

Report of the Belgian Paramotor Federation



Our membership is now 515 members (dated 8th of September 2009), among which:

Members for 2009	515
Licensed pilots :	387
Licensed tandem pilots:	50
Licensed instructors:	14
Licensed assistant instructors:	4
Training licenses:	234

We currently have 10 recognized schools and 14 paramotor instructors in Belgium.

Please find here under the latest news on various topics:

Legal:

Unfortunately, since last year, no progress has been made concerning the recognition by the Authorities of our sport and the implementation of an adequate regulation. The new Minister and his Administration (Ministry of Transportation) don't wish to give priority to this topic. Anyway, we are still maintaining our pressure and encouraging all our members to respect the Air Law and avoid disturbing the neighborhood. For the last two years, no more complaints have been registered.

Instruction:

Many members still own a Training Licence – a communication action has been taken to remind them that the validity duration of such a licence is limited to 2 years.

We are also motivating the 'free' pilots to join the Federation (which is the only way for them to get a proper insurance cover). For that purpose, a special procedure has been implemented with the support of our recognized instructors.

Since January, all the multiple choice questions for the theoretical exam have been renewed (about 300 new questions). They will be used for assessments from now on.

Two text books covering all the theory aspects (one in Dutch, one in French) are available for our Members.

Safety:

All our members are encouraged to respect the Air Regulations and avoid any violations. For the last years, no complaints from the Authorities have been registered.

On the 16th of August 2009, a paramotor accident took place in the south of Belgium and one death is to deplore. The pilots make a 360° engaged and was in neutral spiral, maybe too much G's.

No other casualties have been registered for 2009 - unfortunately, no track of the total flight hours of our members are recorded at this stage, which does not allow more statistics.

Insurance coverage:

For a few years now, the Federation has a special agreement with Aviabel. Besides a preferential rate, Aviabel will only cover pilots who are members of the Federation – this condition is also imposed on their insurance brokers.

The schools can also propose to their new students a 'one day coverage' formula (9 € - liability insurance / 21 € - physical damage). If the student wishes to continue the training and become member of the Federation, the amount paid is considered as a down payment.

Sport:

We have done a Open Paramotor Championship with 19 pilots from 4 countries at Cerfontaine the 07/2009 with a large mediatic report TV and newspapers. Last year we have done the Belgian Paramotor Championship (09/2008) in Cerfontaine (EBCF) was a great success and the Federation is already preparing the next Events . We now have at our disposal a very effective software for GPS data collection / analysis and ranking which has been developed by one of our administrators (who also created the Member's Portal - see next section).

Due to their outstanding results, 3 Belgian pilots have been qualified for the next World Air Games in Turin !

Miscellaneous:

The Federation's website has been redesigned (www.paramotorfederatie.be or www.federationparamoteur.be) and the Member's Portal is fully operational since last year. It contains statistics, list of recognized schools and instructors, minutes of meetings, newsletter, events, etc..

Most of the administrative tasks are now automated; for instance membership cards and insurance certificates can be downloaded and printed by our members.