

Club Safety Officer

A briefing for Club Safety Officers and Club Chairmen

November 2015

Why a Club Safety Officer?

All gliding clubs should promote an effective safety culture. The aim should be to ensure all pilots are equally interested in and dedicated to improving safety.

To achieve that, the Club safety Officer works closely with the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) - the CFI is responsible for all flying and training activities; the CSO is the watchdog whose prime interest is safe ground and flying operations.

What qualifications are needed?

No qualifications are required. But experience really helps.

The ideal person is someone who has a reasonable amount of operational gliding experience, uses common sense, is able to communicate reasonably effectively with club management and other members, and has been approached by the club to help out.

But if you haven't been approached, don't let that put you off talking to your club chairman and offering to help!

Does the Club Safety Officer need BGA approval?

No.

A Club Safety Officer is appointed by and reports to the Club Chairman.

The BGA provides support.

A Club Safety Officer toolkit is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/club-safety-officer-toolkit/>

This includes advice for Club Safety Officers, resources and contact details

What does a Club Safety Officer do?

That depends on what is agreed with the Club Chairman. The role could include;

- Advising the club chairman and CFI on all safety matters
- Periodically reviewing club publications providing guidance on club operations
- Conducting periodic club safety reviews
- Assisting in determining circumstances and probable causes of accidents and incidents, with a view to preventing future accidents rather than ascribing blame to individuals
- Publicising, within the club, the appropriate 'lessons learnt' as a result of an accident or incident
- Undertaking any other tasks which the Club Safety Officer and the club Chairman perceive to be necessary in the interests of managing operational risks at the club

(full details are supplied in the Club Safety officer toolkit)

What is the first task as a new Club Safety Officer?

Again, that depends on what is agreed with the Club Chairman.

It's really worthwhile checking that the basics are being addressed. To establish that, most new Club Safety Officers like to carry out a Club Safety Review to help them identify any issues. Keeping a copy of that review provides a helpful benchmark for checking progress in the months ahead.

Club Safety Review guidance/checklist is published in the Club Safety Officer toolkit

What support is available?

Club Safety Officers should of course work closely with the club CFI and others within the club

Wider support is available – please get in contact if needed;

- The Senior Regional Examiner and his/her regional team are a great source of experience and advice
- The BGA Safety Committee can provide independent, specialist guidance. The Safety Committee's primary contact for Club Safety Officer support is [John Hull](#). He can be contacted via the BGA office
- All contact details are in the Club Safety Officer toolkit

What about the CAA and the HSE?

The CAA is responsible for overall flight safety performance – the CAA delegates where possible to air sport organisations

Gliding club flying operations are safely managed using BGA rules and guidance (as published on the BGA website)

The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for non-flying safety. A memo of understanding between CAA and the HSE is in the Club Safety Officer toolkit