

New Pilot Training
Criteria
Highland Lakes Flyers Safety Committee
January 2009

Following is a listing of areas in which a new pilot (student) must demonstrate proficiency during training and prior to being approved for independent flight at the Highland Lakes Flyers field and at sanctioned club events. Additional criteria and standards may be required, at Safety Committee discretion.

1. Preflight
 - Received copy of and understands safety rules, inspection checklist and field operation rules
 - Completed review/tour of first aid supplies and safety equipment
 - Completed "ground school", including discussion and demonstration of transmitter and model control operation
 - Student's trainer-type aircraft has passed the required safety inspection

2. Preflight Preparation
 - Demonstrates knowledge of ground support equipment and safe glow engine starting and /or demonstrates safe arming and disarming of electric models
 - Demonstrates ability to set up buddy box, including trims, without instructor help

3. "Parallel" Pattern
 - Can fly the model parallel to the runway in both directions, while maintaining constant altitude and maintaining course

4. Take-off
 - Demonstrates ability to taxi model from staging area to runway and back, aligning model with centerline of runway
 - Performs smooth take-offs and effectively uses the rudder to maintain a relatively straight line during the take-off roll
 - Performs smooth liftoffs, with an appropriate climb rate and controls the tendency of the aircraft to veer off course at liftoff
 - Climbs smoothly to a safe altitude and speed before transitioning to cruising conditions
 - Demonstrates these abilities in both left and right hand take-offs

5. Error Correction
 - Demonstrates ability to self-correct errors with minimal instructor input

6. Turns
 - Demonstrates ability to make turns while maintaining altitude and control (maneuver completed with wings level)

7. Approaches and Landings
 - Demonstrates ability to line up with the approximate centerline of the runway
 - Demonstrates ability to lower airspeed and smoothly decrease altitude
 - Demonstrates ability to maintain aircraft direction and appropriate attitude as speed decreases
 - Knows when to power up and "go around."
 - Demonstrates ability to land parallel to runway and either on the runway or on the grass to the west of the runway
 - A successful landing means the plane lands on its wheels, without a prop or wing touch and typically could be taken off again (not counting unrelated engine outs, low fuel/battery, etc)
 - Demonstrates these abilities in both right and left hand situations and can land the craft in light crosswinds, when necessary

8. Flight line communications
 - Consistently and loudly communicates his or her intentions to other pilots either on the flight line or preparing to fly (that is, always communicates intentions)
 - Includes take-offs, landings, approaches, low passes, dead sticks, entering or crossing the runway and so forth

9. Standards
 - It is expected that the student will successfully complete each of the above maneuvers many times during training. The decision to release the student to independent flight will be by consensus of the Safety Committee members who have had sufficient opportunity to observe the student perform a majority of the required maneuvers over time. A formal test is not required, but the student's current instructor may require a demonstration of flying skills for available Safety Committee members prior to certification