



Training Organisation News

Issue 1/2014

6th June 14

Introduction

This is the first of what we anticipate will be regular BGA Training Organisation News that aims to keep everyone at clubs involved with glider pilot training informed about topical issues and developments. If you have any constructive feedback about the publication, please send that by email to ato@gliding.co.uk

BGA Approved Training Organisation (ATO)

The BGA has its application for ATO approval plus supporting documentation ready to go. To ensure that we don't unnecessarily burden ourselves, we are waiting for the dust to settle from a recent EASA conference on ATO requirements at which everyone and particularly UK CAA agreed a proportionate interpretation of the requirements needs to be adopted, and that the regulation needs to be amended by EASA. The BGA will of course continue to press for the lightest possible level of regulation and external oversight. The way forward should be clearer this summer. BGA will then submit the required application to CAA. Guidance to clubs and instructors will naturally follow!

How different will it be operating as an ATO?

The ATO rules currently require us to describe our pilot training management processes, roles and responsibilities. Other than having a reference document that describes the detail we agree to operate to, which is pretty much as we do today, and a re-organised training syllabus, not much fundamentally changes other than we'll need to periodically confirm we are doing things correctly. CFI's will need to get used to also being the 'Local Head of Training' and that they will have some different responsibilities including listing which instructor can do what and deciding how often their instructors are checked.

Instructors, students and prospective students will have access to the documents that will be used during training. As you would expect, each training 'course' has a syllabus. For example SPL/LAPL(S) syllabus, aerobatics rating syllabus, TMG extension syllabus, etc. The BGA is designing an SPL/LAPL(S) training record card in the form of a user friendly A5-sized booklet that is compliant with the requirements. These will be supplied free of charge to clubs. All the training documents including all training record cards will be made obviously available on our website. The BGA's new website that is currently under development will also facilitate access to these documents on mobile devices.

So how different will it be in future? We anticipate that 80% will be the same as it is now. Some of the 'new' will be helpful. For example, a clear and concise syllabus with identified training outcomes is very helpful to instructors and students alike.

Meanwhile, the existing BGA training system continues, noting that existing students' training record cards should be carefully maintained to help prevent any need to cover exercises twice on the changeover to ATO compliant training in due course.