



The United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Inc.

Towing/Aerotowing Administration

Standard Operating Procedure 12-10
Last Amended October 2008

Introduction

This SOP outlines operating procedures for towing related sections of the Pilot Proficiency System (SOP 12-02).

10.01 Towing Committee

The Towing Committee meets during the Board of Directors' spring and fall meetings. The committee is comprised of the Chair (appointed by the President) and interested Directors and members of the USHPA. The committee structure is generally outlined in SOP 02-03 and Towing Committee specifically in SOP 03-14.

10.02 Towing Supervisors – Ground-Based Towing

A. General Information

1. Towing Supervisors (hang gliding or paragliding) are appointed by the Towing Committee during the spring or fall meetings. A majority vote of the committee is required. The term of Towing Supervisors is indefinite unless revoked or changed by the committee due to inactivity or performance.
2. Supervisors may only operate in the flight discipline (hang gliding or paragliding) and launch method (PL, ST) for which they are appointed.
3. Supervisors must be current Pilot or Rogallo members of USHPA.

B. Operations

1. Supervisors appoint PL and ST Administrators by sending an appointment form to USHPA Headquarters indicating the desired appointee.
2. Supervisors are to ensure the knowledge and abilities of Administrator appointees are adequate for instructing, demonstrating, and following procedures for ground-based towing.
3. Supervisors should be able to personally witness and be secure with an Administrator's towing operations and abilities.
4. Any accidents or complaints involving an appointee should be investigated and reported to the Towing Committee.
5. Supervisors may revoke any appointments they have made.
6. Supervisors may also issue the launch special skills (PL, ST) for which they are appointed.

10.03 Towing Administrators – Ground-Based Towing

A. General Information

The United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Inc.

1. Towing Administrators are appointed by Towing Supervisors in their respective disciplines (hang gliding or paragliding). Their term is indefinite unless rescinded by the appointing Supervisor due to inactivity or performance.
2. Administrators may only operate in the flight discipline (hang gliding or paragliding) and launch method (PL, ST) for which they were appointed.
3. Administrators must be current Pilot or Rogallo members of USHPA.

B. Operations

1. Ground based supervisors and administrators may sign off the PL and ST launch special skill for novice (H2/P2) and higher. However the skills required for safely towing may vary according to method, glider type, and pilot experience. The Administrator should be familiar with the pilot's level of experience when instructing this launch method. It is imperative that a pilot have sufficient flying experience and the course of learning towing techniques be thorough. Not all sites and instruction methods are equal.
2. Administrators should be familiar with the towing launch required witnessed tasks for Beginner and Novice levels and with the towing instruction curriculum.
3. Administrators are required to submit accident reports for both injury and injury potential incidents. These reports go to the USHPA office and should be noted as towing related. Failure to submit accident reports may result in revocation of the appointment.

10.04 Aerotow Supervisors – Air-to-Air Towing

A. General Information

1. AeroTow Supervisors (hang gliding) are appointed by the Towing Committee during the spring or fall meetings. A majority vote of the committee is required. The term of AeroTow Supervisors is indefinite unless revoked or changed by the committee due to inactivity or performance.
2. Supervisors must be current Pilot or Rogallo members of USHPA.

B. Operations

1. Supervisors appoint AeroTow Administrators by sending a letter or appointment form to USHPA Headquarters indicating the desired appointee.
2. Supervisors are to ensure the knowledge and abilities of Administrator appointees are adequate for instructing, demonstrating, and following procedures for air-to-air towing.
3. Supervisors should be able to personally witness and be secure with an Administrator's towing operations and abilities.
4. Any accidents or complaints involving an appointee should be investigated and reported to the Towing Committee.
5. Supervisors may revoke any appointments they have made.
6. Supervisors may also issue the AeroTow (AT) special skill and the AeroTug Pilot (ATP) appointment.
7. Supervisors may restrict an appointed Administrator to only issuing the AeroTow (AT) special skill if the applicant is inexperienced with the powered AeroTug Pilot.

10.05 Aerotow Administrators – Air-to-Air Towing

A. General Information

1. AeroTow Administrators are appointed by AeroTow Supervisors. Their term is indefinite unless rescinded by the appointing Supervisor due to inactivity or performance.
2. Administrators must be current Pilot or Rogallo members of USHPA

B. Operations

1. The skills required for safely towing may vary according to method, glider type, and pilot experience. The administrator should be familiar with the pilot's level experience when instructing. It is imperative that a pilot have sufficient flying experience and the course of learning towing techniques be thorough. Not all sites and instruction methods are equal.

C. Administrators should be familiar with aerotowing instructional curriculum and guidelines.

1. Administrators may be restricted by the appointing Supervisor to sign off the AeroTow (AT) special skill only.
2. Administrators may issue the AeroTow (AT) special skill according to SOP 12-02.10.C.
3. Administrators that possess the Aero Tug Pilot appointment may also issue the AeroTug Pilot (ATP) appointment according to SOP 12-02.10.A.
4. Administrators are required to submit accident reports for both injury and injury potential incidents. These reports go to the USHPA office and should be noted as towing related. Failure to submit accident reports may result in revocation of the appointment.

10.06 Paragliding Tow Equipment Operator (TECH)

A. General Information

1. A tow TECH is appointed by paragliding Towing Supervisors and Administrators.
2. The TECH as the operator of the tow system is responsible for operating the system in the interest of the safety of the pilot.
3. A tow TECH need not possess any pilot ratings.

B. Must give a complete discussion of paragliding tow equipment, normal and emergency procedures, and signals between operator and pilot, in accordance with USHPA paragliding towing guidelines.

C. Must pass the TECH written exam.

D. Must observe, operate under supervision, and demonstrate safe and proper operation of tow equipment.

E. It is recommended that a TECH candidate be towed either solo or dual.