one assistant only is allowed, to stabilize but not propel the aircraft.

4. Competition Scoring

The competition is scored according to a points system awarded to the pilot for each task. For the whole event there will be a winning team and an individual winning pilot. The points system is detailed in section 5.6.

- 1) The winning team is that which has accumulated the highest total score, which shall be calculated by adding together the best score achieved for each task over the duration of the competition.
- 2) The winning pilot is the individual who accumulates the most points during the competition.
- 3) Any number of pilot entrants are permitted for each team's aircraft, up to a maximum of eight which is the total number of permitted team members. A pilot may only be a member of one team.
- 4) The organizers must be notified of any significant configuration changes made to an aircraft during the event, and reserve the right to consider such a change to result in a different aircraft.

There may also be a winning team for the best design and construction, which shall be judged on overall merit at the discretion of the organisers.

5. Rules and Regulations

Each aircraft team must appoint a leader who is responsible for ensuring that the team complies with the safety regulations in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

5.1 - Aircraft

- 1) The aircraft must have been flight tested before any competition task is attempted.
- 2) The aircraft must be free of unprotected sharp protrusions in the cockpit.

5.2 - Pilot

- 1) All pilots must wear crash helmets – an approved bicycle helmet is sufficient.
- 2) All pilots must carry third party insurance (see Appendix 1).
- 3) The pilot must have completed the event entry form and agree to abide by the rules and regulations.
- 4) The pilot must have had some relevant flying experience before attempting a competition task.
- 5) The pilot must be satisfied that the aircraft is fit for flight before takeoff including a full, free and correct sense controls check. (see Appendix 3)
- 6) The pilot must not intentionally fly more than 15m (50ft) above ground level.

5.3 - Team

- 1) The maximum number of team members permitted on the airfield is eight. Any number of these eight persons may pilot the aircraft for competition tasks, provided that they have the appropriate insurance. (Any number of team members and guests can maintain the aircraft off the airfield but only the 8 registered members may handle the aircraft on the airfield.)
- 2) The team leader will ensure that the competition rules are followed and that takeoffs will be stopped if any safety concerns are apparent, until such concerns are resolved.
- 3) The team leader is strongly advised to ensure that at least one team member holds a current first aid certificate and has a first aid kit available.
- 4) The team leader will appoint at least one team member to marshal. This member may be the same as that in 3) above and does not count as one of the 8 airfield assistants.
- 5) The team leader is responsible for ensuring that the team complies with all site regulations.
- 6) The team must follow the instructions of the competition marshals where it is safe to do so.
- 7) The team leader will conduct a risk assessment (example shown in Appendix 2).

5.4 - Organisers

- 1) Flying may be suspended at any time e.g. due to weather conditions, airborne or other traffic, at the Competition Director's discretion.
- 2) The judges' decisions regarding scoring are final.
- 3) An independent adjudicator will be appointed to assist the judges.
- 4) At the competition director's discretion a course distance may be reduced to fit the airfield by no more than 30 %, and announced at a briefing prior to setting this up.

5.5 - Tasks

Setting of the tasks is at the discretion of the Competition Director and can be any selection, order or at any time, according to the weather, aircraft available, pilot experience etc.

- 1) No points are to be awarded unless the aircraft is serviceable after the task. If there is any doubt, a takeoff shall be demonstrated within one hour.
- 2) Each competitor must start within 5 minutes of the allotted time or go to the back of the launch queue. Any aircraft in the queue may request for this time to be kept.
- 3) Up to 3 launch assistants are allowed to assist the aircraft for takeoff, except for the unassisted takeoff performance task where one assistant is permitted for stabilization only.
- 4) At the Competition Director's discretion, up to 3 tasks may be attempted during one flight, these must be declared beforehand. e.g. duration plus slalom plus speed.
- 5) The highest score for a task achieved by the team over the whole competition counts for the overall team points.
- 6) The task will count if, in the opinion of the Competition Director, more than one aircraft is capable of attempting it in the conditions prevailing.

5.6 - Points and Scoring

1) **Duration**

Duration is measured according to the time the whole aircraft remains airborne.
7 points scored per second up to a maximum of 2000 points (\cong 4.75 minutes).

2) **200m Time Trial**

Each trial will be measured with a flying start and finish over a 0.7m high marker at the beginning and end of the measured distance. The starting position is at the pilot's discretion. Points are scored according to the cube of the ground speed as measured by elapsed time over the markers. (V^3)

3) **1km Time Trial**

For the 1km trial, markers are set as above, points are scored according to $V^{3.3}$

4) **Slalom**

The slalom is measured over a 500m course beginning and ending with a 0.7m high marker. It will be scored by the number of times the aircraft fuselage crosses the course centreline before the course ends. If the aircraft lands before the 500m marker, the score is still counted. 200 points are awarded per crossing.

5) **Distance Around a Triangular Course**

The distance task will be measured around a 1.5km perimeter triangular course by the number of pylons passed. The aircraft must be continuously airborne and the centreline of the fuselage must pass outside each pylon. 500 points are scored for passing each scoring line as defined in Diagram 1. There is no limit to the number of laps of the course.

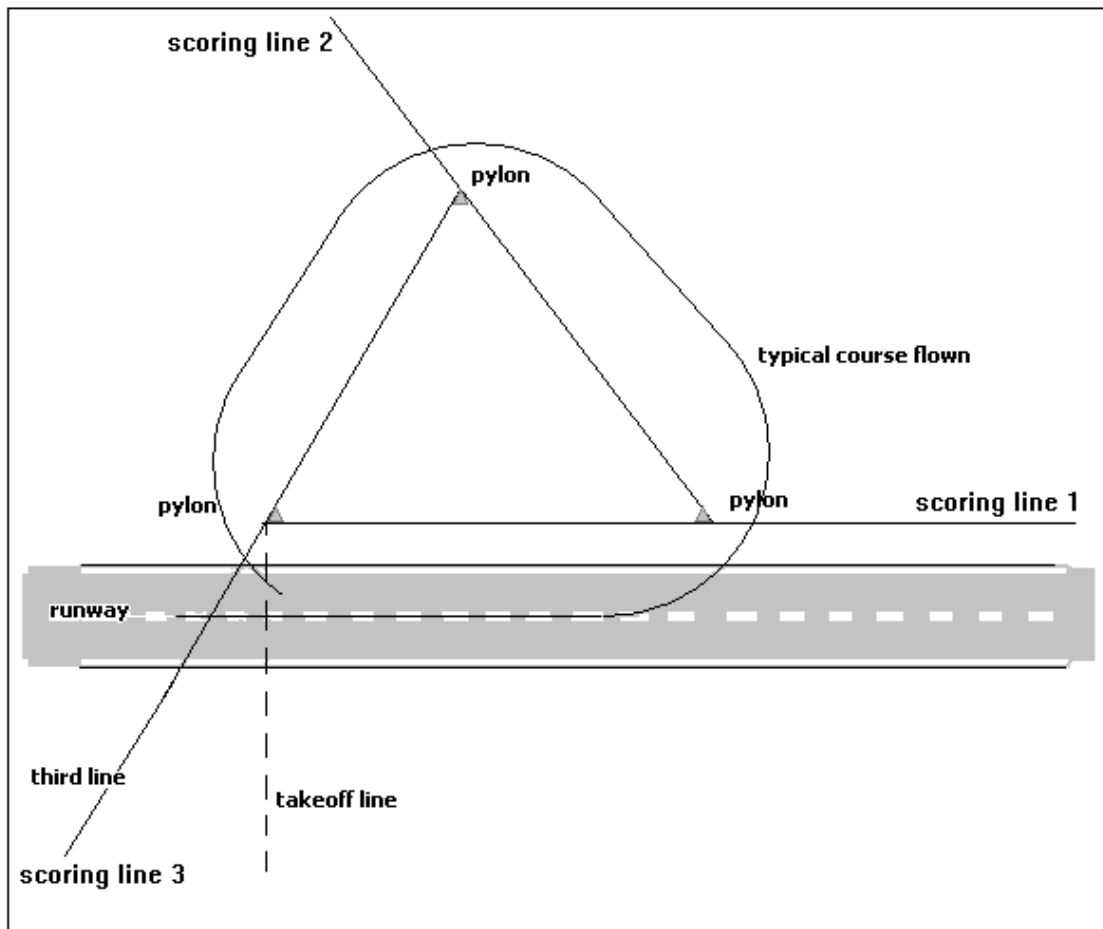


Diagram 1 – Triangular course for distance task

6) **Unassisted Takeoff Performance**

This task is measured according to the distance for the whole aircraft to leave the ground from a standing start, solely under pilot power.

Points are scored according to:

$$(150 - \text{takeoff distance (m)}) \times 10$$

7) **Landing Accuracy**

Landing accuracy is scored by distance of touchdown from a centre point of a landing line, after the aircraft has passed a 0.7m high marker 50m before the landing line.

Points are scored according to:

$$(42 - \text{distance (m)}) \times 12$$

8) **Takeoff from Grass**

This task is measured according to the distance for the whole aircraft to leave the ground, with the takeoff run entirely on grass. Take off assistance is permitted from up to 3 team members. Points are scored according to:

$$(150 - \text{takeoff distance (m)}) \times 10$$

9) **200m Time Trial with Takeoff from Grass**

Each trial will be measured with a flying start and finish over a 0.7m high marker at the beginning and end of the measured distance. The starting position is at the pilot's discretion, but must be on grass. The entire take off run must be completed on grass. Points are scored according to the cube of the ground speed as measured by elapsed time over the markers.

$$(V^3)$$

Appendix 1 - Insurance

All pilots must be insured against third party risks for a minimum of £2million. Proof of insurance must be provided by all pilots.

3rd party insurance for flying human powered aircraft is available by taking up flying membership of the BHPA (British Hang gliding and Paragliding Association, 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ, UK). See: <http://www.bhpa.co.uk/sport/bhpa/join.php>

The aircraft must be registered with the BHPA.

https://www.bhpa.co.uk/pdf/Pilot_declaration_uncertified_wing_form.pdf

Pilots agree to fly at their own personal risk and that life cover is at their discretion.

Appendix 2 - Risk Assessment

	Hazard	Control measure
1	Weather too gusty or too strong a wind (10kt+)	Suspend flying
2	Structural failure	Static load tests, preflight inspection
3	Loss of control in flight	Load testing and inspection of control system. Full, free and correct sense (including battery charge) checks before flight. Preflight check of aircraft rigging and balance. Limitation of height to 15m maximum AGL. Carry airspeed indicator or stall warner.
4	Loss of control on takeoff	Stop pedaling. Assess wind direction.
5	Pilot experience	All pilots must have some actual or simulated relevant flying experience.
6	Ground handling hazards	Brief ground handlers on what to hold and how to control the aircraft on the ground. Brief on trip/damage hazards of propeller and cables. [Refer Appendix 3]

Appendix 3 – HPA guides and procedures.

A guide to check flying and competing in HPAs for pilots and ground handlers. Issued by BHPFC