

Additional notes on the BMFA Achievement Scheme

from the meeting held at Newmarket MFC on 18 May 2019 by Phil Gutteridge

Download (www.bmfa.org) and print:

BMFA Member's Handbook 2018 issue or later.

BMFA 'A Flying Start'.

BMFA 'The R/C Achievement Scheme – test standards and guidance' 2019 issue 2 or later.

General points:

- You need a model of at least 1kg capable of doing all of the manoeuvres.
- You can have a helper to carry out and retrieve the model under your instruction. He/she may only do what you say.
- It is crucial to explain to the examiner what you are doing, for example checking that the runway is clear or that you have switched off the electric motor. In particular you must declare your intentions loudly before carrying out each manoeuvre and when you have completed it.
- If you fail to complete a manoeuvre you can say so and ask to repeat it. This may only be done once for each manoeuvre.
- Ideally you should only connect up the flight battery when on the runway. If you prefer to use a motor off switch you need to explain this to the examiner in advance.
- The order of manoeuvres may be changed.
- From the mandatory questions only those relevant to the type of flying being tested may be asked, e.g. no FPV where not relevant.
- A manoeuvre starts at the start of the first straight leg and ends at the end of closing straight leg.

A-certificate

This is an assessment of your ability to fly safely.

The manoeuvres need not be as a ????. You may have a pause between.

Relax and don't rush.

About one hundred practice flights will be needed.

Pre-flight checks

1 Are you in correct physical state e.g. not hung over?

2 Check security of links, hinges, wheels, motor, wing bolts, rubber bands.

3 Range check (repeat after a bump). Check on six axes and if required to, at full throttle.

4 Fail safe. This depends on your radio. Minimum is throttle minimum. Perhaps slight turn.

5 Check that fuel and/or all batteries are enough for flight.

6 Servos. Horn screw, no noise, ferrules correct way round.

NB: Always remove all batteries. Rx batteries can develop 'black wire' especially in damp.

Throw away Rx batteries after about two years.

Get ready to fly

1 Check Tx aerial orientation (vertical). Can buy a signal checker.

2 Carry model out (see above).

3 360° check.

4 Communicate with other fliers: 'OK to take off', 'Taking off'.

Flight

NB: remember to state loudly what you are doing.

Do rectangular circuits even when a racecourse one is acceptable.

1 Climb gently straight out to about 50m high.

2 Do a circuit then at start of next upwind circuit announce 'Start of manoeuvre'. Do a square circuit at 50m with closest leg 50m away. Announce 'Manoeuvre complete'.

3 Examiner will then say, 'In your own time, fly a figure eight'. Fly a circular eight at reasonably constant height with cross-over in front of pilot.

4 Announce a landing circuit, start circuit, check runway clear, call 'landing' and land.

5 Taxi back to take-off start or recover model, switch off and check model.

6 Announce and take off. Do a circuit.

7 Examiner will say, 'Do a reverse circuit'. Turn around using your choice of manoeuvre, (p-turn or half-cuban).

8 Examiner will instruct to do a normal circuit. Climb to 70m and wait for instructions.

9 Examiner will say 'do a dead stick landing'. You can do it any way you choose. Must be a safe landing anywhere legal, but best on the runway.

10 Ask if clear to retrieve and retrieve.

Post-flight checks

1 Rx off.

2 Tx off.

3 Clean model if needed.

4 Check prop, wheels, fixings for security or damage.

Questions