

BMG guidelines for flying operations during COVID-19 restrictions

Effective: 9 November 2020



The Presidents and CFIs of the three Bacchus Marsh gliding clubs have agreed to the following guidelines to enable safe and compliant flying operations, consistent with Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

Flying operations can resume for each club at Bacchus Marsh from Monday 9 November 2020 under the following guidelines:

1. Club members must not come to the airfield if they:
 - have an active case of COVID-19 or have been in contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last three weeks.
 - do not feel well, show signs or symptoms of cold or flu (or if other members of their family who live with them under the same roof are similarly unwell).
2. Each club can operate simultaneously, but separately, on the airfield with only 20 people participating at any one time, ensuring that people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other. The three clubs should limit the number of people at the launch site to 20.
3. Masks are required at all times, outdoors, indoors and including during instructional flights. CASA further advises on PPE "Pilots should ensure that use of any personal protective equipment does not interfere with the safe operation of an aircraft. Communication for flight crew requires clear enunciation, both with other crew and with air traffic control over the radio. Vision should not be impaired by the use of PPE and the use of emergency equipment such as oxygen masks should also be considered".
4. Currently permitted flying is currency flying, flight reviews (formerly annual checks), instructional flying, independent operators, solo flying. At this time, mutual flying is not permitted (unless with a member of your household). AEF flying is not permitted at this time.
5. People who don't need to be at the launch site should locate themselves elsewhere until required at the launch site (e.g. at the hangars doing maintenance or in their cars).
6. Pie carts of each club should be separated sufficiently (e.g. 5 m) to delineate each separate group. Members should stay near their club's pie cart unless assisting with the launch or retrieval of an aircraft. The number of people within the pie cart should be limited to one person per 4 m².
7. The clubhouse can be accessed for the purpose of using the toilets and club equipment. Members must ensure that the number of people in a room doesn't exceed one person per 4 m² and people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other. Do not exceed room capacities as indicated on the signage.
8. Hangars can be accessed for maintenance activities and club equipment, ensuring that the number of people in a hangar doesn't exceed one person per 4 m² and people keep a distance of 1.5 m from each other.
9. Club members must exercise good hygiene in the form of regular hand washing or the use of hand sanitisers.

10. Club members must sanitise high-contact surfaces in accordance with the GFA Airworthiness Advice Notice (GFA AN 179) between uses, including control surfaces within aircraft between different pilots, and avoid touching the aircraft or equipment belonging to the other clubs.
11. All gliding flights must be conducted in a manner that will ensure there is a low risk of an out-landing.
12. Wherever possible pilots should use their own vehicle for moving their glider to and from the hangar and the use of the golf buggy should be limited to one person at a time.
13. Individual clubs should keep a record of attendees to the launch site, including by updating the BMG Covid-19 flying operations Google Sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12C5sSqDcsWO3JNWZv8cVTTfNGqwskFgn_qu9JLMuLgl/edit#gid=0
14. The CFIs (or their nominees) of each club will coordinate when each club will be operating and the numbers of participants, at the launch site.
15. The above guidelines were determined based on the following clauses extracted from the DHHS website: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

