

Skysport-UK



Formation Flying

With the Skyhawks

Skysport-UK's Formation Display Team.



Fly Formation like the Red Arrows

This document has been prepared by Skysport-UK as information for pilots considering participation in the CAA approved PROUD initiative. It does not necessarily reflect official CAA policy on flying training as laid down in the various CAA publications.

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How To Fly In Formation

Like The Red Arrows

Why don't you learn to further develop your flying skills by learning to fly in formation, with another aircraft or even a few other aircraft? Formation flying probably evolved in military aviation where, for instance, it has been used to get multiples of aircraft efficiently to a target or to recover more than one aircraft to a landing.

You are probably familiar with formation flying displays by the Red Arrows and other



teams and may have been entertained and impressed with such displays of skills. The pilots enjoy such flying and achieve great satisfaction from displaying so well. Most Red Arrows pilots began their formation flying training on single engine aircraft such as the Bulldog and you too could begin formation flying on the Skysport Bulldog or indeed your own aircraft. No doubt your flying training so far

has included in Threat and Error Management the desirability of keeping away from other airborne traffic but the formation flying training is going to teach you how to fly safely in close company with other aircraft.

At present the law regarding formation flying says that aircraft may be flown in formation only with the agreement of the aircraft commanders involved but common sense would suggest that suitable training should be obtained by pilots wishing to take part. Skysport-UK can provide suitable training by "qualified" pilots so that you become eligible to join the Skyhawks. Such pilots are not qualified according to any legislation nor by any licensing requirements because there are none but because they themselves have been trained in a disciplined environment not only to fly in formation but also to give instruction and have had many years of experience.



An elementary training programme of four sorties involving two or three aircraft would comprise station keeping in straight and turning flight, changes of position relative to the formation leader as well as the safety aspects of collision avoidance. Briefing and leading formations would also be covered. Further progress could be made if desired to include simple aerobatics in formation in suitable aircraft. Bulldogs can be flown in loops and barrel rolls in formation. If you now feel tempted to have a go, encourage one of your pilot friends to sign up for a course with you. Subsequently you could fly close formation cross-country instead of in loose formation or a gaggle that you may already have flown.

Robert Miller, manager Skyhawks Formation Team

Introduced to formation flying in 1960 on Chipmunks with an RAF University Air Squadron. As an RAF Flying Instructor I taught formation flying on the Jet Provost and Bulldog and flew for two years in a four-ship Strikemaster aerobatic team. In the recent past I have been flying formation aerobatics in Chipmunk, Bulldog and Extra 300 aircraft. Current instructing aerobatics and formation flying and I am an FIE(A), CREIRR on both SEP and MEP.



Formation Training is a key part of Skysport-UK's Elite Advanced Training Programme and is a qualification for the CAA PROUD qualification.

