



Irish Powered Paragliding & Hanggliding Association

Pilot Rating System

The Pilot Rating System provides structured learning programmes for each discipline, based upon progressive flying tasks and theoretical knowledge tests. It also functions as a proficiency indicator system.

The initial stages (completed under the guidance of instructors within schools, and ending with the award of the Club Pilot (Novice) rating) take ab-initio pilots to a level where they are able to fly safely without the need for supervision. The subsequent stages (Pilot and Advanced Pilot) are completed as a self-learning process, where the pilot builds upon those basics within clubs, with the assistance of Coaches.

The EP and CP training programmes

The EP and CP training programmes consist of a number of exercises that have been grouped together in phases. The programmes detail when and how these exercises are taught, and the level of ability that needs to be acquired before the student is progressed. As both the Instructor and student must refer to the programmes frequently during training, they are formatted as a series of booklets entitled 'IPPHA Student Training Record' followed by the precise discipline.

Instructor Notes

The Instructor Notes provide further clarification for the Instructor as to the precise delivery of the EP and CP training programmes.

The Pilot and Advance Pilot tasks

The P and AP tasks for all disciplines are detailed in the IPPHA Pilot Task Book.

The Ratings

The IPPHA Pilot Rating System consists of one award and three ratings that may be gained separately in any discipline.

Elementary Pilot award (EP)

This is awarded by the school during the student's training to mark the successful completion of the introductory phase, and to indicate the student's suitability to undertake the further school training required to gain the first rating.

Club Pilot (Novice) (CP)

This is the 'novice' qualification. It marks the end of the student's formal basic instruction, and qualifies the student to leave the school environment and to fly without formal instruction in IPPHA member clubs. The student will still be very much in a learning phase, and so should seek advice and guidance from coaches as he perfects his skills and works towards the Pilot rating.

Pilot (P)

This is the 'fully qualified' rating. The pilot will now possess well-rounded skills and abilities, along with enough experience to know how and when to exercise them! Pilots should hold this rating before embarking on cross-country flights.

Advanced Pilot (AP)

This rating is for the above-average pilot who is a total master of his or her aircraft and is enjoying to the full the challenges the sport can offer.