

Limerick Flying Club

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

Limerick Flying Club (LFC) is a not for profit flying club based at Coonagh Airfield, Limerick. We have approximately ninety members who basically “fly for fun” and in so doing work as a team in helping to run the club and our home airfield. Members are expected to participate in such “community” activities in the spirit of the club which helps us to save costs in its operation.

What do we do?

We have three main functions:

- We teach our student members how to fly and get to them to the point where they can obtain their Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)
- We provide a social and professional atmosphere where our members who already hold licences, can pursue their hobby and maintain their flying skills on an ongoing basis
- Introduce to flying would be pilots or those who wish to experience flight in a light aircraft through our “Introductory Flights” vouchers

What are the operating hours?

Because the club is run and operated by the membership on a voluntary basis we regret we cannot maintain a seven day a week presence at Coonagh. This includes the covering of phones. We do however have a voice mail system in use which is checked regularly.

Most flight training and voucher flights take place on Saturdays and Sundays between 10.00 and 16.00 with extended hours up to 18.00 during the period May to September. Some flight training can take place on weekdays and summer evenings by strict prior arrangement with your flight instructor.

Club members who hold a Private Pilot's Licence or higher rating may fly seven days a week subject to weather and aircraft availability

What do “Introductory Flight” vouchers cost?

One can buy a maximum of three vouchers as follows:

- Single voucher costs €120
- Two vouchers cost €230 – in a single transaction
- Three vouchers cost €340 – in a single transaction

The vouchers include the cost of Temporary Membership in respect of which a Temporary Membership form must be completed before the flight. These can be downloaded from our website.

What does Club membership cost?

For flying member's, we have two main categories of membership:

- Full membership which costs €300 per annum with a discount of €25 if paid in full before the 28th February
- Temporary Membership which is included in the cost of an Introductory Flight Voucher

New members joining after 1st March pay a pro-rata amount based on the €300 annual cost until the following 31st December.

Can one spread membership costs?

Yes – we have a facility where this can be paid by a monthly standing order of €25 subject to a minimum of twelve payments.

What does it cost to get a PPL?

There are a number of costs which one must budget for including:

- Membership of Limerick Flying Club - €300 per year as mentioned previously
- Cost of flight training - €120 per flight hour (paid on an hourly basis or part thereof). Total will be a minimum of €5,400 based on current pricing and requirements.
- Ancillary costs to include flight medical, ground school, books and accessories, exams and flight test fees – a fair estimate is between €1,000 and €1,500

What age must one be to join the club?

For the purpose of flight training our minimum age is fifteen but flight time cannot be logged until age sixteen. Minimum age to hold a PPL is seventeen.

How does one become a member?

To become a full member, you must complete a simple application form, the information from which is protected by GDPR. The form requires your full name, address, phone, email and date of birth. If you have previous flight experience or already hold a Licence there is a provision to include such information. If under the age of eighteen the form must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Are we regulated?

Yes - all of our activities including flight training, flight operations, safety and standards, aircraft maintenance, Introductory Flights and Airfield Licence and Operation are regulated and overseen by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) under the auspices of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Is there anything we don't do?

We do not do:

- Commercial flights or similar operations
- Commercial flight training for more advanced licences and qualifications
- Aircraft rental to non-members
- Flights for walk-in customers. It is essential to have pre-purchased a voucher and pre-booked

Who runs the club?

The club operates through a company Limerick Flying Club (Coonagh) Company Limited by Guarantee. The committee members for the time being, act as directors (without remuneration) of the company and in effect the flying club. As mentioned previously the committee is supported by groups of club members who give freely of their time and assist in maintaining the airfield, club house and in running flight operations by acting as Duty Pilots on the basis of duty rosters (a half day once every four weeks).

Ultimate control for the operation of the club and liaison with the regulatory authorities is with our Chief Flying Instructor who is assisted by a number of other flight instructors. They like the committee, are unpaid volunteers and participants in what is essentially their hobby or past-time which is "flying for fun"!

How does one get a PPL?

There is a prescribed training process which includes:

- Passing a Flight Medical with an IAA appointed General Practitioner (Aero-Medical Examiner)
- Accumulating a minimum of forty-five hours of flying of which a minimum of ten hours is flying the aircraft solo (without a flight instructor)
- Attendance at a Ground School course after which you must pass a series of nine computer-based exams spread over six hours. The exams are held in Dublin and can be taken in stages
- Included in the flight training are "cross-country flights" which are to different airfields around Ireland again both with and without an instructor
- A flight test with a Flight Examiner from the IAA

What sort of exams are there?

Ground school and subsequent exams includes nine subjects being Principles of Flight, Aircraft General Knowledge, Meteorology, Human Performance & Limitations, Flight Performance and Planning, Operational Procedures, Communications, Navigation and Air Law. You do not have to be a math's genius but good basic numerical skills will not go astray.

How long does it take to get a PPL?

Because Limerick Flying Club is not a seven day a week operation and operates as a not-for profit club run exclusively by volunteers, the process of getting a PPL can be a time-consuming commitment. We suggest that one should allow one to two years. Taking a longer time-frame for training, the flight hours flown can exceed fifty or more hours. This depends on personal progress.

Unfortunately delays or cancellations do arise. That said throughout, we endeavour to minimise disruptions to flight and training operations.

For example, opportunities to fly and take lessons are dependent on a number of factors including:

- Suitable weather that is comfortable, legal and safe
- Aircraft is fully serviceable - we unfortunately have the odd technical issue from time to time just like a car or any piece of equipment. Our aircraft are subject to regular and annual checks by IAA approved aircraft engineers which can lead to down time
- Availability of flight instructors who are all volunteers with day jobs and personal commitments
- Your own cash flow and budget constraints
- Personal time available to complete the process

Some members do on occasion go abroad to complete the training in the event they need the PPL as a stepping stone to a full-time career in aviation. We have many past and current members who now fly for airlines in Ireland, the UK and elsewhere around the world.

I may have a medical condition – what do I do?

If you have a pre-existing medical condition which you feel may act as an impediment we recommend you take a flight medical before you commence flight training. We can supply names of Aero-Medical Examiners based in your home area. There are two such AME's in Limerick City. They have had special additional training for assessing the fitness of would be pilots.

I wear glasses or contacts lenses

Wearing corrective lenses does not mean you cannot fly or hold a PPL. Being colour blind is not an impediment either. It depends on the severity of the condition. Again, a visit to the AME will establish the correct situation.

How do I pay for flight lessons?

You have the option to pre-pay some of your flights or pay as you go after each flight. We accept VISA/ Mastercard debit and credit cards, cheques or cash. If pre-paying you can do so by EFT or set-up a standing order. We will do a regular reconciliation of your flying account to help you keep track of costs.

What sort of aircraft are used?

The club owns and operates two Tecnam P2002F two-seater training aircraft which were built in Italy.

There are additional aircraft based at Coonagh which belong to individuals or groups of members. They are not used for flight training by the club. However, they add to the busy airfield and club atmosphere.

How to get started?

We suggest that potential members and students take an introductory flight lasting 30/35 minutes with one of our flight instructors. These can be bought in person at Coonagh Airfield or else online through our website www.limerickflyingclub.com

What happens next?

If having enjoyed the introductory flight experience and you decide flying is for you, then you should complete the application form for full membership. Once you have paid your subscription and your application is approved by the committee you will be given a personal log-on to our on-line flight booking system called GoBoKo. This is how you will book your training flights.

After that you can commence flight training and in time Ground School with a view to getting your Private Pilot's Licence. Ground School is held at the club one evening a week over the winter and spring time.

Where do I get more information?

We have several sources of information including our website (www.limerickflyingclub.com) and Facebook (Limerick Flying Club).

The telephone number at the flying club is 061-326600. If there is no reply leave a voice mail or send a message using Facebook Messenger. You can also email us at info@limerickflyingclub.com

Equally you are welcome to call to Coonagh Airfield on any weekend and have chat with one of our flight instructors or one of the Duty Pilots.