

Horsham & District Radio Control Model Club

Learning to fly a radio controlled model aircraft

Part five - Flying Field Etiquette

Before you attempt to fly your model you need to have read the BMFA handbook on the safety rules covering radio control models. These should be applied at all times. Also you need to make yourself aware of any club rules that they may have. These will be focused primarily on safety aspects, but may also be extended to other areas. In the Horsham club we have the following club rules: -

Frequency Control - You must **not** switch on your radio equipment unless you have the numbered peg corresponding to your frequency, attached to your transmitter. There is only one peg of each number; therefore only one set can be switched on, on each frequency at any one time. (This prevents someone from switching on a radio set on the same frequency as someone who is already flying. If this happens the model that is flying won't be for long!). Never take the peg from a transmitter! - Always ask if the person has finished, and that they have switched off. If there are several of you on the same frequency, either change to a spare frequency, or wait until it's your turn.

No flying areas- under no circumstance should you overfly the pits or car parking areas. Also please keep within the boundaries of the field, especially with regard to the northern hedge boundary, (note, even experienced flyers underestimate just how far away their model really is!).

Launching, Landing and Recovery

When launching a model, or taking it out onto the flying strip, always say '**Is it O.K. to go Out?**' and wait for confirmation from all flyers that they are happy for you to do so. Once your model has taken off, quickly move into the 'flying box', an area between the strip and the pits, where you should stay for the duration of your flight.

If you decide to land, announce '**Landing**' loud enough for all flyers to hear, or if your engine should stop then '**Dead Stick**'. The latter confirms to everyone that your model will probably be landing in a very short space of time.

Once your model has landed, turn off the engine if it is still running. **DO NOT** take your transmitter with you to retrieve your model. Hand it to an experienced flyer to hold. Before venturing out, announce '**Retrieving**' and await confirmation that it is safe to do so. Retrieve your model promptly from the strip (or wherever it has landed). Switch off the model when you get to it, and ensure your transmitter is switched off when it's given back to you. Remove everything to the pits area as soon as possible. Return the frequency peg back to the board; someone may be waiting to fly.

These simple rules will ensure a safe days flying for all.