

BGA LAWS AND RULES

SPORTING BADGES AND DIPLOMAS REQUIREMENTS (incorporating the aerobatics badge requirements)

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1. General

FAI and BGA Sport Badges and Diplomas include;

- a) Silver Badge
- b) Gold Badge
- c) Diamonds
- d) Distance Badges & Diplomas

All badges are recorded on the BGA Gliding Certificate.

The definitive rules for the FAI Badge and Diploma claims are contained in the FAI Sporting Code Section 3 and Annex C - Official Observer & Pilot Guide. These documents can be found at <https://www.fai.org/iqc-documents> .

The candidate must be alone in the aircraft for each test, except for the UK 750 km and UK 1,000 km Two-seater Diplomas. FAI badge attempts may be flown in a motor glider, provided there is proof that the engine was not used during the soaring performance.

Any number of tests may be completed on any flight. Application for badges and diplomas must be made on the approved form and where required, flight evidence must be submitted in an approved format.

All flights using GPS data to verify turning points must be pre-declared. A declaration is not required for badge duration and gain of height badge flights. All record flights require a declaration.

For distance and goal flights the loss of height between the start point (release height or height of crossing the start line) and the finish point (landing point, height of crossing the finish line or other suitable logged point chosen post flight) must not exceed 1% of the total distance flown with a maximum height loss of 1000m.

GPS position recorders are allowed for Silver and Gold badge legs. They record GPS altitude rather than pressure altitude. When position recorders are used to measure height gains or losses a 100metre penalty will be applied to the gain or loss, for example a silver height gain would need to be at least 1100metres when measured by GPS altitude.

2. Silver Badge

Requirements

- a) A duration flight of not less than 5 hours from release to landing.
- b) A straight distance flight from a start at release to a finish fix located at least 50 km from release and at least 50 km from the fix recorded at the beginning of the take-off roll. Once the point is logged, the pilot can fly anywhere else.
- c) A height gain of at least 1,000 metres (3,281 feet)

3. 100 km Diploma (UK only award)

Requirements

The 100 km Diploma consists of 2 parts which can be claimed individually or together;

- a) Completion of a 100 km declared closed circuit flight, set either as a triangle or as an out-and-return and starting and finishing with the crossing of a 1km start/finish line.
- b) Completion of a similar flight to that above, but at a minimum handicapped speed of 65 km per hour. The handicap list from the current Competition Handbook is to be used

Flights must take place within Europe under the supervision of a BGA Official Observer.

4. Gold Badge

Requirements

- a) A duration flight of not less than 5 hours from release to landing unless this has already been done as a silver duration.
- b) A distance flight of not less than 300 km (186.4 Statute miles). This may be made as either a flight in a straight line, or a flight round up to 3 declared turn points. The turn points may be rounded in any order or not at all but each may only be turned once.
- c) A gain of height of not less than 3,000 metres (9,843 feet)

5. Diamonds

Requirements

- a) A goal flight of not less than 300 km (186.4 Statute miles) flight flown over an out and return or triangular course.
- b) A distance flight of not less than 500 km (310.7 Statute miles) - requirements as for Gold Distance.
- c) A gain of height of not less than 5,000 metres (16,405 feet).

Diamonds may only be worn on Silver or Gold Badges.

6. Badges & Diplomas for flights of 750km and more

The FAI awards diplomas for distance flights of 750km and upwards in increments of 250 km. Requirements are as for Gold Distance.

The UK only awards diplomas for 750 km and 1000km in two-seat gliders for distance flight of not less than 750 km or 1000km, starting in the UK and flown with two pilots. Requirements as for Gold Distance.

7. Official Observers

BGA Official Observers are trusted and independent witnesses, authorised by the BGA to observe and verify details of flights qualifying for badges, records and championships in accordance with the regulations of the FAI and BGA.

An Official Observer may not act in such capacity for any flight in which he is pilot or passenger.

Instructors, holders of Silver badges or a higher qualification, or persons actively connected with gliding for the previous three years are eligible for appointment.

Applications on the appropriate form must carry the recommendation of the Chairman or CFI of the club, or the Officer Commanding of the Air Cadet Squadron, concerned. Applicants must verify that they are familiar with the current version of the FAI Sporting Code.

8. Aerobatics

In the United Kingdom, aerobatic competition for both powered and glider (full size) is governed by the British Aerobatic Association.

The aerobatic badge scheme was developed jointly by the British Aerobatic Association (BAeA) and the BGA and includes four levels of competence:

Standard - Competent to undertake solo test sequence of basic figures only

Sports - A high standard of competence in basic +ve G figures

Intermediate - A high standard of competence in advanced figures involving rolling and inverted flight

Unlimited - A high standard of competence in advanced figures involving rolling and inverted flight

Note: The Standard test qualifies for the BGA aerobatic endorsement.

Aerobatic Badge Tests

- The candidate must have received clearance from a BGA Aerobatic Instructor to carry out the figures included at the relevant level before attempting any test. For the Standard badge this clearance may be given by a Full Cat. Instructor authorised for the purpose by the local CFI.
- The candidate must be alone in the aircraft for each test.

- The Standard badge test may be witnessed by any BGA Aerobatic Instructor or by a Full Rated Instructor authorised for the purpose by the local CFI.
- The Sports and Intermediate badge tests are to be witnessed by a BGA Regional Aerobatic Examiner unless scored by a BAeA judge or judges.
- The Unlimited badge test is to be witnessed and scored by no less than three BAeA, or three internationally recognised, aerobatic judges.
- Scoring of Sports, Intermediate and Unlimited badge tests will be in accordance with the 'BAeA Criteria for Judging Aerobatic Figures' as published by the British Aerobatic Association. No qualifying flight may contain a zero score.
- More than one test may be completed on a single flight.
- Marks for positioning and harmony are included in total scores for the Sports, Intermediate and Unlimited flights.

Standard

Clearance by a BGA Aerobatic Instructor, or authorised Full Rated Instructor to undertake a solo sequence including each of the following figures. Direction of turn in each figure to be at the pilot's discretion.

- 45 degree climbing and diving lines (k7)
- Loop (k10)
- Wingover (k12)
- 270 degree erect turn (k5)
- Humpty Bump (k13)

Sports

Scored sequence containing figures taken from the following list:

- 45 degree line (k7)
- Loop (k10)
- Wingover (k12)
- 270 or 180 degree erect turn (k5/4)
- Positive, One Turn Spin (k14)
- Humpty Bump (k13)
- Quarter clover (k16)
- Stall turn (k17)

The total k factor for the sequence shall be between 120 and 135K and all figures from the prescribed list must be included. No figure shall be repeated more than once.

A default sequence may be chosen from the BAeA Sports class known sequences published for the period of the test.

A minimum score of 70% is required to pass. If the test is carried out as an entry in a BAeA competition the official final scores, after computation in accordance with the official scoring system, will be taken as evidence of satisfactory performance.

Intermediate

The Intermediate Badge test shall comprise one known or free programme and one unknown sequence as defined below:

a) **Known Sequence -**

Scored sequence containing 12 figures chosen by the candidate from the following list:

- 45 degree climbing and diving lines (k7)
- Loop (k10)
- Wingover (k12)
- 270/180 degree erect turn (k5/4)
- 180 degree inverted turn (k5)
- Positive Spin (k14 to k18)
- Humpty Bump (k13)
- Quarter clover (k16)
- Stall turn (k17)
- Slow roll (k14)
- Half roll inverted (k8)
- Half roll erect (k8)
- Cuban eight (k31)
- Half Cuban (k16)
- Half reverse Cuban (k19)
- Split S (k12)

The total k factor for the sequence shall be between 130 and 140K and no figure shall be included more than once. A default sequence may be chosen from the BAeA Intermediate Class known or free sequences published for the period of the test.

b) **Unknown Sequence**

A scored unknown sequence containing a maximum of 14 figures from the forgoing list, set by the examiner on the day of the test and flown without practice. The minimum k factor shall be as defined for the known sequence. This test may be carried out as part of an entry in a BAeA Intermediate Class competition.

A minimum score of 75% is required to pass in both the known and the unknown sequences. If the test is carried out as an entry in a BAeA competition the official final scores, after computation in accordance with the official scoring system, will be taken as evidence of satisfactory performance. The known/free and unknown sequences may be flown on different days.

Unlimited

The Unlimited Badge test shall comprise one known, one unknown and one free sequence as defined below:

a) **Known Sequence**

The Known Compulsory programme for Glider Aircraft published by CIVA for the current year.

b) Unknown Sequence

To be constructed by a minimum of three unlimited glider aerobatic pilots in accordance with CIVA Regulations for Unknown Compulsory programmes for Glider Aircraft. To be presented to the candidate on the day of the test and flown without practice.

The total k factor for the sequence shall be between 170 and 185K.

c) Free Sequence

To be constructed by the candidate in accordance with CIVA Regulations for Free Programmes for Glider Aircraft.

The total k factor for the sequence shall not be less than 230.

A minimum score of 75% in each sequence is required to pass. If the tests are carried out as an entry in a BAeA or International competition the official final scores, after computation in accordance with the official scoring system, will be taken as evidence of satisfactory performance. In all other circumstances the average of the judges scores will be used to assess compliance.

Positioning and Harmony marks will be included in the final scores as defined in the CIVA Regulations 'Part Two - Events for Glider Aircraft'.

The known, unknown and free sequences may each be flown on different days.

End.