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Parachute Association of Ireland

PARACHUTING BASIC STANDARDS MANUAL

Parachuting Basic Standards Manual 2024-2026

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WARNING: Sports parachuting is a potentially dangerous activity and there is a risk of injury or death to participants – the onus is on the individual participant to make sure that these risks are both fully understood and accepted by the participant. If you do not understand and accept the risks, do NOT participate in sports skydiving!

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A13 Revision Record (Manual and Appendices)

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PREFACE

P1 Safety Statement and Duty of Care

The Parachute Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee recognises its duty of care and associated responsibilities. Through its Board of Directors, its Officers, and its Committees, its current rating holders and its members, the PAI seeks to promote and maintain the highest standards of safety, training and best practice for all involved in Sport Parachuting.

This Parachute Basic Standards Manual (PBSM) and the other manuals listed and referred to within it, along with all Bulletins and Notices issued by the PAI or on behalf of the PAI, reflect the experience, expertise and best practice in Sport Parachuting in Ireland and constitute the Safety Statement of the Parachute Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee.

PAI Officers, Rating holders and members, are hereby formally advised of their obligation to conduct all parachuting operations under their supervision or auspices according to the requirements of this Manual, and the other manuals listed and referred to within it, along with all periodic Bulletins and Notices issued by the PAI Board of Directors.

P2 Definition of Sport Parachuting

Throughout this manual Sport Parachuting refers to parachute jumping voluntarily undertaken from an approved aerodrome, alone, with others, or attached to another as a tandem pair, as a leisure activity, display event or competitive sporting event, in all cases outside of a military context.

A parachute jump is defined as beginning when a parachute jumper breaks last contact with the aircraft and as ending when the jumper has landed and has the parachute under control.

P3 The PAI Parachuting Basic Standards Manual

The function of this PAI PBS Manual is to set out the guidelines for safety, training and operations for sport parachuting for PAI members
All members of the PAI are required to abide by this PAI PBS Manual.

This manual is the property of the PAI, and the PAI Board of Directors must approve its contents. The review of this Manual, as required, is the *ultimate responsibility* of the PAI Board of Directors.

Changes made to the PAI PBS Manual shall come into effect when approved by the PAI Board of Directors

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P4 Statutory/Legal Requirements

In addition to the requirements outlined in this PAI PBS Manual, parachuting activities undertaken by PAI members shall comply with all relevant legal and statutory requirements issued by the appropriate authorities.

P5 Other Related PAI, EASA and IAA Documentation

The following documents should be used in conjunction with this PBS Manual:

PAI Ratings Manuals
PAI Teaching Skills Manual
PAI Coach Manual
PAI Freefly Coach Manual
PAI Instructor Manual
PAI AFF Instructor Manual
PAI Tandem Master Manual
PAI Rigger Manual
PAI Student Notes
PAI Static Line Student Notes
PAI AFF Student Notes
PAI Main Canopy Packing Notes
Regulatory Documentation, IAA and EASA, as listed in Appendix A6

P6 Interpretation of this Manual

When an issue arises concerning the interpretation to be placed upon any article or clause specified in this PAI PBS Manual, it should be brought to the attention of the PAI Board of Directors and the article or clause shall be redrafted to remove any ambiguity in interpretation.

P7 Conventions used in this Manual

The use of PAI in all cases refers to the Parachute Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee. The use of the pronouns he or his in this document does not imply gender but is used in place of he/she or his/her. Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

P8 Glossary

AAD	Automatic Activation Device
AFF	Accelerated Free Fall Progression Programme
AIC	Air Information Circular (issued by the IAA)
CI	Chief Instructor (PAI Rating)
EASA	European Union Aviation Safety Agency
EPU	European Parachute Union
FAI	*Fédération Aéronautique Internationale*
FF	Freefly Skydive
FS	Formation Skydiving
IAA	Irish Aviation Authority

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SI	Sports Ireland
Member	A person who is a current member of PAI
NACI	The National Aero-club of Ireland
PAI	The Parachute Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee.
PBSM	PAI Parachuting Basic Standards Manual
S&T	Safety and Training Committee of the Parachute Association of Ireland
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency

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THE PAI

SECTION 1: THE PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

1.1: The Authority of the PAI

The PAI sets and maintains basic standards for safety, training and operations for sport parachuting for PAI members. It is affiliated to the *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (FAI) through the National Aero Club of Ireland (NACI)

1.2: The Functions of the PAI

1. To promote sport parachuting at national and international levels.
2. To represent the interest of PAI members.
3. To raise, hold and distribute funds from its members and from other bodies or agencies to support the promotion and development of sport parachuting.
4. To set standards relating to safety and training for sport parachuting and to codify these in this PAI PBS Manual.
5. To issue licences, certifications and ratings to members
6. To help provide (or provide for) training for PAI members seeking PAI ratings;
7. To represent PAI sport parachuting at national and international levels;
8. To organise competitive activities mainly at national level.

1.3: Limitation of Zone of Authority of the PAI

The PAI has NO role in the operation of existing parachute centres, or in initiating the establishment of new parachuting centres. This PBSM (and enclosures) is intended as best practice for PAI rated instructors and PAI members.

1.4: Ethical Code and Ethos of the PAI

1. At all times the PAI shall reflect the highest standards of accountability, transparency, fairness and independence.
2. The PAI shall implement all requirements, as appropriate, of the 1998 *Freedom of Information Act*, the 1998 *Data Protection Act*, and subsequent provisions of the *Oireachtas* as appropriate or as required.
3. The PAI shall uphold the right of all persons to be involved in sport parachuting irrespective of difference arising from nationality, gender, sexual preference, religious or political affiliation or any other source of potential discrimination.
4. The PAI has a Code for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. (Ref. Section 4, 4.6)
5. The PAI has an Anti-Doping Code. (Ref. Section 4, 4.2 and 4.3)

1.5: Membership of the PAI

1. Membership of the PAI is open to individuals who have reached their 18th (eighteenth) birthday.
2. Members must apply for/renew their membership by applying online using the PAI web-site, (or, in the event of this facility being temporarily unavailable, by any other method approved by the PAI Board of Directors as an emergency measure until online facilities resume).
3. Membership of the PAI shall be held on a per annum (calendar year) basis.
4. An annual fee shall be payable for membership. The PAI Board of Directors shall determine the level of this membership fee from time to time.
5. In its procedures concerning renewal of membership and when taking disciplinary action, the PAI makes a distinction between those members who hold PAI ratings and who are involved in mentoring and/or overseeing parachuting activities, and those members who, while either holding PAI certificates or not, do not hold a PAI rating.
6. Members holding PAI ratings who are engaged in training, briefing, instructing, coaching or overseeing any parachuting activity should apply for renewal of membership by the previous November 30th. This application is to be accompanied by a Ratings Renewal Form.
7. Acceptance of membership or of renewals of membership shall be at the sole discretion of the PAI Board of Directors.

1.6: Disciplinary Procedures by the PAI

1. PAI rating holders are advised that if the conditions of their Rating are not adhered to, the Rating will automatically become lapsed and invalid.
2. The PAI Board of Directors is the competent body to determine those serious incidents that constitute breaches of the PAI PBS Manual, and the responsibility for disciplinary action rests with the PAI Board of Directors.
3. Any PAI member may inform the Board of Directors of the PAI of serious and/or continuous breaches of adherence to the standards for safety and training on the part of PAI members holding PAI ratings, as outlined in this PBS Manual. Complaints must be in writing and addressed to the Secretary of the PAI, who will bring any complaints to the notice of the Board of Directors. Acting on such reports the Board of Directors may take disciplinary action on a graduated scale, as follows –

   a. All PAI members
      1) Issue a written warning to an individual or individuals.
      2) Suspend the PAI membership of an individual or individuals.
      3) Withdraw the PAI membership of an individual or individuals.
      4) Decline to renew the membership of an individual or individuals.

   b. Members holding PAI ratings
      1) Issue a written warning.
      2) Suspend a PAI rating.
      3) Withdraw a PAI rating.
      4) Withdraw the PAI membership of a PAI rating holder and/or decline future membership of the PAI for the member.

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1.7: Appeals

1. Individual members subjected to disciplinary action have a right of appeal.
2. In the first instance an appeal should be made in writing to the PAI Secretary. The grounds upon which the appeal is based should be clearly stated. Following this, the appellant will be invited to meet the PAI Board of Directors.
3. During the period of an appeal the Board of Directors may temporarily revoke a suspension of membership or of a rating held by the individual.
4. Withdrawal of membership may not be invoked during the period of an appeal.
5. In the case of an unsuccessful appeal the PAI recognises the right of members to seek arbitration from any other body as the member sees fit. In such a situation the PAI will afford the member every opportunity and assistance to enable the member to seek such arbitration.

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GENERAL PROCEDURES

SECTION 2: THE CONDUCT OF SPORT PARACHUTING

2.1: Operational Basics (an Overview):

All parachuting should take place only under the following conditions:

1. With suitable supervisory arrangements in place, including an adequate ground control organisation in operation.
2. By parachutists who are in every respect physically/medically fit, trained, dressed, equipped and briefed to undertake the descent planned.
3. With an approved pilot and a Loadmaster/Jumpmaster qualified to dispatch the parachutists concerned and meeting all appropriate requirements.
4. With air-worthy parachutes in good condition, safe in all respects, correctly packed, well fitted, and inspected before emplaning.
5. When weather conditions are suitable.
6. With all documentation in order and up to date.
7. With a Drop-zone Emergency Plan in place.

2.2: Supervisory Role and Responsibility

Responsibility for parachuting activity is vested in the Senior Instructor. He is responsible for the safe conduct of all parachuting activity for which he is qualified, for the inspection of parachutes, for the safe use of equipment and for the supervision of all training of students. Student parachutists may only parachute under the general supervision of a Senior Instructor with the relevant endorsement (Static Line, AFF) and under the immediate supervision of a Jumpmaster, Coach, Instructor or Tandem Master who are in turn supervised by the relevant Senior Instructor.

2.3: Conducting Parachuting Operations

1. Parachute descents for those on Student Status shall only be made in the presence of a Senior Instructor provided that the Senior Instructor is qualified in the intending jumper's Progression system.
2. Tandem Parachute descents may be made when such descents are made under the supervision of a Senior Instructor. For a load that contains only tandems, no loadmaster is required but the most experienced Tandem Master takes charge of the load.

2.4: Recommended Ground Control Organisation

1. A satisfactory system of ground control for parachuting activities shall be established. This ground control must be continuously operational when parachuting is in progress and will meet the following minimum requirements:

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a. All student parachutists must be briefed and inspected, by an Instructor, before emplaning.
b. All aircraft lifts (loads) must be correctly and fully manifested before takeoff and each person accounted for on landing.
c. The descent of all parachutists shall be monitored.
d. Parachute packing by all those who do not possess a Parachute Packing authorisation must be adequately supervised

2. Radio talk-downs of SL or AFF students must only be undertaken by Qualified Static Line/AFF instructors (or holders of the old PAI "Jumpmaster" rating), or by coaches who have undergone the necessary talk down training. Where student talk-downs or other radio communications with students under canopy may take place, an instructor with no other duties should undertake the role of ground communications with students.

2.5: Briefing of Parachutists before Emplaning.

1. All parachutists under instruction must be appropriately briefed on the details of every planned descent.
2. All other parachutists will notify the type of jump they propose to carry out to the Instructor, Loadmaster and Manifest, together with all the relevant details of such jumps.

2.6: Manifesting of Parachutists

All parachutists, before emplaning, must be accurately manifested. The manifest record must be retained. The Loadmaster is responsible for making sure the pilot receives a manifest slip and is informed of various heights and activities that the load will be performing.

2.7: Ground to Air Signals

1. Where ground-to-air radio contact is not available there will be a code of ground-to-air signals used.

    a. On the drop-zone there will be a target cross indicating the area in which it is intended that parachutists will land and this target cross will be displayed whenever parachuting is in progress.
    b. If radio communication is not used or there has been a breakdown of radio communication the following signals must be used:
    c. The basic signal will be a cross 'X' indicating the target in the vicinity of which it is intended that parachutists will land.
    d. A FULL CROSS 'X' indicates that conditions are judged to be safe for all categories of parachutists.
    e. A 'T' indicates that conditions are NOT suitable for all parachutists. Thereafter only parachutists authorised by the Senior Instructor may jump.
    f. An 'I' indicates that all parachuting is temporarily suspended but the aircraft may remain airborne at the discretion of the pilot pending a further change of signal.

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g. An ‘L’ indicates to the pilot and Loadmaster that parachuting is suspended and the aircraft must LAND with all remaining parachutists on board.

2. For the information of parachutists, every regular drop-zone should be equipped with a windsock and a mechanical means of determining the wind strength and direction.

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SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS

3.1: Student and Recreational Skydivers

1. A Student Parachutist is defined as one who is undergoing parachuting/skydiving training as per the Student Static Line Progression Table or the AFF Student Progression System both of which are detailed in this PBS Manual. Student status ends when the parachutist has successfully reached the end of either of these programmes and has been 'signed-off' as having done so by authorised PAI personnel. A tandem passenger is also categorised as a Student Parachutist.
2. A Recreational Skydiver is defined as a licenced skydiver who has been signed-off on a PAI Static Line or PAI AFF Progression System or other recognised Student Progression system.

3.2: Parachuting Licences, issued by PAI

The PAI is the only body in Ireland that is authorised to issue internationally recognised skydiving licences/certificates – this is due to PAI affiliation to the FAI *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (via the National Aero Club of Ireland). PAI licences are only valid while the holder continues to be a current, paid-up member of the PAI.
If a PAI licence holder's membership has lapsed by more than 31 days, they are deemed to no longer hold a PAI licence or ratings. PAI Licence standards are based on the international qualifications set out by the International Skydiving Commission of the *Féderation Aéronautique Internationale*. However, the PAI has additional training requirements for progression, which are detailed in the table below;

Certificate	**Requirements**	**Licence signed by**
Student Parachutist	Any PAI member learning the procedures for progression onto "A" licence level is considered a Student Parachutist.	Membership Officer
'A' CERTIFICATE Parachutist	Have minimum 25 freefall jumps. Have 5 minutes of freefall time. Have made 5 formation skydives (FS) involving at least two participants, or have made 5 freefly (FF) jumps, either option having been under the supervision of an Instructor. Have demonstrated control of the body in all axes (back-loops, turns, barrel rolls, etc.) Be able to pack a main parachute. Have demonstrated the ability to land a parachute within 50 metres of a target, on at least 10 jumps. Have successfully completed the " 6 Jump Course" and be signed off as such by an FAI rated Coach	Chief Instructor
'B' CERTIFICATE Freefall Parachutist	Have 50 freefall jumps. Have 30 minutes of freefall time. Have successfully completed 10 FS jumps, or 10 formation FF jumps, at least five of which, in either discipline, must involve at least three participants. Have undergone instruction (and practical training on live jumps) on 3 separate occasions from a PAI instructor on spotting procedures before exiting an aircraft (as per **Appendix 5**)	Chief Instructor
'C' CERTIFICATE Experienced Parachutist	Have 200 freefall jumps. Have at least 60 minutes freefall time. Have successfully made 50 FS jumps OR 50 FF jumps, at least 10 of which, must involve at least four participants	Chief Instructor

	Successfully completed Loadmaster training to PAI requirements, as per **Appendix 7**of this manual	
'D' CERTIFICATE Senior Parachutist	Have 500 freefall jumps. Have at least 180 minutes freefall time	Chief Instructor
'E' CERTIFICATE *Master Parachutist*	*Hold a current 'D' Class Certificate.* *Have made 1,000 parachute descents AND have logged 10 hours in freefall.* *Have performed 30 critiqued landings to within 10 metres of a target, on all of which the exit point was self-spotted.* *Have performed any five of the following:* *a. A disc landing in accuracy.* *b. A style series within 15 seconds.* *c. An intentional water jump.* *d. An intentional night jump.* *e. Have successfully jump-mastered a Display Jump.* *f. Have closed 6th or higher in Formation Skydiving.* *g. Have successfully carried out three four-way manoeuvres, as planned, in sequential formation skydiving, OR in formation free fly jumps.* *h. Have successfully closed 3rd or higher in Canopy Formation.* *i. Have successfully transitioned from head-down to a sit fly position, safely and in a controlled manner. This manoeuvre must be completed three times in one skydive and have been signed off by an Instructor.*	*In line with the FAI licence rating system, "E" licences will no longer be issued by the PAI. However, existing holders of an "E" licence may renew the licence as required.*

3.3: Display Status Qualifications

1. The requirements are as follows:
   a. Hold a current 'C' Certificate.
   b. Have completed 10 critiqued accuracy landings to within 8 metres of a target. All landings must be stand-ups and all of these descents must be self-spotted. All of the qualification jumps must be logged and signed off by an Instructor.

2. A Display Jumpmaster must hold a 'D' Certificate and 5 display jumps as a minimum.

3.4: International Parachutist Certificates of Proficiency

1. In addition PAI members may hold an International Parachutist Certificate of Proficiency. Such certificates are issued by the PAI on behalf of *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* in conjunction with the International Skydiving Commission of the FAI. (See Para 6.4 also).
2. The qualifications for the International Certificates of Proficiency, as specified by the International Skydiving Commission, (Sporting Code, Section 5, Chapter 2) are as per table of qualifications (above).
3. In satisfying the above requirement, the following shall apply (The *FAI Sporting Code* Section 5, Chapter 2 may be consulted for detailed definitions):
   a. All freefall jumps shall be stable, controlled jumps with stable openings, and may include controlled manoeuvres and formations.
   b. An AFF jump shall be accepted as a freefall jump.
   c. To qualify for a higher Certificate the candidate must have obtained all lower Certificates.

d. Every jump made in obtaining a lower Certificate counts towards a Certificate of a higher category.

4. The 'A' Certificate holder should be limited to jumps with a small number of participants under self supervision (more than 3 participants, under the supervision of a qualified Coach.) 'B', 'C' and 'D' Certificate holders may jump under self-supervision.
5. The sign-off for the International Parachutist Certificates of Proficiency shall follow the same procedure as the sign-off for National Certificates issued by PAI, as outlined in 3.2

3.5: Requirements for Currency of Student/Licenced Skydivers

Skydiving Experience	Time since last jump	Re-Training Required	Remarks
New Students	10 weeks	Full Re-Train	Full Ground school
Student Progression Jumper	10 weeks	Full Re-Train	Full Ground school
Licenced Jumper 30 – 100 Jumps	6 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures	Instructor
	12-18 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, hanging harness, check out dive	Instructor
	18-24 months	Full Re-Train	Ground school and Check out dive
	Over 24 months	Full Re-Train	Ground school and Check out dive
Licenced Jumper 100-500 Jumps	6 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures	Instructor
	12-18 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, Hanging Harness	Instructor
	18-24 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, hanging harness, check out dive	Instructor
	Over 24 months	Full Re-Train	Ground school and Check out dive
Licenced Jumper 500-800 Jumps	6 months	Safety Brief	Instructor
	12-18 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures	Instructor
	18-36 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, Hanging Harness	Instructor
	Over 36 months	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, hanging harness, check out dive	Instructor
Licenced Jumper 1000-1500 Jumps	6 months	Safety Brief	Instructor
	12-18 months	Safety Brief, Emergency	Instructor

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		Procedures, Check out dive	
	18-36 months or more	Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, hanging harness, check out dive	Instructor
Licenced Jumper over 1500 Jumps	6 months	Depending on log book inspection and time away, some or all may have to be conducted – Safety Brief, Emergency Procedures, hanging harness, check out dive	Instructor

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SECTION 4: MEDICAL AND ETHICAL

4.1: Minors

See section 4.6 for PAI Policy on the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

4.2: Substance Abuse

No parachutist will take any form of illegal substances, any medications which may affect ability or alcoholic drink while engaged, directly or indirectly, in parachuting activities.

4.3: Illegal Drugs/Substances

Possession or use by a PAI member, while parachuting, of illegal drugs or substances and/or the use of those banned under the PAI Anti-Doping Code, will automatically lead to immediate withdrawal of membership of the PAI.
The PAI Anti-Doping Code (see Appendix 4) outlines the Association's policy in relation to the use of prohibited substances during competition.

4.4: Blood Donation

Parachutists are advised that the donation of blood is not compatible with parachuting, especially from higher altitudes. Consequently, any Skydiver that has recently given blood should not jump unless they have been cleared to do so by a General Medical Practitioner.

4.5: Scuba Diving

A parachutist must not make a parachute descent if he has been scuba diving within the previous 24 hours.

4.6: Code for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults

The PAI recognises and acknowledges its special duties and responsibilities towards Minors and Vulnerable Adults.
The PAI Code for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults is appended to this Manual as Appendix 11.

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SECTION 5: DROPZONES

5.1: Basic Definitions

A Drop-zone (DZ) is an area of open ground into which parachutists may be safely dropped.

A Target is a signal of White, Red, Yellow or Orange material laid out on the DZ and easily visible from whatever height parachutists are dropping.

An Overshoot Area is an area of ground, largely free of hazards, in which parachutists may land safely if they miss the target area.

A Hazard is any obstacle, either natural or artificial, which, if struck by a parachutist, is liable to result in injury or death.

5.2: Approval for a Drop-zone

The signed permission of the owner(s) of the land to be used as a Drop-zone to parachute onto that land must be obtained.

5.3: Classification

Drop-zones will be:
UNRESTRICTED - Suitable for all parachutists.

RESTRICTED - Suitable for specific categories of parachutists.

5.4: Unrestricted Drop-zones

These should provide a large open space of even and reasonably level ground largely free of hazards.

5.5: Restricted Drop-zones

Not suitable for all parachutists, but suitable for specific categories of parachutists.

5.6: Trees and Hazards

Tree landings are undesirable since they increase the risk of injury. Trees are however normally acceptable within overshoot areas.

5.7: Aerial Photographs

Drop-zones used for routine parachuting should be equipped with an aerial photograph of the drop-zone and the surrounding area, with hazards marked.

5.8: Off-Drop-zone Landings

1. Every effort must be made to ensure that jumpers land in the designated area.
2. All jumpers should be aware of the procedures to be followed should they be involved in an off drop-zone landing at the facility where they are jumping.

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SECTION 6: DOCUMENTATION

6.1: Personal Documents

1. Declaration of Fitness. All parachutists should have personally completed a Declaration of Fitness to Parachute or have obtained a relevant Medical Certificate (such a medical certificate is mandatory for personnel over 50 years of age who are commencing parachuting for the first time).

2. Parachutist's Log. Parachutists must keep a personal log book recording details of their sport parachute descents. This log, as a minimum, should contain the following information recorded for each jump - Date, DZ location, Jump number, Type and size of rig used, AOG leaving the aircraft, AOG opening height, duration of freefall, running tally of total freefall time, other participants on jump -if any-, activities accomplished during freefall, anything of note regarding the landing pattern, proximity to target etc. Each jump must be signed by a licenced skydiver (preferably one who was on the same load that the jump took place) – a signature by the jumper themselves is NOT adequate. Electronic logbooks (those that are recorded in some electronic altimeter/GPS devices) are NOT acceptable

3. Reserve Parachute Record Card. All parachutists will maintain a record card for their reserve parachutes. This record card will be kept on the parachute system and it will record every packing, repair and modification to the parachute to which the card relates. The rigger's lead seal, attached by the rigger who packed the reserve, must be attached to the reserve pin, in addition to the rigger's notation and name/ID number/packing date on the record card.

4. Any Irish parachutist competing in a Category 1 or Category 2 FAI-controlled international event, or in a record attempt, requires an FAI Sporting Licence, issued by the *Féderation Aéronautique Internationale*, through the National Aero Club of Ireland, and obtainable through PAI.

5. The holder must maintain all personal parachuting documents including logbooks as true, accurate, valid and up-to-date.

6. The responsibility for disclosure to the relevant authority of all personal information relevant to the making of a parachute descent (particularly as such information relates to personal health and fitness, to past jump history, and to equipment suitability and serviceability) rests entirely with the PAI member making the intended parachute descent.

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SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT

7.1: General

1. All sport parachuting units (i.e. one jumper or two jumpers with Tandem) intending to make a descent are to be equipped with a minimum of two airworthy parachutes (i.e one main parachute and one reserve parachute) attached to a common harness. Tandem parachutists must be attached to a Tandem Master using equipment specifically designed for the purpose.
2. Any modifications to a main or to a reserve parachute must be carried out by a parachute manufacturer or by a rigger with the necessary qualifications.

7.2: Parachutes – Responsibility

1. Parachutists, other than students, are at all times wholly responsible for the safe condition of their equipment and for ensuring that checks and inspections are carried out on it as required.
2. Arrangements for the supervision of parachute packing by all who do not possess a packing authorisation must be planned in detail and understood by all concerned.

7.3: Parachute Packing

1. All main parachutes are to be packed under the direct supervision of a person holding a Packing authorisation.(In this context 'direct supervision' will involve the holder of the Packing authorisation carrying out the necessary inspections at the required stages of packing and signing the appropriate record card at the time the checks are made.)
2. Reserve Parachutes: Only a qualified Rigger must carry out the packing of reserve parachutes. (See Section 8 – Parachute Rigging).
3. Repack Cycles: Any reserve parachute that has remained packed for 180 days or more must be opened, inspected and repacked before it may be used.

7.4: Pre-Jump Checks

1. Pre-jump equipment checkouts for all parachutists will be carried out before enplanement.
2. In the case of student parachutists this equipment checkout will be carried out by the supervising instructor who will despatch these students.

7.5: Parachute Modifications

Parachutes will only be modified by those who are technically qualified to do so. (See Section 8 – Rigging).

7.6: Instruments

All solo parachutists must carry a visual read-out altimeter, securely mounted in a suitable position.

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7.7: Automatic Activation Device (AAD)

1. All parachute rigs MUST be fitted with an in-service and activated AAD.
2. An AAD that is ‘out of date’ in any respect MUST NOT be used. Any equipment fitted with such a device must be removed from use.
3. In certain circumstances, an AAD may, with the permission of the Chief Instructor, be de-activated.

7.8: Personal Clothing and Equipment

All parachutists will be equipped with suitable clothing and equipment including:

1. A hard protective helmet without a peak. This is discretionary for PAI ‘C’ and ‘D’ Certificate holders. ‘C’ certificate holders must wear some protective headgear.
2. Goggles (if worn) allowing good all-round vision, preferably of all-plastic or similar construction.
3. Parachutists of “B” licence grade upwards may be allowed wear a full-face helmet provided they have been checked in a hanging harness and signed off in their log book as “safe for wearing a full face helmet” by a PAI Coach/Instructor.

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SECTION 8: PARACHUTE RIGGING

8.1 Rigger Ratings and Authorisations

The PAI does not conduct training courses for student Riggers; consequently, PAI Rigger ratings are awarded on an equivalency only basis at present.
In keeping with International (FAA) standards, there are two levels of parachute rigger, Senior Rigger and Master Rigger. Their duties and responsibilities are specified as follows:

1. Senior Rigger: Having completed a training syllabus and satisfactorily taken an examination under the auspices of an approved Master Rigger, the Senior Rigger is authorised to pack reserve parachutes, undertake the general maintenance and repair of main parachutes to the specifications approved by the manufacturer or in accordance with a recognised parachute rigger's manual.

2. Master Rigger: A Master Rigger must have held a Senior Rigger rating for at least two years and must undergo a course approved by the PAI. The Master Rigger is authorised to pack reserve parachutes, undertake the repair, modification and alteration of main and reserve parachutes, major harness repair work (including work of a structural nature) and repair work to parachute components. All work must comply with the manufacturers' recommendations or be in accordance with a recognised parachute rigger's manual.

3. To be granted a rigger's rating (of either level) on equivalency, the PAI member must produce certificates of successful qualification from either the FAA or from a recognised Parachute system manufacturer (whose standards meet or exceed FAA standards). The BOD of the PAI will then consider the granting of the rating.

8.2 Reserve Parachutes:

Reserve parachutes may be packed only by a person holding a Rigger rating.
The user of the equipment is responsible for keeping adequate paperwork to indicate the date the reserve canopy was last re-packed, and the identity of the rigger who packed it.
Any reserve parachute that has remained packed for 180 days or more must be opened, inspected and repacked by a qualified rigger before it may be used.

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SECTION 9: SAFETY

9.1: Safety, Responsibility and Discipline

1. All parachutists are required to engage in parachuting activities in an aware and responsible manner that maximises their own safety, the safety of other jumpers and the safety of the general public.

2. Serious breaches of safety requirements will be the subject of investigation and disciplinary procedures outlined in section 1 of this manual.

3. PAI Instructors are expected to intervene whenever they observe a violation of the PAI PBS Manual or any unsafe practice.

9.2: Safety with Aircraft / Belts or Restraints

1. No person should approach a moving aircraft. Should it be necessary to do so, a fixed-wing aircraft should be approached from the rear, to remain clear of the propeller/s. A helicopter should be approached only from the front, to allow the crew to see the approaching person and for that person to avoid the rear rotor.

2. In the vicinity of any aircraft, movement forward of the wings should be kept to a minimum.

3. The Loadmaster or Jumpmaster is responsible to the pilot for the safety of the parachutists in the aircraft. The pilot is in overall command.

4. The Loadmaster or Jumpmaster is responsible for the orderly enplanement of his lift and for supervision and commands as necessary in the aircraft. All parachutists are under his command until they leave the aircraft and it is his responsibility:
    a. To ensure that all embarked parachutists have been previously instructed in the correct method of exit from the type of aircraft concerned,
    b. To ensure the integrity of the aircraft and the safety of the exiting parachutist/s
    c. To ensure adequate separation between exits, where required.

5. Static Line parachutists must be hooked up on the ground.

6. All movement inside the aircraft should be kept to a minimum and all deployment devices (reserve handles, etc.) must be protected.

7. Parachutists wearing AADs and landing with the aircraft should, if possible, have the AADs de-activated before the aircraft begins descent. If de-activation is not possible the pilot is to be informed that there are armed AADs, and the type, on board.

8. Where rules or legislation require the use of belts or restraints, the Pilot, as the person in charge of the aircraft, shall advise all jumpers on the load as to their use and storage.

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9.3: Safety in Free Fall

1. When control in free fall is lost by a parachutist and cannot be regained he should operate the main parachute immediately, regardless of altitude. Such cases should subsequently be investigated by the Senior Instructor present.

2. In free fall parachuting the lower person always has the right of way, i.e. the responsibility for avoiding collision rests with the higher parachutist.

3. All group skydiving parachuting should be planned in detail before emplaning.

4. All group skydiving must stop at or above 3,500 feet AGL or at any height above this altitude as dictated by the operating DZs local rules.

5. The signal for break-off between two parachutists may be given by either and should be acknowledged by the other.

6. Larger groups of parachutists engaged in group skydiving must break off in time for all to separate safely in different directions before they reach opening altitude.

7. Parachutists engaged in group skydiving must be fully conscious of the dangers arising, due to rapid closing, from mid-air collisions.

8. Parachutists, who are preparing to deploy their parachute, must give a warning by waving off, before operating their main parachutes.

9.4: Safety during Parachute Descents

1. After operating the main parachute all parachutists must check that their canopy has deployed properly. If a problem is evident the reserve parachute may have to be brought into use.

2. After the canopy opening and deployment has been checked, parachutists should check 360 degrees around them on their own level, then below, and finally upward. If any other parachutist is in close proximity immediate avoiding action should be taken.

3. In the event of a threatened head-on collision, all parachutists should initiate right-hand turns as an avoidance procedure.

4. Throughout every canopy descent, parachutists should exercise caution when flying in proximity to other canopies.

5. The low canopy will normally have the right of way.

6. When two parachutists approach the same target or landing area simultaneously, the higher parachutist must give way to the lower. If both are at the same altitude common sense should prevail.

7. All student parachutists should, unless in an emergency, land into wind.

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9.5: Use of Cameras

1. The use of cameras is limited to holders of Class 'C' licences and above. Camera equipment, and particularly the manner of its attachment to the body or helmet, must be carefully examined by a Senior Instructor to ensure that it is capable of withstanding the stresses of parachute openings at terminal velocity, and that it is mounted with the necessary hardware to enable its safe and effective release in the event of an emergency.

2. Before jumping camera with a Tandem pair a cameraman must have made in excess of 25 camera jumps and must have the authorisation of the CI/Senior Tandem Master and the permission of the Tandem Master making the Tandem jump.

3. All camera helmets or camera equipment MUST be fitted with a cutaway system, to allow immediate jettisoning of the camera/camera mount/helmet in the event of the equipment being caught in deploying lines/canopy.

9.6: Emergency Procedures – Aircraft

1. If it is practical for him to do so, the pilot will take command in any emergency and it is the Loadmaster's or Jumpmaster's duty to accept his instructions.

2. If the pilot is powerless to influence any emergency confronting parachutists, it is the Loadmaster's or Jumpmaster's duty to use his own discretion and act accordingly.

3. If an aircraft gets into difficulties after take-off it may be safer for parachutists to remain in it rather than attempt to jump at a low altitude.

4. In the event of a parachute becoming inadvertently opened in the aircraft, immediate action must be taken to prevent the canopy from taking air. The parachutist involved must be moved as far from the door as possible and must be assisted as necessary. Under no circumstances may any effort be made to repack the parachute in the aircraft, nor may the parachutist involved be permitted to jump. In the case of a student, the instructor/Jumpmaster will land in the aircraft with the parachutist in question. He may permit the remaining parachutists to jump with the permission of the pilot, whose attention must however be drawn to the incident as soon as it occurs.

5. In the event of a parachutist becoming hung-up outside the aircraft, the parachutist should, if possible, be taken back inside. If this is not possible, the parachutist should be cut free, unless he is unconscious. If a parachutist is thought to be incapable of activating either of the parachutes after being cut free, it may be possible for another parachutist to assist in this respect. As a last resort, the pilot must decide on the action to be taken. All parachutists must be instructed that in the highly unlikely event of becoming hung up, they should signify their readiness to be cut free by placing one or both hands on their helmet. Under no circumstances should a parachutist in this situation activate either of the parachutes until they are no longer attached to the aircraft.

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SECTION 10: PARACHUTE LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

10.1: General

Parachuting should only take place under the conditions laid out in this PAI PBS Manual.

10.2: Wind

1. Ground wind speed limits for parachutists are as follows:
   a. Ram-air parachutes
   b. Up to and including 'A' licence 15 mph/24 kph
   c. Up to and including 'B' licence 18 mph/29 kph
   d. Up to and including 'C' licence 20 mph/32 kph
   e. 'D' and 'E' licence holders and all other jumping: at the discretion of the centre operator, but not in wind speeds in excess of 28 mph/45 kph
2. An anemometer is necessary for measuring ground wind speed.
3. A Wind Drift Indicator may be dropped to determine wind direction and strength.

10.3: Cloud

Parachutists must not intentionally jump or be dropped through cloud. At the point of exit the ground must be visible.

10.4: Opening Heights

1. The minimum opening height for Static Line systems deploying Ram-air canopies is 3,000ft. AGL.
2. The minimum opening heights for AFF students are as listed in the AFF Training Syllabus. (See Appendix A3, AFF Progression Table)
3. In all descents, canopies MUST be fully opened by 2,000 feet AGL or at a greater height if required by local rules.

10.5: Maximum Number of Descents for Student Parachutists

Static Line/AFF student parachutists, up to the end of Stage 1 in the Progression Table, may not complete more than four parachute descents in a single day.

10.6: Restrictions on Parachutists Following a Lay-Off

See Section 3.5

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SECTION 11: LOAD ORGANISING AND LOADMASTERS

11.1: General

1. The Loadmaster is at least a “C” certificate parachutist taking charge of the organisation of the parachutists on any particular aircraft lift. This person will ideally be the most experienced parachutist on the aircraft, and this will be the assumed situation in the absence of any order to the contrary.
2. There is no PAI Loadmaster rating – the duties and skills required by a Loadmaster, as per the attached appendix A7, are part of “C” licence training.
3. If a current holder of the older PAI “Jumpmaster” rating is present on a lift then he shall assume the responsibility of the Loadmaster, unless otherwise decided by the CI/SI.
4. If there are student parachutists on a lift, they must be dispatched by an AFF or Static Line Instructor (as appropriate to the discipline being undertaken by the student). If the student(s) have progressed to the point that they are doing solo freefall jumps, then the Loadmaster/jumpmaster may dispatch them.
5. No aircraft with more than one parachutist on board will take off without a Loadmaster being in charge.
6. The Loadmaster is responsible for briefing the pilot before take-off on all relevant points concerning the requirements of the parachutists to be dropped.
7. The Loadmaster is responsible for ensuring that all parachutists on board have been checked prior to emplaning.
8. In an emergency, the Loadmaster will, if possible, seek and follow the instructions of the pilot. If this is not possible they will use their own judgement and act accordingly.

11.2: Despatching of Student Parachutists

1. Student parachutists must only be despatched by an AFF or Static Line Instructor (as appropriate to the progression discipline being undertaken by the student).
   If the student has progressed to the point that they are doing solo freefall jumps, then a Loadmaster/Jumpmaster may despatch them.
2. Despatching of students must be done strictly in accordance with the procedures specified in the Loadmaster/Jumpmaster sections of this Manual.

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RATINGS

SECTION 12: PAI RATINGS

12.1: General

1. All persons involved in overseeing parachuting activities, or in instruction or coaching, or in functioning as Tandem Masters, should hold a current and appropriate PAI rating, or an equivalent rating recognised by the PAI, relevant to the responsibilities of the task being undertaken.
2. The exercise of the privileges of any and all PAI ratings is contingent upon the holder having current, paid-up membership of the PAI – where membership has lapsed, so has the member's licence and ratings.
3. All PAI rating holders shall be required to submit an annual Currency of Ratings Declaration (Appendix A5).
4. PAI members intending to train for any rating must provide documented proof of candidacy requirements to the PAI.

12.2: PAI Ratings

The following are PAI ratings in the various areas of parachuting activity. More detailed information on ratings (and requirements to achieve them) is listed below the table.

Rating	Core Authorisations
Coach	Authorised to 1. Coach jumpers (who have completed student Progression) in basic and Formation Skydiving skills, as well as "check-out" jumps with licenced parachutists whose currency has lapsed. 2. Jump with/assess/sign off students undergoing "Six Jump Course" evaluations as part of the student's progression. 3. Instruct students on general elements of a "first-jump class" – Equipment orientation, basic body position, Canopy-piloting skills, Canopy problems and malfunctions (under the supervision of an instructor).
Jumpmaster	Authorised to 1. Check out, dispatch and critique Progression students 2. "Talk down" students under canopy by radio 3. Act as a senior Loadmaster. 4. Instruct students on general elements of a "first-jump class" – (Equipment orientation, basic body position, Canopy-piloting skills, Canopy problems and malfunctions (under the supervision of an instructor)
Freefly Coach	Authorised to coach licenced skydivers in Free Fly skills.
Wingsuit Coach	Authorised to coach jumpers who have met the criteria to receive coaching in Wingsuit flights.
Static Line Instructor	Authorised to 1. Teach "first-jump" courses to Static Line students 2. To despatch SL students from aircraft 3. To "talk-down" students under canopy by radio 4. To coach students from first Static Line jump to the end of student Progression.

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AFF Instructor	Authorised to 1. Instruct and coach students according to the PAI AFF Progression system 2. Instruct and coach students on the Safety/Awareness stage of AFF and the Static Line Progression systems. 3. To "talk-down" students under canopy by radio
Tandem Master	Authorised to provide ground instruction to Tandem passengers and to undertake Tandem jumps.
Senior Tandem Master	Authorised to supervise Tandem operations only
Senior Instructor (SL/AFF)	Authorised to supervise the relevant student parachuting activities for the endorsed discipline(s) held.
Chief Instructor	All responsibilities as per Senior Instructor. Authorised to sign off students for A,B,C,and D licences, as well as authorised to work in partnership with officers of the PAI to prepare and assess candidates for ratings.
Coach Examiner	Authorised to train, examine and sign off potential Coach students.
AFF Instructor Examiner	Authorised to train, examine and sign off potential AFF Instructor students.
Tandem Examiner	Authorised to train and examine potential Tandem Master students.
Senior Rigger	Authorised to pack reserve parachutes and undertake general maintenance and repair of main parachutes.
Master Rigger	Authorised to pack reserve parachutes and undertake general maintenance and repair of main and reserve parachutes and to harnesses etc.

PAI COACH

A rated PAI coach is authorised to:

1. Teach general areas of a First Jump Course, because the Coach rating requires instructional skills (and so a Coach is a potential Instructor) under the supervision of the Instructor teaching the First Jump Course.
2. Jump with/assess/sign-off on students undergoing a Six Jump Course.
3. Jump on recurrency jumps with licenced Skydivers whose currency has lapsed
4. Coach skydivers (who have completed student progression) in both basic freefall skills and Formation Skydiving skills.
5. Supervise and despatch both Static Line and AFF students that have progressed to solo Freefall status of progression.

Mandatory Requirements

Candidates for the Coach rating must meet all of the following criteria:

a. Be a current member of the PAI (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on Coach course).
b. Be over 18 years of age.
c. Completed more than 200 jumps
d. Hold a PAI 'C' Class Certificate prior to Coach Course commencement date.

e. Have a proven ability as a Loadmaster.
f. Have the written recommendation of a PAI Senior Instructor or Higher who knows him/her personally and who has seen him/her parachuting regularly during a period of not less than six months. (Exceptions to this rule may be made on application to the PAI Board of Directors).

PAI Coach Course Details

The Course covers the following subjects:

1. Introduction and orientation
2. Rules, liability, and the PAI rating structure
3. Document layout
4. Basic Method-Of-Instruction skills and techniques for teaching students
5. First Jump Course - general sections
6. Group freefall skills training and evaluation
7. Equipment
8. Conducting a coached jump
9. Observation and debriefing strategies and evaluation
10. Problem solving
11. Candidate evaluation

PAI Coach Currency

To maintain the PAI Coach Rating, the PAI Coach must:

1. Keep a minimum annual currency of at least 25 jumps
2. Conduct a minimum of 15 Coach jumps per year with students/"A" licenced skydivers
3. Maintain PAI Membership continuously
4. If the above 3 requirements are not met, then the rating is considered lapsed.

    a. If the Coach rating has lapsed for less than 2 calendar years, then it may be reactivated on the written recommendation of a PAI CI and ratification by PAI Board. The Chief Instructor must be satisfied that the Coach has resumed currency commensurate with their licence level, and that the Coach has assisted satisfactorily as an instructor on at least 3 "First Jump" courses.
    b. If the Coach rating has lapsed for more than 2 years, then the candidate must repeat the complete Coach course again.

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PAI JUMPMASTER

The PAI Jumpmaster rating is now replaced by the PAI "Coach" rating as the basic instructional rating. While it will still be possible for Jumpmaster rating holders to renew a Jumpmaster rating already held, the Jumpmaster course will no longer be run by the PAI, and the requirements are included here only for reference.

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A rated PAI Jumpmaster is authorised to:

1. Check out, dispatch and critique Static Line and Freefall Progression students.
2. Act as a Loadmaster.
3. Teach general areas of syllabus on a First Jump Course.

Mandatory Requirements

Candidates for the jumpmaster rating must meet the following admission requirements:

a. Be a current member of the PAI.
b. Be over 18 years of age.
c. Hold a PAI 'C' Class Certificate.
d. Have a proven ability to spot.
e. Have a written recommendation from a current PAI Senior Instructor or Higher

.

PAI Jumpmaster Theory Course and Written Theory Examination.

1. Candidates for the jumpmaster rating must attend the PAI Jumpmaster Theory Course.
2. This course must be conducted by a PAI Instructor (holding at least a Senior Instructor rating) appointed by the PAI Board of Directors.
3. The course consists of:

   a. A minimum of two theoretical sessions (of at least one and a half hour duration each), accompanied by demonstrations as required, covering all the content presented in the PAI Jumpmaster Manual

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   b. A third session at which the candidate for the rating will sit a written examination, with the questions based upon the PAI Jumpmaster Notes and relevant sections of this PAI Operations Manual. The required pass mark for this written examination is 80%. The candidates will be signed off as having passed this written examination by the Instructor responsible for the Jumpmaster Course. This signing off shall be recorded on the PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card.

4. Probationary Period: Jumpmaster Skills Acquisition

   a. Following successful performance in the written examination the candidate for the jumpmaster rating will undertake a probationary period that will take place at an active drop zone, preferably within the Irish jurisdiction.

   b. During this probationary period, under the instruction and immediate supervision of a CCI or a senior instructor, potential jumpmasters will undertake, and be assessed in, graduated practical tasks related to the acquisition of jumpmaster skills. These required practical tasks at which the potential jumpmaster must display competence are listed on the PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card. The candidate must demonstrate full competence in all the listed jump-mastering skills.

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c. Responsibility for signing-off the potential jumpmaster's acquisition of each of the required jump-mastering skills listed on the PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card rests with the CCI of the drop zone at which the probationary period is undertaken. A CCI may delegate this responsibility to a senior instructor.
d. The PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card specifies the knowledge and skills that the potential jumpmaster has acquired during training. These requirements, which are to be signed-off, are to:

    i. Have read, understood, and be totally familiar with the PAI Jumpmaster Notes and relevant sections of this PAI Basic Standards Manual.
    ii. Have carried out 10 Kit-ups, under the supervision of an Instructor. These 10 Kit-ups to be–5 Static Line students and 5 Freefall students.
    iii. Have done 10 Radio Talk-downs under the supervision of an Instructor.
    iv. Have done 10 Checkouts under the supervision of an Instructor.
    v. To observe on board, two aircraft loads being dispatched, both Static Line and Freefall, by an Instructor, for the purpose of Jumpmaster training.
    vi. For three loads, to brief the Pilot, emplane the students, both Static Line and Freefall, climb to altitude, spot and dispatch under the supervision of an Instructor.
    vii. Having been cleared to dispatch Static Line students, to dispatch a minimum of 10 Static Line loads before being authorized to dispatch First Jump Static Line Students.

    All of these stages, 1 to 7, must be signed off by both a Senior Instructor and by a CCI, as being successfully completed.

5. Award of Jumpmaster Rating.

    a. Once the candidate has been signed-off by a CCI and Senior Instructor as having fulfilled all the requirements for the rating as listed on the PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card he should immediately forward the completed card to the PAI Training Officer who will bring to the S&T to forward to the PAI BOD. The candidate may only operate as a qualified jumpmaster after formal issuing of the Jumpmaster Rating by the PAI BOD.

    b. The candidate should retain a photocopy of the completed PAI Jumpmaster Proficiency Card

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FREEFLY COACH

Mandatory Requirements

a. Be a current member of The PAI
b. Be over 18 years of age
c. Be a holder of a PAI C License
d. Hold a PAI Coach (or Jumpmaster) Rating concurrently for 3 years prior to application (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on Coach Course).

e. Have written recommendation from a CI
f. Be considered by CI as being a knowledgeable and capable Free flier
g. Have completed at least 100 Freefly Jumps

WINGSUIT COACH

Mandatory Requirements

a. Be a current member of The PAI (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on Coach course).
b. Be over 18 years of age
c. Be a holder of a PAI C License
d. Hold a PAI Coach (or Jumpmaster) Rating for 3 years prior to application
e. Have written recommendation from a CI
f. Be considered by CI as being a knowledgeable and capable Wingsuit pilot
g. Have completed at least 100 Wingsuit Jumps

PAI STATIC-LINE INSTRUCTOR

The responsibilities of a rated PAI Static Line Instructor include:

1. Operating in all respects within the law and conforming with any requirements of a body or bodies authorised to regulate parachuting activity.
2. Instructing students ONLY within the parameters set by this PAI Basic Standards Manual (and any other manuals that the PAI BOD may prescribe).
3. Instructing with the authorization of a Senior Instructor.
4. Instructing only in those subjects in which he is qualified
5. Keeping abreast of developments in sport parachuting.
6. Ensuring equipment safety at all times.
7. Creating and enhancing safety consciousness among all skydivers at all times by good instruction and by setting a personal example of required and best practice.

A rated PAI Static Line Instructor is authorised to:

1. Teach a Static Line First Jump Course.
2. Provide a First Freefall Briefing.
3. Provide a Throw Away Pilot Chute Briefing.
4. Coach Static Line students throughout the stages and levels of the PAI Static Line Progression Table and authorise the on-going Progression of students.

Mandatory Requirements

Candidates wishing to apply for a PAI SLI Rating must meet the following requirements

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a. Be a current member of the PAI (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on SLI course).
b. Be over 18 years of age
c. Be the holder of a 'D' Certificate.
d. .Hold a PAI Coach or Jumpmaster rating for 3 years prior to application for SLI rating. If the applicant is a PAI Coach (and not a holder of the older Jumpmaster rating) then they must
    1. Have carried out 10 student Kit-ups and 10 Gear Checks under the supervision of an Instructor.
    2. Have undergone instruction from a qualified instructor on the procedures for radio Talk-downs of student parachutists. As part of this instruction, they must have conducted ten actual Radio Talk-downs (the ten Talk-Downs must be completed satisfactorily) under the supervision of a Senior Instructor or higher. This instruction and the satisfactory Talk- Down results to be noted in the applicant's log book by the Senior Instructor. They must be noted as individual occurrences along with observations by the Senior Instructor for improvement by the applicant, if any.

e. Have the written recommendation of a PAI Senior Instructor or Higher who knows him personally and who has seen him parachuting regularly during a period of not less than six months. (Exceptions to this rule may be made on application to the PAI Board of Directors).

<u>Course Requirements</u>

a. The candidate must:

1. Have shown a high standard of instructional skills when dealing with students as a PAI Coach (such high standard to be attested to by a PAI SI or CI)
2. Become fully familiar with all the content contained in relevant PAI guidelines.
3. Become fully familiar with the relevant sections of the PAI PBSM.
4. Become familiar with the content of the PAI Static Line Student Notes

b. As a result of the above the candidate is expected to become familiar with the following with a particular focus on the needs of first jump and continuing Static Line Progression students:

1. The legal requirements pertaining to parachute operations.
2. Safety and regulations
3. Instructional Methods
4. Training Progression
5. The use of Training Aids.
6. Content related to:
    a. Introduction to parachuting equipment
    b. Aircraft drills
    c. Emergency procedures
    d. Drop-zone recognition
    e. Canopy control
    f. Parachute landings

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c. The candidate is also expected to have skills relating to:

1. Skydiving skills analysis
2. Jump Goal setting.
3. Student briefing and de-briefing.
4. Pilot briefing

Probationary Period

The candidate must complete a two-month probationary period as a Potential Static Line Instructor at an active drop-zone. During this period he shall:

a. Observe rated PAI Static Line Instructors and assist them as requested with the provision of the First Jump Course and subsequent student briefings.
b. Prepare lesson plans for teaching a first jump course.
c. Under the immediate and direct supervision of a PAI Static Line Instructor teach sections of the First Jump Course.

Assessment and Examination

Upon completion of the probationary period the candidate shall

a. Undergo a written and/or verbal examination based upon the content of the relevant sections of this PAI Basic Standards Manual, and must achieve the required minimum mark of 80% with 100% in all matters related to safety.
b. Be supervised and graded by two examiners (normally a senior PAI Static Line Instructor and the CI of the DZ at which the probationary period is undertaken) teaching a lesson as part of a First Jump Course.
c. Dispatch 5 static-line (first jumpers) under the supervision of an experienced PAI rated SLI. The SLI will mark the probationer's performance as satisfactory (or not) into the probationer's log book.

Failed assessments or examinations must be repeated.
If successful the examiners shall sign-off the candidate as successful in the candidates log book, and the candidate then may apply to the PAI BOD for ratification of the rating

PAI Static Line Instructor Currency

To maintain the PAI Static Line Instructor Rating, the PAI SLI must:

1. Keep a minimum annual currency of at least 25 jumps .
2. Taught at least 1 "First Jump" Course in the past 12 months.
3. Have dispatched 10 static line students on levels 1 and 2 of SL syllabus.
4. Instructed and dispatched 5 students in progression onto freefall.
5. If the above 4 requirements are not met, then the rating is considered lapsed.
   a. If the rating has lapsed for less than 2 calendar years, than the SLI rating may be re-awarded once the SLI has undergone a practical appraisal by a current SLI and a Chief Instructor and received a written recommendation from the CI, as well as ratification from the PAI Board.

b. A Static Line Instructor who has not been current for a period in excess of two years may have their rating re-instated after practical assessment by a CI and at the PAI BODs discretion. If deemed necessary, the instructor may have to re-sit a new SLI course.

PAI AFF INSTRUCTOR

PAI AFF Instructor Courses

The PAI has its own AFF Instructor examiner, but will also recognise AFF Instructors who have undergone and passed a USPA AFF instructor's course provided it has been run by a fully qualified USPA AFF Instructor Examiner. The potential AFF Instructor in either case must meet the mandatory requirements listed below before the PAI BOD will award the rating.

The responsibilities of a rated PAI AFF Line Instructor include:

1. Operating in all respects within the law and conforming with any requirements of a body or bodies authorised to regulate parachuting activity.
2. Instructing students ONLY within the parameters set by this PAI Basic Standards Manual (and any other manuals that the PAI BOD may prescribe).
3. Instructing with the authorisation of a Senior Instructor.
4. Instructing only in those subjects in which he/she is qualified
5. Keeping abreast of developments in sport parachuting.
6. Ensuring equipment safety at all times.
7. Creating and enhancing safety consciousness among all skydivers at all times by good instruction and by setting a personal example of required and best practice.

A rated PAI AFF Instructor is authorised to:

1. Teach an AFF First Jump Course.
2. Provide a Freefall Briefing.
3. Provide all necessary briefings and training required to the highest standard possible to ensure that the student has the best possible chance of completing the level being flown, and give a detailed de-brief and enter it into the student's log-book.
4. Coach AFF students throughout the stages and levels of the PAI AFF Progression Table and authorise the on-going Progression of students.

Mandatory Requirements

Candidates wishing to apply for a PAI AFF Rating must meet the following requirements

a. Be a current member of the PAI (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on AFFI course).
b. Be over 18 years of age
c. Be the holder of a 'D' Certificate.

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d. Hold a PAI Coach or Jumpmaster rating for 3 years prior to application for AFFI rating. If the applicant is a PAI Coach (and not a holder of the older Jumpmaster rating) **then they must**
    1. Have carried out 10 student Kit-ups and 10 Gear Checks, under the supervision of an Instructor.
    2. Have undergone instruction from a qualified instructor on the procedures for radio talk-down of student parachutists. As part of this instruction, they must have conducted ten actual Radio Talk-downs (the ten talk downs must be completed satisfactorily) under the supervision of a Senior Instructor or higher. This instruction and the satisfactory talk down results to be noted in the applicant's log book by the Senior Instructor. They must be noted as individual occurrences along with observations by the Senior Instructor for improvement by the applicant, if any.

e. Have the written recommendation of a PAI Chief Instructor who knows him/her personally and who has seen him/her parachuting regularly during a period of not less than six months. (Exceptions to this rule may be made on application to the PAI Board of Directors).

<u>Course Requirements</u>

a. The candidate must:

1. Have shown a high standard of instructional skills when dealing with students as a PAI Coach (such high standard to be attested to by a PAI SI or CI)
2. Have shown themselves to have above average flying skills (such as 4 way RW flying).
3. Become fully familiar with all the content contained in relevant PAI guidelines.
4. Become fully familiar with the relevant sections of the PAI PBSM.
5. Become familiar with the content of the PAI AFF section of this manual.

b. As a result of the above the candidate is expected to become familiar with the following with a particular focus on the needs of first jump and continuing AFF Progression students:

1. The legal requirements pertaining to parachute operations.
2. Safety and regulations
3. Instructional Methods
4. Training Progression
5. The use of Training Aids.
6. Content related to:
    a. Introduction to parachuting equipment
    b. Aircraft drills
    c. Emergency procedures
    d. Drop-zone recognition
    e. Canopy control
    f. Parachute landings

c. The candidate is also expected to have skills relating to:

1. Skydiving skills analysis
2. Jump Goal setting.
3. Student briefing and de-briefing.
4. Pilot briefing

Once a candidate has successfully achieved an AFF Instructor rating, they may commence AFF Ground School lessons and AFF instructional jumps with students. To this end, it is recommended that a newly appointed AFF instructor be paired with an experienced, senior PAI AFF Instructor until they have gained enough confidence and skills to allow them to operate with less experienced AFF Instructors.

PAI AFF Instructor Currency

To maintain the PAI AFF Instructor Rating, the PAI AFFI must:

a. Keep a minimum annual currency of at least 25 jumps.
b. Taught at least 1 “First Jump” Course in the past 12 months.
c. Have flown at least 15 AFF instructional jumps with students.
d. If the above 3 requirements are not met, then the rating is considered lapsed.

1. If the rating has lapsed for less than 2 calendar years, than the AFFI rating may be re-awarded once the AFFI has undergone a practical appraisal by a current senior AFFI and a Chief Instructor and received a written recommendation from the CI, as well as ratification from the PAI Board.

2. An AFF Instructor who has not been current for a period in excess of two years may have their rating re-instated after practical assessment by an AFF Instructor Examiner or a current senior AFFI and a CI and at the PAI BODs discretion, or may have to re-sit a new AFFI course.

PAI TANDEM INSTRUCTOR

Candidates wishing to apply for a PAI Tandem Instructor Rating must meet the following requirements:

a. Be a current member of the PAI (and kept membership current for the previous 3 years before application to proceed on TI course).
b. Be over 18 years of age
c. Be the holder of a ‘D’ Certificate.
d. Hold a PAI Coach or Jumpmaster rating for 3 years prior to application.
e. Have the written recommendation of a Chief Instructor who knows him personally and who has seen him parachuting regularly during a period of not less than six months. (Exceptions to this rule may be made on application to the PAI Board of Directors).

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Tandem Instructor Training

a. A PAI Tandem Examiner must conduct Tandem Master training in accordance with the appropriate tandem manual depending on the type of system being used. Alternatively, the candidate can achieve the rating under the training of the system manufacturer.
b. Training tandem jumps undertaken by a potential Tandem Instructor must take place under the immediate and direct supervision of a PAI Tandem Examiner (or Manufacturer's appointed examiner)

Tandem Instructor Probation

Having successfully completed a Tandem Training Course including 10 training jumps and ground school and having been signed off by the Tandem Examiner, the candidate may be permitted with the written approval of the CI, undergo a probationary period of a further 15 jumps as a Tandem Instructor under the supervision of the PAI Tandem Examiner. The candidate may only operate as a qualified Tandem Instructor after formal issuing of the Tandem Instructor Rating by the PAI BOD following successful completion of the Tandem training course.

Tandem Instructor Currency

a. A Tandem Instructor who has not made a Tandem jump within the previous 90 days must make one training jump with an experienced parachutist, of at least 'C' Certificate of Proficiency level, as passenger.
b. A Tandem Instructor who has not made a Tandem jump within the previous 180 days must make one 'Solo' training jump on Tandem equipment and one training jump with an experienced parachutist, of at least 'C' Certificate of Proficiency level, as passenger.
c. A Tandem Instructor who has had more than a two-year break from Tandem jumping must undergo a full re-certification training course with a PAI rated or approved Tandem Examiner.
d. To retain a Tandem Instructor rating the Tandem Master must make a minimum of 15 Tandem descents per annum.

PAI SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

1. Senior Instructor: Authorisations

The training and assessment of a potential Senior Instructor are based upon the requirement that he/she must give evidence of the ability to manage all the relevant skydiving activities on an active Drop Zone. This includes knowledge, awareness and practical procedural skills relating to the following areas:

a. Have a full and clear knowledge of statutory regulations and requirements pertaining to parachuting.
b. The authority and role of a CI

c. Dealing with visiting jumpers from another jurisdiction,
d. Dealing with first time and student jumpers,
e. AAD requirements for tandem, solo students, experienced jumpers and visiting jumpers,
f. Overseeing tandem jumping,
g. Working with the Chief Pilot,
h. Managing and authorising jumping within parachuting limitations, and overseeing the manifesting of jumps.
i. Procedures to be followed when an incident occurs and familiarity with, and experience of, supervising the Drop-zone Emergency Plan,
j. Problem solving and human relationship skills
k. Overseeing the training and performance of Coaches and Instructors

2. Senior Instructor: Candidacy

Candidates must;

a. Have a minimum of 3 years consecutive membership of PAI before applying.
b. Have the written recommendation of a current PAI Chief Instructor
c. Hold a current Instructor rating, AFF, static Line or Tandem for a minimum of 3 years
d. Must be current with this rating, and have made a minimum of 500 jumps in the respective instructional rating
e. Have a proven track record of excellent instructional and interpersonal skills.
f. Have a minimum of 10 years in the sport.

3. Senior Instructor: Requirements

A Senior Instructor candidate shall;

a) Have a full and clear knowledge of statutory regulations and requirements pertaining to parachuting,
b) Become fully familiar with the contents and requirements of the PAI PBSM
c) Be able to give briefings (such as for a night jump, a display jump or a water jump).
d) Have made at least 100 parachute descents in the previous 18 months.

4. Senior Instructor: Assessments

a) The candidate will “shadow” an existing PAI Senior Instructor and/or Chief Instructor for a period <u>of at least 24 full days</u> of DZ operation. The SI/CI must explain operations to the candidate and allow them to conduct parts under supervision. Each day MUST be entered into the candidates log book along with any notes, by the SI/CI concerned.
b) The Potential Senior Instructor shall be examined by a panel composed of nominees of existing PAI SIs and CIs and of no less than three persons. The assessment shall take

the form of a presentation, of a maximum of 30 minutes, to the panel, on an aspect of parachute safety covered by this document. This will be followed by panel questions.

c) An agreed practical assessment under the supervision of a Chief Instructor will also form part of the overall candidate's assessment.
d) The candidate may only operate as a qualified Senior Instructor after formal issuing of the Senior Instructor Rating by the PAI BOD.

PAI CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

1. To be appointed as a CI a PAI member must hold a current Instructor rating, AFF, Static Line and /or Tandem and a PAI Senior Instructor rating for a minimum of three years, and be a member of the PAI for the past 3 consecutive years.

2. A potential CI must:
   a) Have performed the duties of a Senior Instructor meticulously for a minimum of 3 years before application.
   b) Be nominated by a current PAI Chief instructor(s).
   c) Be ratified by the PAI Board of Directors.

3. Only a Chief Instructor can sign off licence levels or ratings

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12.3: Issue of Ratings – Authority

PAI Ratings are issued to PAI members by the Board of the PAI, after the member concerned has fully satisfied the requirements for the rating, specified in this PBS Manual and attachments.

12.4: Ratings Progression

1. The PAI coach rating is the foundation for all other ratings and MUST be held before progressing to other ratings with the exception of Senior or Master Rigger.
2. Co-ordinate Relationship between Instructional Ratings:
   Tandem Instructor, Static Line Instructor, and AFF Instructor are PAI Instructional ratings that hold a co-ordinate relationship to each other. A co-ordinate relationship is one in which the holding of one rating is not a pre-requisite for the holding of another rating, and ratings are considered to be at the same level.
3. Co-ordinate ratings are area specific; thus an Instructor or coach may only teach or oversee those areas for which he/she has obtained the relevant rating.
4. If an Instructor renews their current highest rating that automatically renews all instructional ratings below the one they currently hold. If a Static line, Tandem or AFF instructor meets the requirements for renewal of their rating, their Coach rating is also deemed renewed and awarded. However, if the holder of a number of Instructor Ratings e.g. a Tandem Instructor and AFF instructor (or any other combination of the basic 3 Instructor ratings) does not keep currency in all ratings held, then the un-current rating will be considered lapsed. Similarly, if a Senior Instructor or Chief Instructor meets the requirements for renewing their rating, all instructional ratings they have achieved up to that point are also considered renewed, provided an acceptable level of currency is maintained in these instructional ratings. The minimum number of (rating specific) required jumps to maintain that rating is considered to be this acceptable level.
5. A Senior Instructor/Chief Instructor is responsible for overseeing all student parachuting activities and student training. However, an Instructor may only directly engage in those training or coaching activities for which he/she holds an appropriate PAI rating.

12.5: Ratings – Equivalency

1. The requirements for PAI ratings may be satisfied in full or in part by the holding of a similar rating awarded by another FAI Parachuting National Governing Body or other recognized Authority.
2. A PAI member seeking a PAI rating on the basis of equivalency must first provide the PAI with the relevant information concerning the training intended or undergone in acquiring the said rating from an FAI (*Fédération Aéronautique Internationale*) affiliated National Governing Body.
3. A person seeking a PAI rating on the basis of equivalency, MUST hold a PAI ‘C’ Licence for Coach rating, and a PAI “D” licence for SLI or AFFI
4. The Board of the PAI may issue the PAI rating based in whole (or in part) upon equivalency.

12.6: Procedure for obtaining a PAI Rating

1. Ratings are issued by the PAI Board of Directors.
2. A PAI member seeking a rating should inform the PAI of his intention to seek a particular rating and should provide the PAI with any and all relevant documentation it may request.
3. The following procedure and steps must be followed:
   a. The candidate must fulfill the candidacy requirements specified for the rating.
   b. The candidate must successfully participate in the specified PAI-approved course.

   c. The candidate must successfully complete all practical, written and verbal assessment tasks as set by the examiners.
   d. After receiving the rating, the holder must maintain the retention requirements for the rating.
4. Training and Probation
   a. A candidate must participate in, and successfully complete, the PAI approved training course (see 3b above). An Instructor currently recognised by the PAI must teach this course. Training may be followed by a probationary period.
5. Examination and Assessment
   a. All assessment activities required for the award of ratings should be such that the candidate is provided every opportunity and assistance in presenting his knowledge, skills, abilities and capabilities in the best possible manner.
   b. Assessment must be rigorous, transparent and fair.
6. Sign Off
   When training has been successfully completed, the relevant Instructor/Examiner will sign off the person as having successfully completed training for the rating.
7. Sign off and Equivalency:
   Persons who have been approved to undertake training outside of the area of the PAI's jurisdiction must obtain adequate documentary evidence of successful completion of training and sign-off by the foreign parachuting body. In such cases the PAI will also require a probationary period under its jurisdiction, before moving to ratification.
8. Approval by the PAI
   a. The application for the approval and recognition of the rating must be accompanied by a letter from a PAI CI that the candidate has met all the expected requirements and that the CI has inspected the documentation and approves it.
   b. Having been signed off by the Instructor/Examiner, the successful candidate will provide full documentation to the PAI Board of Directors.
   c. The PAI Board of Directors shall check the validity of the training received and, when satisfied, shall recommend that the PAI Membership Officer issue a rating.
9. Issuing of Ratings by the PAI Membership Officer
   The PAI Membership Officer issues the rating upon the instruction of the PAI Board of Directors.

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JUMPING UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

SECTION 13: PARACHUTE DISPLAYS

13.1: Definition

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A Parachute Display is defined as a parachuting activity deliberately performed for the purpose of providing an exhibition or entertainment other than at a regular parachuting centre or facility or drop-zone.

13.2 Minimum Requirements

1. A parachutist engaged in a parachute display should:
    a. Hold a Parachute Display Rating from the PAI, or, for a visiting parachutist, hold an acceptable alternative with his country's parachute governing body.
    b. Be a current member of the PAI, or, in the case of a visiting parachutist, be a current member of his country's parachute governing body.
    c. Have made a minimum of 20 parachute descents in the previous six months.
    d. Be the holder of a PAI 'C' Class Licence or equivalent, at a minimum.

2. The PAI will bear no responsibility for any parachute display or demonstration unless such events are directly organised by the PAI.

13.3: Display Jumpmaster

In addition to the above a Display Jumpmaster should be the holder of a PAI 'D' Class certificate (Certificate of Proficiency).

13.4: Equipment

1. Equipment used on displays shall be a Ram-air main parachute and a Ram-air reserve parachute
2. Display parachutists should only use equipment with which they are familiar.

13.5: Smoke Generators

1. Smoke generators must be of a dependable type and must be securely fitted to the parachutist in such a way that they cannot work loose in the air, but can be jettisoned in the event of an emergency. They should be inspected immediately before take-off to ensure that they are correctly fitted and not primed so that they could be inadvertently ignited in the aircraft.
2. Parachutists must only ignite their smoke generators outside of the aircraft cabin or after exiting the aircraft. Only in cases of extreme emergency may a parachutist jettison a smoke generator and/or bracket.

13.6: Safety and Carrying of Items

1. Care must be taken to ensure both the safety of the public and the safety of the parachutists.
2. If a display parachutist is carrying any item, the size, shape and stowage of the item must be thoroughly examined by the Display Jumpmaster, who will decide as to the safety, for the public and the parachutist, of carrying any such object.

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13.7: Inspection of Display Site

A prior inspection of the proposed landing area and its surroundings will be made by an experienced display parachutist, who will assess the site, bearing in mind such matters as its size and elevation; type and characteristics of parachutes to be used; varying weather conditions; obstacles and hazards on or close to the site; proposed crowd line; other activities on the site on the day of the display, and controls to be put in place by the organisers of the event.

13.8: Ground Crew

1. A properly briefed and equipped ground crew must be in position at the display area prior to and during the display.
2. The ground control crew must have radio contact with the aircraft being used by the parachutists.
3. Visual signals must be used as a backup in the event of radio failure.
4. It is the responsibility of the ground control crew to ensure that the landing area is safe and free of obstacles at the time of the parachutists' jump, and that spectators are at a safe distance behind a barrier.

13.9: Briefing

Pilots, participating parachutists and ground control crew must all be fully briefed on the display plan, conditions at the display area and any changes which may be likely to occur.

13.10: Alternative Plan

1. An alternative plan should be arranged to allow for any changes, which might make the first option unattainable or unsafe.
2. The pilots, all participating parachutists and ground control crew must be fully briefed on this alternative plan.

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13.11: Permission and Clearance

1. A Flight Plan pertaining to the intended parachute display will be lodged with the relevant authority.
2. All parachute display approvals are subject to Air Traffic Control clearance and restrictions on the day and at the time of the display.

13.12: Parachuting at Air Displays

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For information on the conduct of parachuting at Air Displays see the IAA Administrative and Guidance Manual, section 1, part 3, and Temporary Guidance Leaflets, Leaflet No. 5, *The Organisation and Conduct of Flying Displays*.

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SECTION 14: CANOPY FORMATION

14.1: General

A parachutist participating in Canopy Formation must undergo a full briefing in the discipline from a suitably qualified person.

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SECTION 15: NIGHT JUMPS

15.1: Qualifications

To participate in a night jump a parachutist must have completed a minimum of 100 parachute descents and have amassed a minimum of 45 minutes of freefall time.

15.2: Equipment

It is recommended that each parachutist be equipped with the following:

a. A lighted altimeter
b. Clear goggles
c. A light for checking the canopy
d. A whistle for use in the event of landing off the drop-zone.
e. Sufficient lighting to enable him to be seen by other parachutists.

15.3: Briefing

1. A suitably qualified Instructor must give each parachutist a thorough briefing.
2. The briefing should include the following:
   a. Use of personal equipment.
   b. Disorientation problems.
   c. Familiarisation with the Drop-zone and landing area.
   d. Emergency procedures both in the air and on the ground.

15.4: Target Lighting

1. The target should be illuminated using electric lighting. Flares and other pyrotechnic devices can be hazardous and should not be used.
2. Lights should be arranged in a circle around the target area at a radius of approximately 25 metres. Three or four lights closest to the wind-line on the downwind side of the target should be removed, and re-arranged in a line leading into the target area. (By following a flight-path over this line the parachutist will be on the wind-line and will land into wind).

15.5: General Procedures

1. Jumpers should not be exposed to lights for at least 20 minutes before takeoff, to allow time for their eyes to adjust to the darkness.
2. No bright lights should be used in the aircraft.
3. Ground-to-aircraft communications must be available.
4. During the climb to altitude jumpers should familiarise themselves with the night landmarks surrounding the target.

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5. It is recommended that night Formation Skydiving be only conducted under full moon conditions.
6. A Jumper making a first night jump should exit solo. He should only participate in Formation Skydiving on subsequent jumps.
7. Canopy Formation should be planned with extreme caution with particular attention being given to the hazards of landing off the Drop-zone.
8. On landing, each jumper must report immediately to the manifest. No further lifts should take off until all jumpers have been accounted for.

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SECTION 16: WATER JUMPS

16.1: General

The water jumps covered by this section are deemed to be intentional water jumps. Briefing for unintentional water landings is covered in first jump training if the presence of a body of water near the drop-zone necessitates such a briefing.

16.2: Qualifications

1. A ‘B’ Class Certificate is the minimum requirement for making an intentional water jump.
2. An ability to swim, though not an essential, must be a consideration, depending on the water area being used as a drop-zone.

16.3: Equipment

Equipment used for water jumps will be as used for jumps onto land, with the following exceptions:

a. Jumpers must wear flotation equipment or a buoyancy aid that is approved by the Instructor in charge of the water jump.
b. Heavy clothing and heavy footwear must not be worn.
c. In cold weather conditions wetsuits may be deemed necessary.
d. If an AAD is fitted to the jumper’s equipment the manufacturer’s immersion protection unit for the device should be used.

16.4: Conditions

1. Water jumps will be subject to the same weather restrictions regarding cloud and wind speed, as jumps onto dry land.
2. The intended landing area of water will be checked by a suitably-qualified Instructor who will pay special attention to the following:
   a. The depth of water in the proposed landing area.
   b. The presence of underwater hazards, mud, trees, rocks, etc.
   c. Other considerations as with Display site inspection (see Section 13, 13.7 1)) should be used.

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16.5: Drop zone Control

1. Drop-zone (water area) control should be by a parachutist of at least ‘C’ Certificate standard.
2. All involved: jumpers, crews of boats, ground crew and diver/s, must be fully briefed on the various procedures to be followed. In the event of separate briefings for the jumpers and the other personnel involved, care must be taken to ensure that the procedures outlined to the separate groups are identical.
3. There must be a minimum of one recovery boat for each parachutist in the air at any one time. It is advisable to have one additional boat as a backup.
4. Individual boats are to be allocated to follow individual jumpers, to avoid all following one parachutist.

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5. The services of at least one diver, who will be in a central location, must be on hand, to act in emergencies.

16.6: Special Considerations

1. Care must be taken that water landings are made into wind (to help ensure that the canopy does not shroud the jumper in the water, leading to risk of entanglement with the suspension lines).
2. A parachutist may decide to jettison his canopy on entering the water. This cutaway procedure may be adopted particularly if wind conditions are such that the parachutist may be dragged in the water. (An RSL, if fitted, should be disconnected before cutting away. Extreme care must be taken to cutaway ONLY WHEN THE JUMPER'S FEET TOUCH THE WATER. It is very difficult to determine height over water and commonly parachutist's cutaway too high).
3. Where more than one pass is being made, the second and subsequent passes must be delayed until all jumpers from the previous pass have been picked up and the boats are again positioned for retrieval.

16.7: Night Water Jumps

Night water jumps should not be undertaken.

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SECTION 17: COMPETITION

17.1: General

Parachutists should not participate in competition until they have shown themselves to be completely competent, safe, assured and dependable under normal conditions. If this is not the case, there is a danger that the competition will adversely affect the judgement and performance of less experienced performers, with negative effects on safety standards.

17.2: Requirements for Competition

Competition for parachutists of below 'B' Certificate standard will be of a type suited to their experience and skill levels.

17.3: Discipline in Competition

The director and stewards appointed in all competitions under PAI auspices will have full PAI authority to suspend any competitor from further participation for the remainder of a competition, for violation of the requirements of this PAI PBS Manual or for any reason which makes this advisable in the parachutist's interests or in the interests of others.

17.4: International Competition and Record attempts

1. Participation in FAI-sanctioned 1st and 2nd Category competitions, and in FAI-recognised record attempts, requires a current FAI Sporting Licence. A Sporting Licence can be obtained through the PAI.
2. Participation in the National Competitions of countries may necessitate the holding of an FAI Sporting Licence.

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APPENDIX 1: FREEFALL SPEED AND TIME

Terminal velocity (approx. 114 mph) is reached after about 12 seconds in freefall. Under normal atmospheric conditions, the skydiver should take approximately 10 seconds to fall the first 1000 feet.
The rate of descent, after terminal velocity is reached, is approx. 1,000 feet per 5.5 seconds.
Increased rate of fall at higher altitudes (due to lesser air density) has not been calculated.
It is important to be aware of potential problems, due to hypoxia (oxygen starvation), above 10,000 feet.
General health and condition are important factors in this regard. Smokers are more likely to be effected than non-smokers. Consumption of alcohol within the 24 hours prior to jumping from altitudes above 12,000ft should be avoided.

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APPENDIX 2: STUDENT PROGRESSION TABLE – STATIC LINE

A2.1: Introduction

Static Line Student Progression is governed by the requirements of this PAI PBS Manual.
The pre-requisites for each level are specified on the PAI Student Progression Record Card which must be consulted along with this Progression Table.

A2.2: Commencing Progression

A student may only commence Progression when the student has satisfactorily completed a First Jump Course (Static Line) and has been signed-off by the course Instructor.
This course shall cover:

1. Documentation and Orientation
2. Familiarisation with Equipment
3. The Stable Position
4. Aircraft Drills
5. Malfunctions and Reserve Drills
6. Canopy Control, Landing Approach and Landing
7. Abnormal Landings
8. Parachute Landing Rolls (PLRs)
9. After-Landing Procedures.
10. Emphasis in training will be given at all stages to the importance of the correct use of parachuting equipment. The greatest emphasis must be on safety.

A2.3: During Progression

1. Jumps within a level must be satisfactorily completed before progressing to the next level.
2. Completion of each Progression level must be signed-off by the appropriate Static Line Instructor or Coach as having been satisfactorily completed before the student is authorised to progress to the next level.
3. A PAI Static Line Instructor must dispatch the student on SL jumps until after the first freefall jump.

A2.4: Briefings

1. During Progression a student must be signed-off as having been given and as having acquired the necessary skills related to the following briefings:

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Briefing	Authorised Persons to Provide the Briefing	Stage Requirements
Packing	Any holder of a Packing authorisation	To be completed during stage 1 before attempting level 3.
Dummy Ripcord Pull	Static Line Instructor	To be given immediately before stage 1 level 2.
First Freefall	Static Line Instructor	To be given immediately before stage 1 level 3.
Altimeter	Static Line Instructor	To be given immediately before stage 1 level 7.
Throw-away pilot chute	Static Line Instructor	May be given after stage 2 level 9 has been completed, but not earlier.

2. DRP Briefing

   a. A DRP briefing must be conducted by a PAI Static Line Instructor
   b. The Static Line Instructor conducting the briefing must check the student's paperwork to ascertain if the student is in fact cleared for DRP jumps, who cleared him, and when. A student may not himself decide to have a DRP brief without having being passed as ready for this by a Static Line Instructor.
   c. A DRP handle of an approved type will be used by the student. This handle should be the same as, or as close as possible to, the ripcord handle which the student will subsequently use when he goes freefall.

   The DRP briefing will:

   d. Explain the purpose of the DRP jump (which is to prepare the student for freefall)
   e. Enable the student to acquire skills relating to:

      1. aircraft exit,
      2. adoption of stable spread position,
      3. count,
      4. DRP deployment
      5. recovery to stable spread position
      6. checking of canopy.

   f. Include a consideration of relevant malfunctions and reserve drills.
   g. Provide sufficient supervised practice of the DRP drill to enable the DRP jump to be undertaken safely and with confidence.

   h. The Static Line Instructor will sign off, in the student's logbook that the briefing has been completed and that the student is cleared for DRP jumps, when the Static Line Instructor is satisfied that the student:

      1. Fully understands the DRP drill and the reasons for its various parts.
      2. Can perform the DRP drill flawlessly.
      3. Has performed malfunction drills consistently and flawlessly.

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Students undertaking DRP jumps should be monitored on their DRP skills before each jump. If a student's pre-jump rehearsal of the DRP skills is not satisfactory a full re-brief must be given.

3. First Freefall Brief

   a. The briefing for a first freefall will be conducted by a PAI Static Line Instructor.
   b. The Static Line Instructor giving the briefing must check the student's paperwork to ascertain that the student is in fact cleared to be so briefed, who cleared the student, and when.
      A student may not himself decide to progress to this briefing and jump without having being passed as being ready for this jump by a Static Line Instructor.
   c. The briefing for Progression to freefall must be rigorous and must include the following:

      1. Aircraft exit and adoption of a stable freefall body position.
      2. Repeated physical practice of using a dummy throw away pilot chute handle
      3. Explanation of the deployment sequence for opening the main parachute.
      4. Explanation of the additional high speed malfunctions that can occur on freefall equipment, and how to deal with each of these.
      5. Explanation of the procedure for handling a dual canopy situation (when both the main and the reserve parachutes are deployed),
      6. Satisfactory performance of cutaway drill in a suspended harness.

3. Altimeter Briefing

   a. A briefing for the first altimeter jump must be conducted by a PAI Static Line Instructor.
   b. The Static Line Instructor giving the briefing must check the student's paperwork to ascertain that the student is in fact cleared to be so briefed, who cleared the student, and when.
      A student may not himself decide to progress to this briefing and jump without having being passed as being ready for this jump by a Static Line Instructor.
   c. The Briefing must cover the following:

      1. The use of the altimeter, zeroing, adjusting for differences in height between a take-off area and a landing area.
      2. Altimeter care, malfunctions and checks.
      3. Awareness of other jumpers' openings.
      4. Malfunctions including Dual Canopy Deployment.
      5. Altimeter Skills Drill: The briefing will enable the jumper to acquire the following sequence of skills:
      6. Immediately before exit, look at his altimeter and memorise the exit altitude.
      7. Count the 15 second delay, 'one thousand, two thousand' etc.
      8. On reaching the count of 'ten thousand' the jumper will glance to the left, without inclining his head and read the altitude showing on the altimeter. This altitude will be memorised by the jumper

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9. On reaching the count of ‘fifteen thousand’ the jumper will pull the ripcord and on checking his main canopy will look at the altimeter and again memorise the altitude.

d. The Static Line Instructor will sign off that the briefing has been completed and that the student is cleared for a First Altimeter Jump when he is satisfied that the student:

1. Fully understands all the factors involved in moving onto this new (to the student) method of determining height and opening – the use of an altimeter instead of a verbal count.
2. Can perform the altimeter drill flawlessly.
3. Has performed malfunction drills consistently flawlessly.
4. Fully understands the methods of dealing with a dual canopy deployment scenario.

e. The briefing should take place not earlier than some hours before the student will make the jump. A brief revision should take place after a break and before the student emplanes. Should a longer period of time elapse a fuller revision will be required. If the student’s rehearsal is not satisfactory a full re-brief may be necessary.
f. It is essential that the student’s actual performance during a first altimeter jump be closely critiqued, preferably by an Instructor observing the jump in the air. Any problems encountered by the student on this jump must be addressed, and further progress halted, until any such problems are solved.

REQUIRED STATIC LINE AND FREEFALL EXERCISES

Stage 1 – Static Line & Early Freefall

1. Levels 1 – 8 must be briefed, de-briefed and signed-off by a PAI Static Line Instructor.
2. The parachutist shall have a fully opened main canopy by 3,000 ft AGL.

Level	**Skill**	**Notes**
1	3 Stable Exits (Static Line)	Preceded by First Jump Course and associated briefings and re-briefings.
2	3 Dummy Ripcord Pulls (Static Line)	Preceded by DRP briefing.
3	3 second delay (First Freefall) minimum	Immediately preceded by Freefall briefing
4	5 second delay minimum	

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5	10 second delay minimum	
6	15 second delay minimum	
7	15 second delay minimum with Altimeter	Preceded by Altimeter briefing.
8	20 second delay minimum with Altimeter	

Stage 2 – Basic Freefall Manoeuvres

FOR BOTH STAGE 2 AND STAGE 3, THE PAI STUDENT SHOULD CONSIDER THE USE OF A PAI COACH FOR SOME OF THE SKILLS JUMPS/ CONSOLS – AN EXTRA EXPENSE ON THE STUDENT, BUT CERTAINLY MONEY WELL SPENT TO ENSURE STEADY AND FASTER PROGRESS!

From Stage 2 onwards:

1. A student must 'wave-off' prior to every deployment.
2. The parachutist shall have a fully opened main canopy by 3,000 ft AGL.
3. During this stage the student should be briefed, de-briefed and signed-off by a PAI Static Line Instructor or PAI Coach.
4. Levels 10 and 11 (turns) may be performed in any sequence.
5. Levels 12, 13 and 14 may also be performed in any sequence.

Level	**Skill**	**Notes**
9	Unstable Exit	
10	Right Turn	
11	Left Turn	
12	Cutaway check & Reserve Handle check during freefall.	
13	Back loop	
14	Front loop	
15	Preparation for 6 jump course skills	With PAI Coach
16	Preparation for 6 jump course skills	With PAI Coach

Stage 3 – Additional Manoeuvres

1. During stage 3 the parachutist shall have a fully opened main canopy by 3,000 ft AGL.
2. During this stage the student must be briefed, de-briefed and signed-off by a PAI Static Line Instructor or PAI Coach.

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Level	Skill	Notes
17	Flat Track	
18	“S” Track	
19	Half Series, Wave off & Flat Track	Half series is 2 alternate turns and a back loop.
20	Hop ‘n Pop	Main parachute to be open by 3,000 AGL.

Stage 4 – The “Six Jump” Course

The Six Jump Course is a course common to both Static Line and AFF students, successful completion of which allows the student skydiver to jump with other skydivers. The course is designed to both establish and train the Skydiver in basic movements that are required for jumping safely with other people.

1. During this stage the student must be briefed, de-briefed and signed-off by a PAI Coach, PAI Static Line Instructor, AFF Instructor or higher.
2. The student must ‘wave-off’ and track before all deployments.

Level	Skill	Notes
21	Non-contact Levels	
22	Forward Motion	
23	Vertical Motion	
24	Forward and Vertical Motion combined	
25	0 second Delay Exit & Dock	
26	1-2 second Delay Exit & Dock	
27	First Formation skydive and award of “A” licence	‘First Pin’. This graduation dive to be load organised by a PAI Freefall Coach.

OTHER SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

During Progression, and before being signed off student status, the student must also adequately demonstrate a number of other skills, specifically:

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Skill Area	Skill	Stage Requirements
Packing	Pack a main canopy (i.e. hold a packing authorisation).	Must be completed before "A" Certificate is issued.
Malfunctions	Have performed a number of successful cut-away drills in a training-harness.	To be performed at First Freefall Briefing and at any other time as in the opinion of an Instructor or Coach such cutaway drills are necessary for a particular student.
Check Out	Perform 3 correct and unaided checkouts Activate and describe the operation of an AAD	From stage 1 level 3 onwards.
Exits	Base Exit Poised Exit Dive Exit	A base exit and a poised exit may be performed after level 4 (5 second delay) has been satisfactorily completed. A dive exit may be performed after level 9 (unstable exit) has been satisfactorily performed.
Spotting	Perform 3 self-spotted exits and landings within 100m of a target	From stage 2 onwards.

COMPLETING PROGRESSION

1. A student has completed PAI Student Static Line Progression when he/she is signed off as having satisfactorily completed all the stages and levels specified in the Progression Table as well as the other specified briefings and associated skills and requirements.
2. Having completed PAI Student Static Line Progression and gained an "A" Licence, the skydiver is restricted to small Formation Groups (maximum 3-ways) until he/she has adequate experience and skills to work with larger groups.

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APPENDIX 3: STUDENT PROGRESSION TABLE – AFF

A3.1: Introduction

Accelerated Free Fall Student Progression is governed by the requirements of this PAI PBS Manual.
The pre-requisites for each level are specified on the PAI Student Progression Record Card which must be consulted along with this Progression Table.

A3.2: Commencing AFF Progression

A student may only commence AFF Progression when the student has satisfactorily completed an AFF First Jump Course and has been signed-off by the course Instructor. This course shall cover:

1. Documentation and Orientation
2. Familiarisation with Equipment
3. Aircraft Exits
4. The Stable Freefall Position
5. Aircraft Emergencies
6. Malfunctions and Reserve Drills
7. Freefall Emergencies
8. Canopy Control, Landing approach and Landing
9. Obstacles and Approach
10. Abnormal Landings
11. Parachute Landing Rolls (PLRs)
12. After Landing Procedures.
13. The use of an altimeter
14. Basic principles of body-flight.
15. Awareness in freefall.
16. The properties of an AAD

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A3.3: During Progression

1. Minimum exit altitude on an AFF jump is 9000 feet AGL.
2. Jumps must be satisfactorily completed.
3. Completion of each Progression level must be signed-off by the AFF Instructor as having been satisfactorily completed before the student is authorized to progress to the next level.
4. Between levels 2 and 7 (during stage 1 and 2) the following areas, which must initially have been satisfactorily covered on the AFF First Jump Course, must be repeated at least once:
    a. Aircraft emergencies.
    b. Freefall emergencies.
    c. Cut-away drill in a training harness.
    d. Equipment emergencies.

e. Landing emergencies.
f. Canopy control.
g. Equipment and technical information.

5. Persons engaged in the video recording of jumps undertaken by a student undergoing AFF Progression must be experienced camera fliers with an unblemished safety record.
6. Altitude awareness must be evident on all jumps at all levels.

7. AFF Student Currency

a. During AFF student Progression no more than 30 days may elapse without repeating the previous Progression jump with retraining for that jump.
b. After the seven AFF levels have been completed the AFF student must make at least six consolidation jumps from a minimum altitude of 9,000 ft. AGL. These consolidation jumps may not be more than 30 days apart.
c. If more than 30 days and less than 60 days have elapsed between any of these jumps there must be a training review.
d. If more than 60 days have elapsed since the previous consolidation jump a checkout jump must be made with an AFF Instructor.

8. AFF Equipment

a. The freefall equipment used by AFF students must be suitable for AFF and for the individual AFF student concerned. The AFF Instructor prior to each and every AFF jump must carefully inspect this equipment.
b. Student AFF equipment must be fitted with an RSL and an in-service and activated AAD connected to the reserve parachute.
c. An AFF student must wear a freefall jumpsuit, goggles and hard helmet and must wear an Altimeter.
d. Throughout all levels of AFF an AFF student must be equipped with a radio for talk-down. However, radio assistance is not a substitute for canopy control instruction and briefing

REQUIRED FREEFALL EXERCISES

Stage 1 – Freefall Relaxation and Safety

1. Stage 1 levels must be conducted under the immediate supervision and control of TWO PAI AFF Instructors.
2. Planned wave off at these jumps should be no lower than 5000 ft AGL.

Level	Description	Minimum Advancement Criteria
1	Introduction to freefall.	Satisfactory arch and stability within ten seconds prior to planned deployment altitude. Satisfactory altitude awareness. Initiate deployment procedures within 1000ft of the assigned altitude.

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2	Relaxing in the skydiving environment. Heading awareness.	Stability within ten seconds of exiting the aircraft. Maintain correct body position for stability throughout, including leg awareness and control. Initiate deployment procedures within 500ft of the assigned altitude.
3	Unassisted freefall with heading awareness.	Stable deployment without AFF Instructor contact. (Solo deployment).

Stage 2 – Freefall Skills

1. Stage 2 levels must be conducted under the supervision and control of ONE PAI AFF Instructor.
2. Planned wave off at these jumps should be no lower than 4500 ft AGL except for level 7 when wave off may be at 4000 ft AGL

Level	Description	Minimum Advancement Criteria
4	Freefall turns	360 degrees turns, demonstrating that student is in control. Stable solo deployment.
5	Forward movement	Controlled exit. Forward movement on heading. Stable solo deployment.
6	Aerobatics	Solo exit. Ability to recover from instability. Satisfactory tracking position. Stable solo deployment.
7	End of Student Stage 2	Dive exit. Back loop. Left turn. Right turn. Track. Stable solo deployment.

FOR STAGE 3 CONSOLIDATION DIVES, THE PAI AFF STUDENT SHOULD CONSIDER THE USE OF A PAI COACH FOR SOME OF THE SKILLS JUMPS/ CONSOLS – AN EXTRA EXPENSE ON THE STUDENT, BUT CERTAINLY MONEY WELL SPENT TO ENSURE STEADY AND FASTER PROGRESS!

Stage 3 - Consolidation Dives

1. An AFF student to do a minimum of six solo consolidation jumps, four from altitude (minimum 8,000 ft. AGL) and two hop ‘n pops (from 4,500 ft AGL and from 3,500 ft AGL)

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and then consols (as much as possible with a coach) in preparation for the 6 jump course.

2. The AFF student is to be briefed and debriefed by a PAI AFF Instructor before and after each of the consolidation jumps.

Level	Description	Notes
8-11	4 Altitude Jumps.	*First jump with wave off at 4000 ft *Subsequent jumps wave off at 3500 ft * Or at any higher altitude dictated by the rules of the skydiving centre
12-13	2 Hop 'n Pops	*First from 4500 ft AGL minimum *Second from 3500 ft AGL minimum * Or at any higher altitude dictated by the rules of the skydiving centre
14,15,16	3 consols with a coach, practicing level flying, tracking, approach to dock	This is in preparation for the student to undergo the 6 jump course evaluation. Any major weakness shown should be practiced with further jumps before the student proceeds to do the 6 jump course evaluation.

Stage 4 - The "Six Jump" Course

The Six Jump Course is a course common to both Static Line and AFF students, successful completion of which allows the student skydiver to jump with other skydivers. The course is designed to establish that the Skydiver has mastered basic movements that are required for jumping safely with other people.

1. During this stage the student must be briefed, de-briefed and signed-off by a PAI Coach, PAI Static Line Instructor, AFF Instructor or higher.
2. The student must 'wave-off' and track before all deployments.

Level	Skill	Notes
17	Non-contact Levels	
18	Forward Motion	
19	Vertical Motion	
20	Forward and Vertical Motion combined	
21	0 second Delay Exit & Dock	
22	1-2 second Delay Exit & Dock	
23	Licence Check Dive	To ensure the student has all the skills required for award of "A" licence
24	GRADUATION - First Formation skydive	'First Pin'. This graduation dive to be load organised by a PAI Coach, AFFI or SLI.

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OTHER SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

During Progression, and before being signed off student status, the student must also adequately demonstrate a number of other skills, specifically:

Skill Area	**Skill**	**Stage Requirements**
Packing	Pack a main canopy (i.e. hold a packing authorisation).	Must be completed before "A" Certificate is issued.
Malfunctions	Have performed a number of successful cut-away drills in a training-harness.	To be performed during the AFF First Jump Course and repeated before commencing AFF stage 2. To be again repeated during briefing for use of Throw Away Pilot 'Chute or before commencing Stage 4, whichever comes sooner.
Check Out	Perform 3 correct and unaided checkouts Activate and describe the operation of an AAD	From AFF stage 2 onwards
Exits	Base Exit Poised Exit Dive Exit	During AFF stages 2, 3 and 4.
Spotting	Perform 2 self-spotted exits and landings within 100m of a target	During AFF stages 3 and 4.

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COMPLETING PROGRESSION

1. A student has completed PAI AFF Student Progression when he/she is signed off as having satisfactorily completed all the stages and levels specified in the Progression Table as well as the other specified briefings and associated skills and requirements.
2. Having completed PAI AFF Student Progression and gained an "A" Licence, the skydiver is restricted to small Formation Groups (maximum 3-ways) until he/she has adequate experience and skills to work with larger groups.

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APPENDIX 4 - CURRENCY OF RATINGS REQUIREMENTS

A summary of the minimum criteria for the annual renewal of PAI Ratings.

RATING TYPE	JUMPING CURRENCY	ANNUAL RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS	REQUIREMENTS FOR LAPSED RATING
JUMPMASTER	25 Jumps per Annum	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Instructor Certification	*This rating is no longer offered by PAI. However, current or previous holders may renew it as necessary.*
COACH	25 Jumps per Annum (15 of which must involve coaching students/licenced skydivers)	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Instructor Certification.	Less than 2 years, undergo examination. More than 2 years, on CIs recommendation and PAI BODs discretion, may be assessed as competent or may have to re-sit entire course.
COACH EXAMINER	25 Jumps per Annum	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. PAI BOD ratification.	Less than 2 years, run 2 courses under supervision. More than 2 years, At PAI BOD discretion.
TANDEM INSTRUCTOR	Minimum of 15 tandem jumps within the previous 12 months, including one within the previous 90 days on the specific system to be used for conducting tandem jumps with students. Current "Class 2" Aviation medical	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Senior Tandem Master Certification.	After 6 months, do one recurrency jump with a passenger of PAI "C" licence or greater. After 2 years, refresher course by Tandem Master examiner and at PAI BOD discretion.
TANDEM EXAMINER	As "Tandem Instructor", plus have conducted at least one Tandem Instructor Rating Course within the past 12 months	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. PAI BOD ratification.	Maintain Tandem Rating. PAI BOD ratification.
AFF INSTRUCTOR	25 Jumps per Annum (15 of which must be AFF instructional Jumps)	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Taught at least 1complete AFF Course in previous 12 months	Less than 2 years, undergo examination by Senior AFF Instructor or Examiner and PAI BOD ratification. More than 2 years, on CIs recommendation and PAI BODs discretion, may be assessed as competent or may have to re-sit course.
AFF INSTRUCTOR EXAMINER	25 Jumps per Annum	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Conducted at least 1 AFF I course in previous 12 months	Less than 2 years, undergo examination by AFF Instructor/Examiner More than 2 years,at PAI BODs discretion
STATIC LINE INSTRUCTOR	25 Jumps per Annum Dispatched 10 Static Line students/simulated students on levels 1 and 2 and instructed 5 students/simulated students progressed onto Freefall	Maintain PAI Membership continuously. Taught at least 1 complete SL Course in previous 12 months.	Less than 2 years, undergo examination by SLI Instructor/Examiner and PAI BOD ratification. More than 2 years, on CIs recommendation and PAI BODs discretion. May be assessed as competent or may have to re-sit course

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SENIOR INSTRUCTOR	25 Jumps per Annum	Maintain PAI membership and the work of the Instructor Rating,	AT PAI BODs discretion
CHIEF INSTRUCTOR	25 Jumps per Annum	Maintain PAI membership and the work of the Instructor Rating,	AT PAI BODs discretion

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APPENDIX 5 - SPOTTING

If you are near the end of the groups/individuals to exit, and you think the aircraft has moved past a point on the ground where you can make it safely back to the landing area (downwind of the DZ) do not be afraid to ask the pilot to do a "go-around" to get you back to the correct exit spot!

Skydivers learn a skill called “spotting”.

1) It allows the Skydiver to pick out the optimal location on the ground that takes advantage of the wind-speed and direction to help the Skydiver get back to the landing zone.
2) When performed properly, it ensures that the Skydiver has a clear line of sight from the aircraft to the landing area, free from clouds.
3) When performed properly, it ensures that the Skydiver can see any other traffic around the area that the Skydiver will be falling through (Aircraft either in, or converging on, the Skydiver’s airspace)

How to spot.

Spotting is the responsibility of each and every skydiver - you must look before you jump!
In order to make it back to DZ, you must exit the plane at the right place over the ground, taking into account opening height, upper and lower wind speeds and direction, and be upwind of DZ when your canopy is fully deployed.

Stick your head out of the door, and look straight down at the ground below. Looking out at an angle is pointless.
By looking straight down, you can see the "spot" of ground below you relative to the drop zone, and by seeing that, figure out whether you are upwind and able to make it back to DZ.
Look straight down, but also use horizontal reference points. Avoid using the aircraft as a reference. On jump run, the plane is often climbing, banking, skidding, or crabbing.
Remember you are also "spotting" to make sure there are no hazards in the vicinity of your freefall - other aircraft below you, or clouds.
In order to spot successfully, you MUST know what the intended jump run of the aircraft is! This information you should get from the CI before you board the aircraft.

Get comfortable looking out. Put your head all the way out into the wind stream.
Determine the track of the aircraft. Once you can identify two points straight below the plane on jump run, you know the actual path of the aircraft across the ground. If you see that it will take you too far to the left or right, suggest a correction to your supervising instructor.

Allow enough time (distance) for your climb out and set-up to separate you from other jumpers.
Be familiar with the DZ and its surrounding terrain, and pick landmarks in its vicinity that will allow you to easily recognise the DZ from 13000 feet AGL, which will make it easier for you to identify the correct exit and opening points for that day’s particular weather conditions.

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The Instructor will simply tell you the required information when you are a student or "A" licence, but for a "B" licence you must be able to figure out how to calculate the correct exit spot for yourself.
When you're in the door before exit, spotting starts with determining exactly what's straight down and how the plane is moving across the ground - successful, reliable spotting is something that takes a lot of practice - with experience, you should be able to do it in a few seconds! Watch previous loads and where they have taken the spot, and use this as a reference for your own spotting – but bear in mind that conditions can change quickly, and previous spots cannot be depended on!

For "A" licence skydivers looking to proceed to "B" licence, they must do three successful spots from an aircraft (on three different jumps) under the supervision of an Instructor, who will sign their logbook to verify that the spots indicated were correct.

In addition, the prospective "B" licence holder will get the required information and as per example tables below, calculate both freefall drift (to determine exit spot) and calculate canopy drift (to determine opening spot) on three different occasions.
The relevant information will be gotten from the DZ CI, who will afterwards verify the Skydivers 3 different calculations and sign them into the Skydiver's log book.

EXAMPLE FREEFALL DRIFT CALCULATION

Altitude (feet)	Wind Heading (degrees)	Speed (mph)
3,000 ft	250	15 mph
6,000 ft	260	18 mph
9,000 ft	280	22 mph
12,000 ft	290	25 mph
Average	**270**	**20 mph**

To simplify the process, convert mph to mile per minute (mpm) by dividing average speed by 60.

Assuming a one minute freefall, 20 divided by 60 equals .33 miles.

Freefall drift is therefore equal to .33 miles at 270 degrees.

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EXAMPLE CANOPY DRIFT CALCULATION

Altitude (feet)	Wind Heading (Degrees)	Speed (mph)
Surface	180	12 mph
3,000 ft	200	18 mph
Average	**190**	**15 mph**

To simplify the process, convert mph to mile per minute (mpm) by dividing average speed by 60.

*Assuming a four-minute canopy flight, 15 divided by 60 is equal to .25 miles.

Canopy drift is equal to .25 miles multiplied by four minutes which is equal to one mile at 190 degrees.

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APPENDIX 6 - EXIT ORDER AND GROUP SEPARATION

A6.1 EXIT ORDER AND GROUP SEPARATION

In order to maintain safe distancing and airspace for individuals and groups of skydivers, it is necessary to despatch individuals in a particular order that allows separation between skydivers to reduce the risk of collision.

1. Slower-falling jumpers and groups are exposed to upper headwinds longer and are blown farther downwind than faster-falling jumpers and groups.

2. Slower-falling groups should exit before faster-falling groups if jump run is flown into the wind.
   On days with strong upper headwinds, allow more time between groups on the same pass to get sufficient horizontal separation over the ground.

   a. Provide at least 1,000 feet of ground separation between individuals jumping solo.
   b. Provide at least 1,500 feet of ground separation between small groups, adding more as size of the group increases.

3. Once the parachute has opened, delay flying up or down the line of flight until—

   a. Any slower-falling group that exited before has opened their parachutes and turned toward the landing area.
   b. The group exiting after has completed their freefall and opened.

4. Flying jump run across the upper winds (crosswind) helps achieve separation between groups.
   Whether flying one or more aircraft, each pass should allow enough time for jumpers on a previous pass to descend to a safe altitude before dropping jumpers from the next pass.

A6.2: EXIT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

1. Larger jump aircraft may include several different groups of skydivers performing different disciplines, some of which use more airspace than others.

   a.Formation skydivers falling in a belly-to-earth orientation.
   b.Freeflying formations falling in head-down, standing or sitting formations.
   c.Freefall students with Instructors.
   d.Tandem students and Instructors.
   e.Tracking groups
   f. Angle flying groups
   g.Wingsuit flyers.

2. Some of these groups will tend to descend straight down after exit, drifting horizontally with the effects of wind, but otherwise not moving much in the airspace.
3. These groups include formation skydivers, freeflyers, solo students and tandem students, and they gain adequate separation from one another by waiting the appropriate length of time between groups before exiting the airplane.

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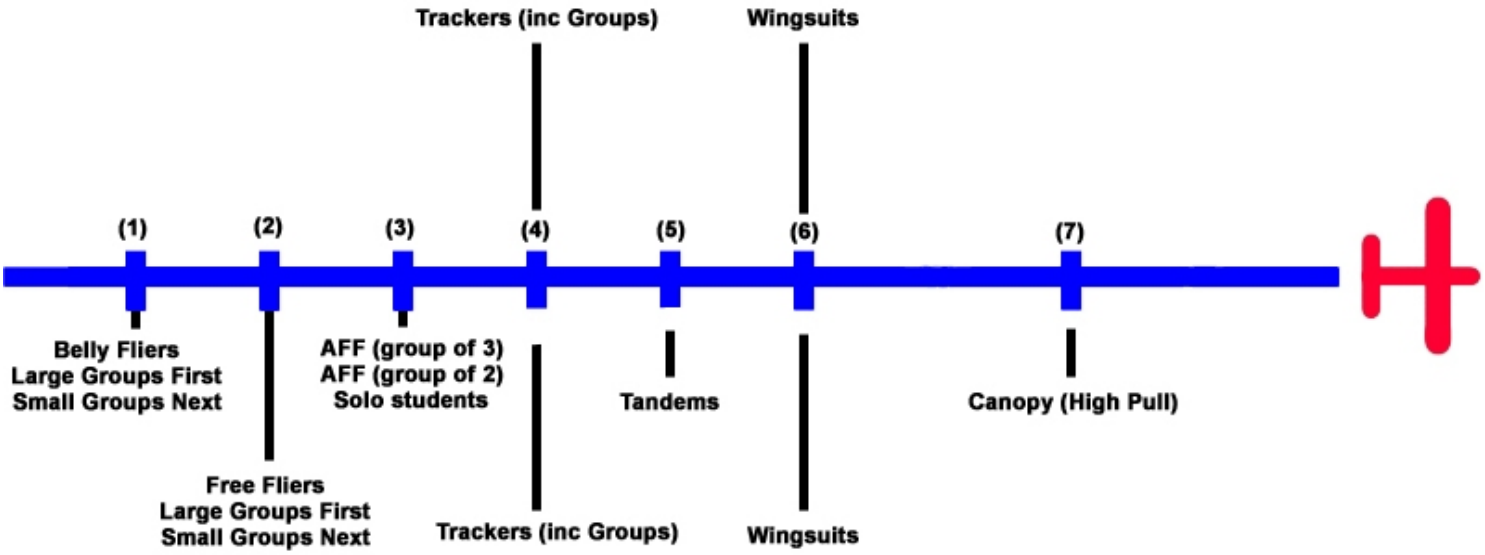
4. Tracking groups, angle flying groups, and wingsuiters will cover large horizontal distances that must be taken into account when planning a descent strategy.

   a. These groups must fly a specific flight path planned before boarding the aircraft.
   b. Exiting near last is the most common exit order for tracking groups, angle flyers and wingsuiters.
   c. Immediately after exit, the group needs to fly perpendicular to the jump run to provide lateral separation from the other groups on the aircraft.
   d. After gaining sufficient lateral distance, the group may then turn in a downwind direction, flying parallel to the other groups that exited earlier.
   e. The jumper leading this type of group must keep the group flying in the planned direction for the entire freefall distance, maintaining adequate lateral separation.
   f. The break-off point must be far enough laterally to allow for these jumpers to gain horizontal separation from each other as well as any of the groups that exited the airplane earlier.
   g. Airplane loads that include more than one group of tracking groups, angle flyers or wingsuiters will add additional complexity to the airspace requirements necessary to allow each group to open in a clear area.
   h. Depending on the situation, it may be safer to restrict each airplane load to only one group of tracking jumpers, angle flyers or wingsuiters.



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APPENDIX 7 - LOADMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES FOR “C” LICENCE

A7.1: THE LOADMASTER

1. As part of “C” licence progression training, every progression applicant must be trained, competent and tested on the responsibilities and procedures required to be a Loadmaster in charge of a load, and responsible for, the safety of its skydivers.
2. Before any “B” licence holder can be signed off for “C” licence, he must be able to show that he has undertaken the job of “Loadmaster” on at least three loads under the direct supervision of a PAI Instructor.
3. On each occasion, the applicant must demonstrate that he/she is accomplished and capable of spotting for the load, as well as the ability to satisfactorily carry out all of the other duties listed below.
4. The applicant must make sure that each of these three student Loadmaster attempts are noted in the applicant’s log book by the Instructor as being successfully completed and signed off by the instructor as such. The three attempts do not have to be consecutive in the applicant’s log book, but should be numbered and marked as “Successful” or “Unsuccessful” by the Instructor.

A7.2: DUTIES OF THE LOADMASTER

1. Receives manifest list and checks it against load members prior to boarding (list then passed to pilot).
2. Confirms with each load member that a complete gear check has been carried out on their equipment.
3. Establishes the proposed skydive activity of each load sub-group, works out the resultant exit order, and arranges (and informs) the sub-groups into the correct (but reverse) exit order on the ground (first out of the plane is last to board in loading sequence).
4. Re-iterates to the load the correct landing pattern direction, as well as both ground and upper wind speed and direction. Informs the load of the exit separation timing.
5. Supervises an orderly and safe approach to, and loading of, the aircraft.
6. Briefs pilot on load numbers, on activities of jumpers, opening heights and how many passes required and at what heights (if more than one)
7. Checks that all parachutists are seated correctly, with seatbelts fastened (if aircraft is fitted with them) and indicates to pilot that load is ready and secures the door on pilot’s command.
8. During ascent, the Loadmaster ensures that passenger movement (or any other behaviour that could compromise safety) is kept to an absolute minimum. The Loadmaster ensures that seat belts are worn until after aircraft has reached an altitude of 1000 feet AGL, after which seat belts should be removed and stowed safely, to prevent them becoming a loose hazard/snag point.
9. Before any skydivers exit the aircraft, the Loadmaster verifies that the spot is correct, that the DZ is not obscured by cloud, and that there is no other traffic in the vicinity that could compromise the safety of the members of the load.

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10. In order to supervise the safe and orderly departure of the load from the aircraft, the Loadmaster (and any skydivers that he is partaking in group skydiving with) must be the last to depart the aircraft. This may necessitate more than one pass of the aircraft to achieve.
11. In the event of an aircraft emergency, it is the Loadmaster that communicates with the pilot (where possible) and if necessary, the Loadmaster may initiate and supervise an emergency evacuation of the aircraft.

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APPENDIX 8 - THE SIX JUMP COURSE

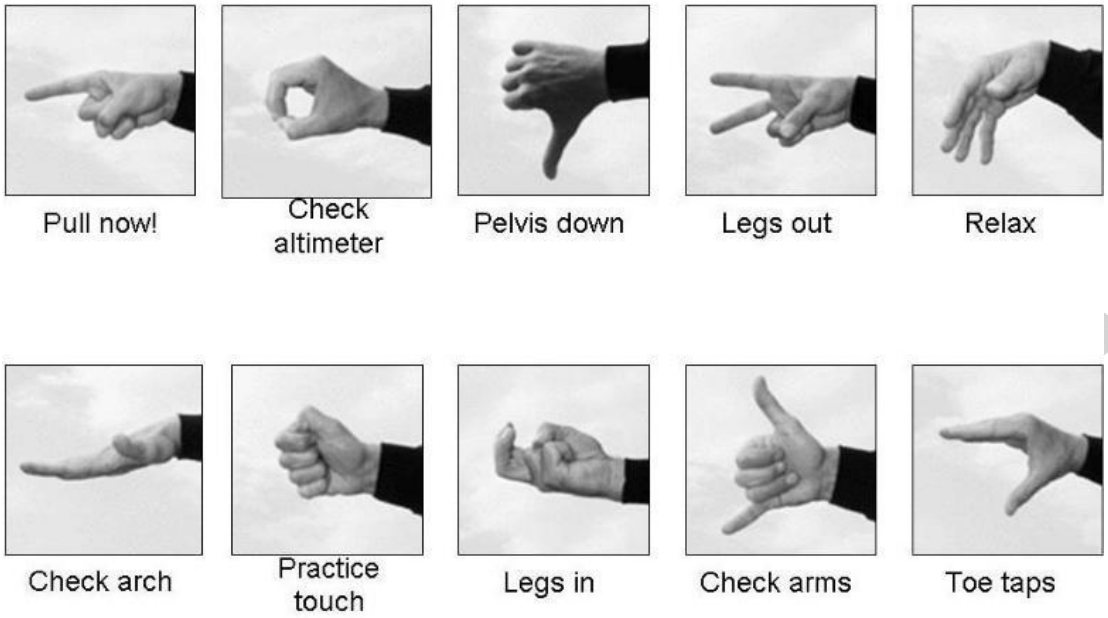
A8.1: INTRODUCTION

The Six Jump Course is an evaluation and test, designed to introduce the student skydiver to formation skydiving, as well as to test and improve their skills in jumping with others. The course serves a very important safety function, and all students are required to pass this course before being permitted to jump with others in formation skydiving or free flying. The course includes the basic flying skills such as linked exits, forward movement, fall rate (both fast and slow), staying "still", diving and docking, tracking and most importantly, altitude awareness.

The Coach will also brief the student about other important skills necessary for group skydiving such as spotting, approaching a formation, basic break-off procedures, working perpendicular (90 degrees) to the line of flight, flying with other canopies in the air, landing patterns and anything else the Coach feels would benefit the student.

While it is perfectly permissible for students who have commenced the Six Jump Course to perform consolidation jumps in between levels of the course, if the course is not successfully completed within 120 days of the first level being undertaken, the entire course must be repeated (exceptions to this may be made by the Board of the PAI, where unforeseen circumstances prevent skydiving operations).

Free Fall Hand Signals



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A8.2: COURSE OUTLINE

LEVEL 1: Assessment of student's current flying skills and ability to remain "still"
LEVEL 2: Forward Movement
LEVEL 3: Fall Rate (fast and slow)
LEVEL 4: Repeat level (practice the weakest of levels 2 and 3, or a combination of both)
LEVEL 5: 0 second delay, student dives to dock
LEVEL 6: 1-2 second delay, student dives to dock

A8.3: LEVEL 1: ASSESSMENT JUMP

The first jump of this course will be preceded with safety information

a. **Goal of this jump:** To assess the student's current abilities
To familiarise the student with skydiving with other people

b. **Dive Flow:** A linked exit, Coach as base, Student dives. When exit levels out, Coach releases student. Coach will match the student's fall rate; student will attempt to stay in front of coach. Student will check altitude every 5 seconds approximately, and at a predetermined altitude will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c. **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Attempt to turn and track
OK body position

d. **Fail automatically if:** The student pulls low

A8.4: LEVEL 2: FORWARD MOVEMENT

a) **Goal of this jump:** To make the student comfortable jumping with others
To learn how to move forward, and stop.

b) **Dive Flow:** A linked exit, Coach as base, Student dives. When exit levels out, Coach releases student. Coach will match the student's fall rate, but will back off, stop and let the student come forward. When the student has approached the Coach, the Coach will back away again and allow the student to move forward. This will be repeated until predetermined break-off altitude, when the student will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c) **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Attempt to turn and track
OK body position
Attempted forward movement in a straight line

d) **Fail automatically if:** The student pulls low

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A8.5: LEVEL 3: CHANGE OF FALL RATE

a) **Goal of this jump:** To make the student comfortable jumping with others
To learn how to change fall-rate.

b) **Dive Flow:** A linked exit, student as base, Coach dives. When exit levels out, Coach releases student. Coach will increase fall- rate, stop, and let the student come down to the Coach. When the student has leveled off with the Coach, Coach will decrease the fall-rate, stop, and allow the student to come back up to the Coach. This will be repeated until predetermined break-off altitude, when the student will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c) **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Attempt to turn and track
OK body position
Attempted to increase and decrease fall-rate.

d) **Fail automatically if:** The student pulls low

A8.6: LEVEL 4: REPEAT LEVEL

a) **Goal of this jump:** To make the student comfortable jumping with others
To learn how to change fall-rate and/or forward movement.

b) **Dive Flow:** A linked exit, student as base, Coach dives. When exit levels out, Coach releases student. Coach will increase fall- rate, stop, and let the student come down to the Coach. When the student has leveled off with the Coach, the Coach will increase/decrease the fall-rate and back off to let the student change fall-rate and/or practice forward movement. This will be repeated until a predetermined break-off altitude, when the student will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c) **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Attempt to turn and track
OK body position
Manage to change fall-rate and/or forward motion.

d) **Fail automatically if:** The student pulls low

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A8.7: LEVEL 5: 0 SECOND DELAY, DIVE TO DOCK

a) **Goal of this jump:** Altitude awareness.
Proper wave off, turn and track.
Dive to dock.

b) **Dive Flow:** Unlinked exit, with the Coach as base and gives key. The student dives on "Go". The student approaches and docks with the Coach. If time permits, this can be repeated until break off height, when the student will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c) **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Good wave off, turn and track
OK body position
Manage to dock with Coach.

d) **Fail Automatically if:** The student pulls low
Loss of altitude awareness
Student approaches in an unsafe manner

A8.8: LEVEL 6: 1-2 SECOND DELAY, DIVE TO DOCK

a) **Goal of this jump:** Altitude awareness.
Proper wave off, turn and track.
Dive to dock.

b) **Dive Flow:** Unlinked exit, with the Coach as base and gives key. The student dives 1-2 after "Go". The student approaches and docks with the Coach. At break off height, the student will wave off, turn 180 degrees and track away for 5 seconds – then wave off and pull.

c) **Requirements to Pass Level:** Altitude awareness
Good wave off, turn and track
OK body position
Manage to dock with Coach.

d) **Fail automatically if:** The student pulls low
Loss of altitude awareness
Student approaches in an unsafe manner

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APPENDIX 9 - CANOPY PILOTING SKILLS

This annex is currently being finalised and will be added to this PBSM as soon as possible.

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APPENDIX 10 - REGULATORY DOCUMENTS

EASA REGULATIONS

1 REGULATION (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council February 2008

2 AIR OPS SPO.GEN.005 Scope

3 AIR OPS SPO.GEN.100 Competent authority

4 REGULATION (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, February 2008 Article 3 (j)

5 AIR OPS ORO.DEC.100 Declaration

6 AIR OPS Article 5, paragraph (4)

7 AIR OPS NCO.GEN.100 Competent authority

8 AIR OPS GM2 Article 6.4a(c) Derogations

9 SERA.3125 Parachute descents

10 SPO.GEN.107 & NCO.GEN.105 Pilot-in-command responsibilities and authority

11 AIR OPS SPO.GEN.106 & NCO.SPEC.120 Task specialists responsibilities

Note – *Parachuting is deregulated in the Republic of Ireland, under the above-noted EASA documentation.*
The IAA oversees aircraft used in support of parachuting operations and this oversight concerns the aircraft operator and IAA.
PAI has no input into aircraft operations or their oversight.

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IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS

1 IAA Operations Advisory memorandum, Reference No: 02/15,
issue date 03/07/2015:
Title: *Information for Persons engaged in Parachute Jumping in Ireland*

2 IAA Operations Advisory Memorandum, Reference 03/15,
issue date 03/07//2015
Title: *Notice to Operators and Pilots of Aircraft flown in support of Parachute Dropping*

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APPENDIX 11 - CODE FOR PROTECTION OF MINORS & VULNERABLE ADULTS

This is a stand-alone document, available on the PAI website.

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APPENDIX 12 - PAI ANTI-DOPING CODE

A12.1: Introduction

The PAI condemns the use of performance enhancing substances in sport parachuting as both dangerous to health and contrary to the ethics of the sport. The object of this Code is to eliminate doping in Sport Parachuting in the Republic of Ireland.
This Code applies to all members of the PAI.

A12.2: Definition of 'Doping Practice'

1. The taking or use of drugs or stimulants, or participation in other doping methods prohibited by WADA, the purpose or effect of which is to enhance competitive parachute performance, or
2. refusal to provide a sample for testing when requested to do so by the PAI or any other agency recognised by the PAI, or
3. Aiding, abetting, counseling or procuring, or being knowingly involved in any activity referred to in 1 or 2 above.

A12.3: Drug Testing Authorities

1. Sports Ireland is recognised by the PAI as the agency responsible in the Republic of Ireland for the sampling and testing of parachutists for the detection of a doping practice. The PAI recognizes that Sports Ireland may select any member of the PAI to provide a sample who, in furtherance of their parachuting activities:
   a. Is selected to compete for the Republic of Ireland in an international parachuting event, or
   b. Competes in an international parachuting event in the Republic of Ireland, or
   c. Is a possible selection to compete for the Republic of Ireland in a parachuting event, or
   d. Receives Irish Government financial support either directly or through the PAI, or
   e. Has recorded a positive doping test result and is currently under suspension by the PAI.
2. The FAI is recognised by the PAI as an agency responsible for procuring samples for testing in or out of competition, whether in Ireland or overseas, for the detection of doping practices, provided acceptable testing procedures approved by the FAI or by the ISC and provided that WADA accredited laboratories are used.

A12.4: The Code

1. No member of the PAI (parachutist, coach, competition official) shall engage in doping practice.
2. A member of the PAI may be selected to provide any number of samples for drug testing in a year whether in or out of competition.

3. The PAI shall:

    a. Permit and assist Sports Ireland to attend competitions conducted by the PAI or under its auspices in order to obtain samples for testing of any doping practice;
    b. Permit and assist the Sports Ireland to obtain samples for testing from PAI members outside of competition;
    c. Notify parachutists that they are liable for selection to provide samples for testing for detection of any doping practice;
    d. Require and cause its members, coaches and officials to permit and assist the ISC to collect samples for testing;
    e. Use Sports Ireland to conduct any additional tests required by the PAI in the Republic of Ireland;
    f. Provide Sports Ireland with a copy of this Code and notify any subsequent changes.

A12.5: Disciplinary Action

1. Invitation to be heard: Prior to the determination of any sanction against a member alleged to have committed a doping practice, the PAI will invite the member to attend a PAI disciplinary hearing.
2. Disciplinary Hearing: At this hearing the degree of culpability, if any, of the member shall be determined, taking into account the nature of the doping substance taken, its affect on parachuting performance, and the reasons for its use. The disciplinary hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in the PAI PBS Manual.
3. Sanctions: Any member who is found to have committed a doping practice shall be ineligible for funding by, holding office in, or representing the PAI, or competing in parachuting events and competitions at local, national or international levels, as follows: for two years for the first offence, for life for the second offence. Provided that the PAI may at its discretion impose a lesser or no penalty for breach of this Code where the analysis of the sample or samples reveals the presence of a drug prohibited by the WADA which has been taken orally as a cough suppressant, pain killer, decongestant or antihistamine, and the PAI is satisfied that it was not taken for the purpose of enhancing parachuting performance. But the PAI shall not impose a suspension for a lesser period than that sanction imposed by the FAI on that person.
4. Notification: The PAI will notify Sports Ireland of any sanction imposed on a member of the PAI within 14 days of the decision to impose it. Where the FAI imposes any sanction on a member of the PAI, the PAI will notify Sports Ireland of the name of the member and details of and reasons for the sanction within 14 days of being notified of the sanction. The PAI will inform the FAI of any sanction involving suspension from international competition of any member of the PAI within 14 days of the decision to impose it.

APPENDIX 13 - REVISION RECORD PBS MANUAL AND APPENDICES

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Date	Page/Section Amended	Brief Description of Amendments
07/10/2026	Page 40 TI requirements	Removed the requirement for a potential TI to have completed student talkdowns. However, if a TI wishes to apply for SLI or AFFI, they must meet requirements for those ratings.

Above manual amendment made by PAI Board at virtual meeting 07/10/2026

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