

SOBOBA SOARING SITE PROTOCOLS

Preamble:

Hang gliding and paragliding are sports enjoyed by individualists who do not appreciate unnecessary regulation. Therefore, the site protocols have been deliberately limited to those necessary to protect the safety of the: pilots in the air; persons on the ground; the future and harmonious use of the facility.

Site Protocols:

- i. All pilots and passengers must have a valid USHPA membership and sign in before flying;
- ii. All pilots and passengers must wear helmets;
- iii. Pilots must have a minimum pilot rating for use of the site. The minimum unrestricted rating is P3/H3. P2/H2 pilots will be allowed unrestricted access if they are signed off by a board member or designated instructor and possess a minimum of 10 hours. A P2/H2 may fly without signoff if an advanced pilot (P4/H4) with site knowledge is supervising each flight;
- iv. All Pilots must sign the liability waiver prior to flying;
- v. Soboba Soaring Annual or One-Day Membership dues, and completion of a signed membership waiver, are required before launching;
- vi. A minor must have the written consent of his parents or guardian and their signature on the membership waiver before flying;
- vii. Pilots shall maintain a safe distance from: other pilots, observers, vehicles, structures, and other obstacles. "Swooping" or landing in the parking lot or breakdown zone, or any occupied area, may result in the loss of flight privileges;
- viii. Students (H0/P0) must immediately fly directly away from the mountain after launch and remain at least 500' from the terrain at all times, with the exception of landing. Less experienced non-student pilots (less than H3/P3) are required to stay at least 200' away from the terrain during their flight. Any pilot may have their flight privileges revoked if they demonstrate unsafe flying practices;
- ix. Pilots are required to wear a helmet whenever they are hooked into their glider, including ground handling;
- x. No Paragliding or Mini Wing instruction, including on the training hill, shall be provided by anyone other than PASA Certified USHPA Instructors with proper insurance certificates on file for the Soboba site;
- xi. Please keep pets out of the LZ and wing fold up areas at all times. The owner will be responsible for any damage the pet may cause;
- xii. No unattended children;
- xiii. If there is a fire in the mountains within 5 miles of the launch, DO NOT LAUNCH, and if you have already launched, LAND AS SOON AS SAFELY POSSIBLE;
- xiv. A white "X" on the training hill is an emergency signal to land as soon as safely possible. Watch for helicopter, fire-fighting aircraft, emergency vehicles, and other air traffic. Pilots may also elect to clear the area or find alternate an LZ.

Rules Enforcement:

The Soboba Soaring Board is to follow this procedure to maintain a fair and predetermined response to rule infractions. If an incident causes a significant and tangible effect on Soboba Soaring or to the sport of hang gliding/paragliding, the Board will respond by using the procedures described under Significant Incidents. Incidents need not be witnessed by a Board or a Club member to result in action by the Board.

1. Standard Incidents - Standard Incidents include infractions of all Site Protocols. The following procedures will be followed in case of violations of Standard Incidents.

First Infraction: Verbal Warning from a Board Member.

The Verbal Warning to the pilot shall include:

- a) A description of the rule and the Incident.
- b) A warning that the next Incident will result in a Written Warning.

Most Incidents are errors of ignorance or other unintentional acts. In any case, the pilot should be given the benefit of any doubt, and the Verbal Warning must be respectful and non-confrontational. The Verbal Warning will be discussed at the next Board meeting and recorded in the Board Minutes.

Second Infraction: Written Warning from the Board.

A Written Warning may result if a pilot repeats an Incident within 18 months after receiving a Verbal Warning. The Board shall, at a regular or special meeting, discuss the Incident. The alleged violator shall be requested to participate. After the discussion, the Board shall vote to issue a Warning from the Board to the pilot. The Written Warning, if issued, shall include:

- a) A description of the rule and the infraction.
- b) A description of the prior Warning.
- c) A warning that the next Infraction will result in a Suspension of Flight Privileges of up to two months.

Third Infraction: May result in a Flying Privilege Suspension.

A Flying Privilege Suspension may result if a pilot repeats an Incident within 18 months after receiving a Written Warning. The suspension may be up to two months in length. The Board shall, at a regular or special meeting, discuss the Incident. The alleged violator shall be requested to participate. After the discussion, the Board shall vote to suspend the pilot's flying privileges and issue a written notice providing details of the suspension, if appropriate. The notice shall include:

- a) A description for the rule and the infraction.
- b) A description of the prior warnings.
- c) The period of the flying suspension, this may be up to two months in length for this category of incident.
- d) A warning that the next infraction will be treated as a Significant Incident and may result in a lengthy Flying Privilege Suspension.

2. Significant Incidents - Significant Incidents include any infraction that causes a significant or tangible negative effect on Soboba Soaring or the sport of hang gliding. A continued pattern of Standard Incidents may also be treated as a Significant Incident (see above). For this reason, the enforcement policy is rigid and serious. A lengthy, up to and including permanent, Suspension of Flight Privileges may result from this category of Incident. The Board shall, at a regular or special meeting, discuss the Incident. The alleged violator shall be requested to participate. After the discussion, the Board shall vote to determine the appropriate sanction, if any. A written notice providing details of any sanction will be provided to the violator. The notice shall include:

- a) A description for the rule and the infraction.
- b) A description of the prior warnings (where appropriate).

c) The period of the flying suspension, this may be up to a permanent Flying Privilege Suspension for this category of incident.

A Flying Privilege Suspension of one year or more is to be considered an extreme remedy. A suspension of this type may be appealed at the subsequent Annual Meeting (either Spring or Fall, whichever occurs first). The Board may take subsequent action to commute a permanent Flying Privilege Suspension to a suspension with a fixed term.

Other Notes:

- Communication frequency: 144.925 or 123.3.
- If you are leaving a vehicle overnight in the LZ, please leave a note or let a Club Officer know to avoid unnecessary concern for your well being.