

GUIDELINES FOR PARAGLIDERS/ POWERED PARAGLIDERS IN GOA

A. PARAGLIDERS/ POWERED PARAGLIDERS

1. Introduction.

Paragliding and Powered Paragliding (PG & PPG) are a form of Adventure aero sports activity meant for recreational flying. Paragliding has a rich history spanning over 30 years. Paragliding has been so far carried out in non-formal settings and is primarily self-regulated. Over the years there have been dramatic improvements in materials, design and performance. Federation Aeronautique International (FAI) recognizes the sport and has established practices and procedures for various sporting qualifications, record attempts and competitions. At the moment there is no specific government organization in India which is looking after the regulations of Paragliding and Powered Paragliding in India.

In order to promote the sport of Paragliding and Powered Paragliding in Goa as a viable adventure tourism activity, there is a felt need to establish guidelines, which aims to achieve wider participation, improved standards and enhanced safety. It should also be recognized that the nature of sport is such that it allows large number of tourists to participate in it. As Paragliding and Powered Paragliding will be growing exponentially, the logical way forward is to allow for responsible and open arm regulations under local government overview.

It is therefore imperative that Tourism Department shall effectively carry out the functions that promote and support Paragliding and Powered Paragliding in Goa, while at the same time provide meaningful surveillance, as well as, coordinate with operators and concerned authorities.

Definition of a Paraglider

A paraglider is an elliptical canopy resembling a parachute that is attached to a person's body by a harness in order to allow them to glide through the air.

Its main components are the canopy, suspension lines & 2 riser sets.

Canopy – It is the aerodynamic portion of paraglider consisting of fabric & other non-rigid elements.

Suspension lines & brake lines connect the canopy to the riser set.

The riser sets are attached to the harness in which the pilot sits & steers the paraglider.

Definition of a Powered Paraglider

Powered paragliding is a form of aerospots activity where the pilot uses a paraglider with a motor mounted on the trike/back which is capable of carrying one/two people. The engine mounted on the trike is used to assist in take-offs from a flat ground.

The motor provides thrust for take-off, climb & maintain level flights & reduction of power helps in landings.

2. EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Certification of the design and manufacturing standards of Paragliders/ Powered Paragliders, or their parts and equipment are not required to meet the airworthiness standards specified for aviation. However, the manufacturer's certificate should be displayed on the surface of the flying equipment or shall be produced on demand.

The details of paraglider should cover the following:

1. Name of manufacturer
2. Year of manufacture
3. Model name
4. Serial no.
5. Certification/ Rating
6. Glider size (m²)
7. Number of cells
8. Area (projected) (m²)
9. Weight range (kg)
10. Weight of glider (kg)
11. V- min (kmph)
12. V-max (kmph)

Users' manual and maintenance manual shall be available with the operator.

3. SECURITY ASPECTS –

Paragliders/ Powered Paragliders are slow moving aircraft with very small payloads. As such they pose minimal security risk. The following provisions shall adequately address any residual security concerns without imposing undue restrictions on the sport.

- a. Each Paragliding and Powered Paragliding operator shall obtain security clearance from concerned police authorities and he should abide by their terms and conditions
- b. Any member enrolled for training shall also apply for a verification report from police authorities before undertaking the training. He/she shall provide the certificate obtained from police authorities before making his/her application for issue of PG/PPG Pilot Certificate. A copy of the said clearance shall be kept in the

records at the office of the operator.

- c. A Paraglider/ Powered Paraglider shall be operated in accordance with the rules, regulations and directions made by the authorities from time to time.
- d. The PG/PPG activities shall not take place in controlled air space without permission from appropriate ATC unit. However, Paragliders/ Powered Paragliders may participate in flexible use of airspace within the applicable rules when they are notified.
- e. No operations of paragliders shall take place before sunrise and after sunset.
- f. NOC from Tourism Department shall be mandatory for all operations proposed to be conducted from public beach areas. The operations shall not affect normal day to day activities on public beach areas and cause nuisance to the beach visitors. Director Tourism shall be competent authority to issue NOC for Paraglider/ Powered Paragliders activities on public beach areas. NOC may be withdrawn in case of violation of any terms and conditions laid down in these guidelines.
- g. NOC/ Permission shall be obtained from Dabolim Air Traffic Control/ Naval Authorities.
- h. NOC / permission shall be obtained from District Magistrate within the respective jurisdiction.
- i. Insurance Policy in respect of equipment, pilot & passenger has to be obtained.

4. FLYING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION ASPECTS :

The pilot and operator will have to adhere and comply with the following-

- a. A person shall not act as pilot in command of a Paraglider and Powered Paraglider unless he or she is the holder of a valid pilot certificate issued by a recognized training institute or he or she is under the supervision of an instructor.
- b. A person shall not be issued with a pilot certificate unless he or she has undergone (as the case requires) the training for and met the requirements applicable to the certificate applied for as specified in the training syllabus of a recognized training institute.
- c. Upon completion of training, the training institute shall issue a tamper-proof Paraglider Pilot Certificate with appropriate qualifications to the individual pilot with his/her photograph. These certificates shall be numbered and full record shall be available with the institute/ operator. A database of the students record should be available when required.
- d. All guidelines and regulations issued by DGCA shall be followed and complied with.

5. RECREATION/ JOYRIDE FLYING :

A person must not fly a Paraglider /Powered Paraglider unless:

- (a) The flight is a private operation for recreational purposes; or
- (b) The flight is for the purpose of flying training/ joyrides/ Introductory flights/Air experience flights/Discovery flights may be offered to members of general public provided the hazards associated with the sport are clearly explained to them and a written, informed consent obtained from them. In case of minors, the informed consent needs to be signed by one of the parents or guardian or accompanying adult.
- (c) The flight is initiated from established site or from such places that meet or exceed the requirements/guidelines laid down in the Standard Operating Procedures.
- (d) Any loose articles should be made secure in the aircraft;
- (e) Each person attached to the aircraft is secured with a correctly adjusted safety harness.

6. **EQUIPMENT REGISTRATION :**

In line with the international practice, the Paraglider/Powered Paraglider shall not be required to be registered. However, each Paraglider/Powered Paraglider shall have a manufacturer's serial number and this shall be maintained by the operator/individual.

The operator / individuals shall have record of all the equipment which is used for flying. At the end of the useful life, the equipment shall be dismantled and rendered unserviceable / un-airworthy.

7. **SAFETY ASPECTS :**

- (a) Wherever there is a provision for two occupants, one person could be carried for purpose of training, or sports / recreation etc.
- (b) A Paraglider / Powered Paraglider shall not enter any controlled airspace unless it is a control zone and the appropriate permission and clearance has been obtained.
- (c) Except as authorized above, no person shall operate a Paraglider / Powered Paraglider within five nautical miles from the center of any airport and in controlled airspace.
- (d) A person may operate a Paraglider/Powered Paraglider only after getting requisite clearance from local ATC authorities who shall assign the area/time of operation. However for cross-country flight, if any portion of the flight passes through controlled airspace, the operator shall file the appropriate flight plan in writing to the ATC authorities.

- (e) No person shall operate Paraglider/Powered Paraglider unless each occupant is secured by a suitable restraining means attached to the primary structure of the Paraglider to prevent accidental egress from the Paraglider/Powered Paraglider.
- (f) No person shall operate a Paraglider/Powered Paraglider unless the occupants are wearing a protective helmet.
- (g) No person shall fly a Paraglider/Powered Paraglider, unless he has obtained a Paraglider Pilot Certificate from a training institute.
- (h) It is the responsibility of the Pilot to ensure that prior to take – off. Paraglider/Powered Paraglider is safe for intended operation and weight of the fully loaded Paraglider/Powered Paraglider is within limits.
- (i) Operator should maintain a First Aid Kit, a stretcher and have the phone numbers of hospitals and ambulances on standby.
- (j) The Powered Paraglider Operators should maintain appropriate fire fighting equipments at the site of operations.

8. **MAINTENANCE :**

- (a) The operator shall follow a satisfactory maintenance program to ensure continued airworthiness of the Paraglider/Powered Paraglider.
- (b) A log book shall be maintained by the owner/operator in order to keep a record of the flying, modifications and repair work carried out on the Paraglider/Powered Paraglider. All columns of the log book should be filled up by the pilot and signed by him.
- (c) Notwithstanding the above it is the responsibility of the owner/operator to maintain his Paraglider/Powered Paraglider in a satisfactory manner so as to see that no unsafe condition exists therein.
- (d) All equipments must be assembled as detailed in the manufacturer's assembly instructions. It is the pilot's responsibility to carry out a pre-flight inspection prior to every flight operation. This must be done as per the Manufacturer's Aircraft Operation Manuel or Pilot Operating Handbook or an equivalent document.

9. **REGISTRATION FEES :**

- The registration fees per equipment per year is Rs.5,000/-, will have to be paid by operator / applicant.
- Security deposit - Each operator shall furnish a refundable security deposit of Rs. 5,000/- per equipment / activity in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favor of Director Tourism, payable at Panaji. In case of default or breach of or non compliance of any of the terms and conditions of the policy or any other violations as are prohibited under the prevailing Laws, the Security Deposit of the operator / applicant shall be forfeited, without notice. The applicant shall be required to produce a fresh demand draft of equal amount within a period of 10 days in order to continue the activity, failing which the permission so granted

shall be revoked without any further intimation to the operator. The deposit made by the applicant shall be refunded after the operator opts out of the activity, provided he has not violated any conditions of this policy.

- No foreigners shall be permitted to work as an operator or instructor or as a partner without valid Work Visa and the approval of the Government of Goa.
- Any operator who causes harm / injury / death to a tourist / general public / third party on account of his actions / irresponsible behavior / neglect of safety norms etc shall be punishable as per relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code or Civil Procedure code as the case may be. Further the operator shall be debarred for a period of three years, in case he causes any death or grievous injury to any tourist/ general public, on account of his neglect.
- Department of Tourism may register or refuse to register an operator or a trade after considering its feasibility, impact, safety aspects, carrying capacity, past safety history of the operator, reasonability of rates being charged, etc. in order to ensure safety of the visiting Tourists.

The Tourism department shall regulate standards and apply safety and operating recommendations applicable to Paragliders/ Powered Paragliders seeking to operate in the State. The operators also shall have the responsibility to ensure that all Paragliders/ Powered Paragliders which belong to its organisation are operated in accordance with the applicable Aviation Regulations and good international practices. The operator shall develop detailed Operations Manual, recommendations, and a surveillance system which will be incorporated in their SOP's in order to effectively dispense their responsibilities.

Department of Tourism may amend / modify the above guidelines without any prior notice. Department also reserves the right to withdraw/ cancel NOC in case of violation of any of the terms and conditions listed above.

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