

Questions and Answers – Substitute Pilot Course

Can I log the Substitute Pilot Lessons in a Log Book? Yes you since your training is provided by a Certified Flight Instructor. However, in case you should be interested to become a Private Pilot you should start sitting on the left seat and go with the standard PPL program.

Who should do a Substitute Pilot Course? Everybody is flying often and is a companion of a pilot. It could be the spouse, daughter, son, other relative or a friend of the pilot.

Does a pilot have to pass out totally or have a fatal condition for a Substitute Pilot to become active? No, we know of a food-poisoning case where the pilot was knocked out substantially but could easily land the aircraft at the next available airport with the help of his friend who did the Substitute Pilot Course.

Why does AOPA use the term ‘Pinch Hitter Course’? The term comes from the baseball game describing a substitute for the regular batter. In aviation the term is used for the person next to the pilot that could substitute in an emergency. ‘Pinch Hitter’ is a registered name and is only used by AOPA. This is the reason we called our program the ‘Substitute Pilot Course’.

Should I still do the AOPA Pinch Hitter course? Yes, AOPA delivers an excellent curriculum with videos and other audiovisual helps. We strongly recommend visiting the AOPA website and finding out more -> www.aopa.org

Can a pilot teach his ‘Substitute Pilot’? We do NOT recommend a pilot being involved in teaching his ‘Substitute Pilot’ since the Pilot has to be IN COMMAND and fly the aircraft. A certified Instructor has all the educational background and training on how to teach. Let him do the Substitute Pilot instruction.