

# BDRA Membership Update: Aligning with the Racing Season

We're incredibly excited about this racing season! Over the winter months, the BDRA committee has been hard at work behind the scenes on a number of improvements designed to make competing simpler, fairer, and more enjoyable for everyone. Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more of what we've been working on — and this membership update is the first of those announcements.

With approval from the Chairman, we're pleased to announce an important improvement to how **British Drone Racing Association** memberships work.

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## What's Changing?

From 2026 onwards, BDRA membership will move away from the calendar year (January–December) and instead align directly with the racing season.

**The new membership year will run from 1 September to 31 August**, matching the structure of our racing calendar.

This change means:

- Pilots will only ever need **one membership** to take part in a full racing season
  - No more mid-season renewals
  - Clearer eligibility for event discounts, points, and championships
  - A simpler and more consistent experience for everyone
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## What's Staying The Same?

Members of the BDRA will retain the benefits, eligibility and opportunities you have come to expect. We are just changing the dates to align with the racing season.

### Membership Benefits

- Eligibility to accumulate points in 2 national racing series
  - Open Class - 5" Racing
  - Micro Ducted Class - TWUK League
- Eligibility to race in each of the championship finals and be officially recognised as the fastest pilot in the UK

- Discounts on entry fees for qualifying events
  - Eligibility to vote in the racing season AGM
  - Opportunities to take part in showcase and demo races
  - Access to the BDRA Discord
  - Volunteering opportunities to spread the joy of FPV flight
  - Support to start, develop and grow your club
  - Eligibility to access BDRA equipment for your races
  - Help and advice from the committee to organise and run events
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## Transition Arrangements for 2025–2026

To ensure a fair and smooth transition, the following arrangement has been approved:

- **Any membership purchased between 1 September and 31 December 2025 will be automatically extended**
- These memberships will remain valid until **31 August 2026**, covering the entire 2026 racing season

This ensures pilots competing in early-season events are fully covered without needing to purchase an additional membership.

### Double Memberships During Transition

We understand that during this transition period, some pilots may have purchased a membership late in 2025 and then renewed again in early 2026 before the new season-based system was fully in place.

To ensure no pilot is disadvantaged, the **BDRA** is happy to offer a **full refund for the most recent membership** payment to avoid any double charging.

If you believe you have paid twice for the 2026 racing season, we want to reassure you that this will be resolved — you will not lose out due to this change. Get in contact with the BDRA committee through the website or Discord with the dates of your payments and we will issue the refund once verified.

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## What This Means Going Forward

We recognise that this change will result in some memberships ending earlier than in previous calendar-year systems. However, the benefit is a much clearer and fairer structure where:

- One membership always covers one racing season
- Pilots never need to pay twice to compete in the same season

- Memberships align cleanly with the racing calendar

This change removes long-standing complications and sets us up for smoother seasons ahead.

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## Questions Pilots May Have

Below are answers to the most common questions about this change and how it affects you.

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## Questions & Answers

### **Q: Why is BDRA changing the membership year?**

**A:** Our racing seasons already run from late summer through to the following summer. Aligning membership with the racing season removes confusion, prevents mid-season renewals, and ensures pilots only need one membership to compete in a full season.

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### **Q: When does the new membership year start and end?**

**A:** From 2026 onward, BDRA memberships will run from **1 September to 31 August**.

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### **Q: I bought a membership late in 2025 — what happens to mine?**

**A:** Any membership purchased between **1 September and 31 December 2025** will automatically be extended and remain valid until **31 August 2026** at no extra cost.

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### **Q: Will my membership end earlier than it used to?**

**A:** Yes, during the transition some memberships will end earlier than previous calendar-year memberships. However, this ensures future seasons are simpler and that one membership always covers one full racing season.

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### **Q: Will I ever need to buy two memberships to race one season?**

**A:** No. This change is specifically designed to prevent that. One membership will always cover one full racing season.

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**Q: What if I bought a membership in late 2025 and then again in January 2026?**

**A:** In some cases, you may have unintentionally paid twice for the **2026 racing season**. This applies if you purchased a membership between **1 September and 31 December 2025** (which is extended to August 2026) and then purchased another membership in early 2026.

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**Q: What happens if I've paid twice?**

**A:** You are entitled to a **full refund** of the second membership purchase (typically in early 2026). This ensures no pilot pays more than once to compete in a single racing season.

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**Q: How do I request a refund?**

**A:** Please contact the committee with your membership details and proof of purchase if available. Once confirmed, the refund will be processed as soon as possible.

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**Q: Will the refunded membership carry over to the 2027 season?**

**A:** No. Refunded memberships are cancelled. Pilots wishing to compete in the **2027 racing season** will need to purchase a new membership when registrations open in **September 2026**, in line with the new season-based system.

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**Q: Will the transitional arrangement allow me to vote in the 2026 AGM?**

**A:** Yes. If you purchased a membership between **1 September and 31 December 2025** you will be eligible to vote in the 2026 AGM.

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**Q: Is this a one-off situation?**

**A:** Yes. This scenario only exists due to the transition from a calendar-year membership to a season-aligned membership. Once the change is complete, one membership will always cover one full racing season.

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**Q: Is there a deadline to request a refund?**

**A:** Yes. Refund requests relating to this transition must be submitted before **31 August 2026** to ensure they can be handled consistently and fairly.

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We're genuinely excited about what's coming next and believe this change is a big step forward for racers at every level. Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to seeing you on the track for an exciting season of racing! 🏁🚀

**The BDRA Committee**