Shankill Radio Flying Club
Training Scheme

Objective

The aim of the Shankill Radio Flying Club (SRFC) Training Scheme is to help RC model flyers to improve their standard of flying and safety.

Learning to fly a model aircraft is an exciting, challenging and rewarding adventure. Flying a model aircraft is a practical skill to learn, involving good hand eye co-ordination and a level of practice that makes actions (at least partly) instinctive and natural. There is also a reasonable amount of flight theory and safety rules to learn. Flight theory and safety rules are important to help new pilots understand how and why certain things can happen and more importantly support the safe operation of models at the club flying site.

Definitions

There are five levels of proficiency and achievement in operation at SRFC as follows:

Trainee (T): a club member who is learning to fly an RC model and must always be under the guidance of a club instructor.

MACI A Certificate (A): a club member who has successfully passed the MACI A Certificate which acknowledges a person's capability to control an R/C model in a safe manner in normal circumstances without the assistance of a supervising instructor and entitles the member to fly SUA of 4 kgs and over.

SRFC Club Instructor (I): an experienced club member who has achieved a MACI A Certificate and has been nominated by the club committee to provide instruction to fellow club members.

MACI B Certificate (B): a member who has achieved a MACI B Certificate which acknowledges a person's capability to control an R/C model (not exceeding a weight limit of 25 Kgs) in such a manner that he/she is able to fly at a public display. A member must have passed the relevant A certificate before completing the B Certificate.

MACI Examiner (E): a member who has achieved a MACI B Certificate and has attended a MACI Examiners course in the previous two years and may examine candidates wishing to achieve MACI A & B Certs. A club may only nominate a person as an Examiner if he/she is a MACI member in good standing and the holder of a B Certificate for at least 3 months on the day of attendance at the Examiners course.

SRFC does not guarantee any capability or the performance of any individual as a result of the issue of an achievement certificate. The certificate only states that the candidate achieved the required standard during the test.

Recommended Reading

1. MACI Training Booklet https://maci.ie/wp-content/uploads/Education/MACI-Training-Booklet-2017-4.pdf
2. MACI APPENDIX L- Bye laws governing issue of A and B achievement certificates https://maci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/MACI-App-L-06_2026-Final.pdf
3. MACI website FAQs page https://maci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/FAQs.pdf
4. Mandatory requirements of the IAA for UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) https://www.iaa.ie/general-aviation/drones

Guiding Principles of the SRFC Trainee Scheme

- The goal of our instruction programme is to help a Trainee to the point where they can fly by themselves in a controlled and safe manner. There is no financial charge for this scheme.
- Only Instructors approved by the SRFC committee may provide instruction to Trainees.
- Much of the basic information on flight theory, terminology and function of controls is contained in the M.A.C.I. Training Booklet (see Item 1 in Recommended Reading above). All trainees are expected to study and review this material regularly.
- Club Instructors are volunteers, so please be courteous and respect their time.
- It is the responsibility of the Trainee to ensure the aircraft is airworthy, batteries are fully charged and radio control system is operating normally. If in doubt always inform the Instructor.
- An instructor is not financially responsible for a Trainees aircraft in any case of damage or a crash.
- Trainees are expected to listen to the advice and guidance provided by Instructors at all times.
- Each new member will be issued a training card which contains a list of manoeuvres used in the MACI A Cert test. Copies of the log are available in a drawer in the clubhouse. The Trainee is encouraged to use this training card as a record of their own progress and to assist Instructors who may not be familiar with the Trainee's recent progress. It will also help to identify particular areas on which to focus on further training flights. The Trainee will work towards improving their skill to perform these training manoeuvres during the course of his/her training. Both Instructors and Trainees can complete and update the flight log so that there is a record of the progress. These scores will range from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). When a Trainee achieves 4's and 5's consistently he/she will be encouraged to take the MACI A Cert test so that they can fly without Instructor supervision.
- Junior members, i.e. under age 18, must be accompanied by a Guardian at all times and the Guardian must participate in the training of the Junior under their responsibility to ensure safe operation of the Club.
- In order to reduce the stress of initial flying and the risk of aircraft damage, SRFC can provide a buddy box transmitter to the Trainee for a limited period during the very early training flights until the Trainee demonstrates their ability to maintain control of their aircraft without Instructor intervention. This is an optional service that is useful for fixed wing flying which the Trainee can avail of if a buddy transmitter is available.
- Learning to fly helicopters is somewhat different to fixed wing. The usual route is to attach outsized landing gear (e.g. hula hoop or balls on the end of dowels) to the helicopter and start with hovering. When confident with hovering and moving around gently the large landing gear is removed. After that, practice, practice and practice to build proficiency.
- Safety of the Trainee, club members, visitors and public persons and property are paramount. Trainees must at all times act and operate their aircraft in a safe manner. All Instructor directions, club rules and posted signage must be followed.

Shankill Radio Flying Club
Fixed Wing Training & Flight Log

Name: _____

Date:											
Flight No.:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Manoeuvre	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level
Take-off											
Rectangular circuit LH											
Rectangular circuit RH											
Figure of eight											
Procedure turn											
Straight & level flight upwind											
Intentional stall & recovery											
Overshoot											
Rectangular landing approach											
Landing											
Instructor initials:											

Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent

Shankill Radio Flying Club
Helicopter Training & Flight Log

Name: _____

Date:											
Flight No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
Manoeuvre	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level
Take-off											
Take off and hover "Tail in" over the centre pad											
Hover slowly left or right approx. 5 metres and hover											
Hover slowly in opposite direction approx. 5 metres and hover											
Hover slowly forwards approx. 5 metres and hover											
20m long Figure 8 with heli clearly "sideways on" passing centre line											
Landing											
Instructor initials:											