

UK Parascending Accuracy - Development of competition pilots at international level

Purpose:

To develop new and existing competition accuracy pilots and assist rising talents through coaching and to attend international competitions through funding.

Funding will be as agreed by the accuracy panel and amounts detailed in the minutes, and will be payable to the selected pilots after attendance at the nominated events. Funding will be allocated for individual competitions; a pilot who is funded for one competition in a series will not automatically be funded for the other ones.

Squad training camps:

Dates for training camps will be advised as early as possible and should have at least one month's notice if a change of date is required.

The intended location should be announced at least 1 month in advance, where possible a back-up site will also be announced in case of adverse weather or other unavailability at the primary location. The location and go/no go will be confirmed on the squad WhatsApp group on Thursday evening prior to the event.

There shall be one training camp selection competition weekend per month where possible.

Training camps shall not clash with UK competition events.

Training camps and competitions shall be held in the prevailing conditions. If high or low temperatures are forecast pilots and judges must equip themselves appropriately. In these conditions the Squad Manager may need to amend the flying as a duty of care, to ensure all personnel have sufficient breaks to account for the conditions.

At the events pilots are expected to receive advice. Pilots who observe something should discuss this with the coach for discussion rather than approaching the pilot direct. Pilots should assist in various areas including carrying out line checks for other squad members or individuals at launch when necessary, assist in launching other pilots, agree to flights being videoed, attend end of day debriefs, and accept compromises if necessary for the good of the event.

Training shall take place before a selection competition subject to a suitable weather forecast. Pilots will be advised when the competition is to start, and the cut-off time. Training camps shall not run after 17.00 on the last day of a training camp weekend. Competitions will have a maximum of 12 rounds, and there will be no dropped scores. 2 rounds minimum must be completed for points to be awarded.

A flying order will be maintained where possible.

Pilots who turn up late for a competition must comply with rules below.

Tuffet and score pad/system will be present.

Wind meter, wind sock and judge should be present, unless agreed otherwise on the day of competition by the squad attending the weekend

Scores will be measured up to 2.5m.

Re-flights will be awarded in accordance with Classic Accuracy rules as published on the BHPA accuracy website, Judging page.

https://bhpa-accuracy.org.uk/?page_id=329.

Selection procedure:

The top pilots in the selection process detailed below will be provided with funding to support them in travelling to the competition. The number of pilots selected for the UK Parascending funding will be the top 5 pilots in the league 2 weeks preceding the competition. If a selected pilot is unable to attend, then the next pilot in the selection will be offered the funding. Once a pilot has turned down the offer, they cannot be reconsidered for that event until all other eligible members of the squad have been asked. The league will be run on a rolling 12 month basis.

Rules on late entry to a training camp competition

Pilots should advise the squad manager if they are going to be late for a training camp competition and should agree a time when they will arrive for the competition.

Pilots who arrive late for a training camp competition as above should make best endeavours to try and catch up rounds with other pilots but not prejudice other pilots in taking their flights. If late pilots cannot catch up the number of rounds completed by the other pilots because of fading light, no winch / retrieve availability, unsafe flying conditions or other occurrence, then they will receive a maximum score for the missed rounds.

Pilots who arrive after the time agreed with the squad manager will not be allowed to catch up missed rounds of the training camp competition.

The squad manager should try and arrange the training camp to accommodate pilots who have advised they are going to be late.

Points will be awarded in the following manner.

Each registered pilot taking part in the squad or any EPAC or domestic open competition will receive 2 points, an additional 1 point will be awarded for recording a score under the maximum in the competition. Additionally the number of pilots attending will then determine the available points, with the lowest placed pilot receiving 1 point, continuing on, up to the top pilot (i.e. if there are 8 pilots then the top pilot will gain 11 points (2+1+8) for that competition, if there are 6 pilots, then the top pilot will gain 9 points (2+1+6) for that competition). The pilots best points on an annual rolling basis will be counted as per the following criteria. (Points from the best number of training camp competitions count as follows: best 9 out of 12, best 8 out of 11 or 10, best 6 out of 9 or 8, best 5 out of 7, best 4 out of 6, best 3 out of 5 or 4. Points from 3 or less training camp competitions all will count.). A maximum of 2 competition scores will be included in the top point scores.

In the event of a tie between pilots after adding both leagues together, the pilots will be separated in the following order of priority:

1. The total distance scores will be compared at all selection competitions which all tied pilots attended regardless of whether the said competitions were one of a squad pilot's best competitions contributing to the selection leagues or not. If there is no common competition that the tied pilots all attended, then separation will default to below.
2. Best score or number of DC's if the pilots in question have recorded DC's.

Key dates

Selection cut-off date – 2 weeks before the start of the EPAC competition for which funding will be offered

The top five pilots attending the competition will be informed and will be able to submit a claim form for funding

The dates of the competitions for which funding will be made available cannot be confirmed until the EPAC meeting takes place in January / February and the competition dates are published as confirmed by end of February.

These dates will be published on the Squad WhatsApp group, the Google Accuracy Calendar and on the website.

New pilots who register for the squad during the period will only receive points from the date they registered as a squad pilot

Pilot's Role:

The pilot must be a registered squad member, by registering the pilot accepts this criteria. If the pilot is not registered then points will not be accrued, unregistered pilots have until the last day of the month post the squad competition to register for points to be logged.

The pilot must maintain current BHPA membership until after the date of the competition.

For funding the pilot must have recorded a scoring point in the selection procedure.

Pilots must not behave in a manner likely to be detrimental to their own or any individual's performance.

By registering, pilots agree to abide by the Sporting Code and the regulations for the event without reservation. They should remember that they represent not only themselves but the BHPA and their behaviour must be beyond reproach.

It is every pilot's responsibility to fly in such a manner that their personal safety and the safety of others is maintained at all times.

Pilots should remember that the purpose of the international and domestic competitions are to "provide safe, fair and satisfying flying, and to reinforce friendship amongst pilots and competition officials of all nations". Pilots are expected to fly and behave in the spirit of the competition.

Issues that could override the funding and be imposed by agreement between the Squad Manager and the Accuracy Panel

Inappropriate equipment (high aspect canopy etc).

Inappropriate behaviour/manners to fellow squad members, competitors or officials including but not exclusive to the Pilot's role detailed above.

Inappropriate flying resulting in concerns about safety.

Squad Manager Role

1. To attract the UK's best accuracy pilots and potential accuracy pilots, and encourage them to register for the squad.
2. Accuracy panel agreed selection criteria to be put on the website.
3. Organise and run a programme of training camps for the squad at regular intervals, with coaches present whenever possible to develop new and upcoming parascending pilots.
4. Organise collection of results and preparation of leagues used in the selection process.
5. Organise coaches and encourage our top pilots to become coaches. Coaches should keep notes on the performance of all squad members during the whole programme and provide feedback at regular intervals. Coaches should look for the following:
 - consistent performance in a range of conditions
 - response to training
 - fitness
 - equipment
 - knowledge of rules
 - team working and attitude to development
6. Encourage participation at as many national and international parascending accuracy events as possible.
7. Announce funding in good time before the EPAC event. Announce the funded pilots in a positive way. This can be done at a training event or competition if a large number of squad members are present, and immediately backed up with email confirmation to everyone. Or it can be done by email.
8. Encourage unsuccessful squad members to keep trying and advising them individually by email if they have been identified as 'good potential for next time'.
9. Confirmation email / letter should advise that a pilot has one week to accept a funded position for the event