

Basic Safety Requirements

Note: Each paragraph in the BSRs has a marginal notation of S, E, FB, or NW that identifies its waiverability as indicated in Section 2-2.

A. APPLICABILITY [NW]

1. These procedures apply to all jumps except those made under military orders and those made because of inflight emergencies. Voluntary compliance with these procedures will protect the best interests of both the participants and the general public.
2. A “skydive” is defined as the descent of a person to the surface from an aircraft in flight when he or she uses or intends to use a parachute during all or part of that descent.
3. All persons participating in skydiving should be familiar with the Skydiver’s Information Manual and all federal, state, and local regulations and rules pertaining to skydiving.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS [NW]

1. No skydive may be made in violation of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.
2. FAA regulations include the use of restraint systems in the aircraft by all skydivers during movement on the surface, takeoff, and landing.

C. MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS [NW]

All persons engaging in skydiving should:

1. Carry a valid Class I, II, or III Federal Aviation Administration Medical Certificate; or
2. Carry a certificate of physical fitness for skydiving from a registered physician; or
3. Have completed the USPA recommended medical statement.

D. AGE REQUIREMENTS [NW]

Civilian skydivers are to be at least:

1. The age of legal majority (to execute contracts); or
2. 16 years of age with notarized parental or guardian consent.

E. STUDENT SKYDIVERS

1. General [E]
 - a. All student training programs must be conducted under the direction and oversight of an appropriately rated USPA Instructor until the student is issued a USPA A license.
 - b. A person conducting, training, or supervising student jumps must hold a USPA instructional rating according to the requirements which follow.
2. First-jump course [E]
 - a. All first-jump non-method-specific training (except tandem) must be conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher rating holder or a USPA Coach under the supervision of a USPA AFF, Instructor-Assisted Deployment (IAD), or Static-Line Instructor.
 - b. All method-specific training must be conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher (USPA Tandem Instructor or higher for tandem) rated in the method for which the student is being trained.
3. All students must receive training in the following areas, sufficient to jump safely [E]:
 - a. equipment
 - b. aircraft and exit procedures

- c. freefall procedures (except IAD and static-line jumps)
 - d. deployment procedures and parachute emergencies
 - e. canopy flight procedures
 - f. landing procedures and emergencies
4. Advancement criteria [E]
- a. IAD and static-line
 - (1) All jumps must be conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher rating holder in that student's training method.
 - (2) Before being cleared for freefall, all students must perform three successive jumps with practice deployments while demonstrating the ability to maintain stability and control from exit to opening.
 - b. Harness-hold program [NW]
 - (1) All students must jump with two USPA AFF rating holders until demonstrating the ability to reliably deploy in the belly to-earth orientation at the correct altitude without assistance.
 - (2) All students must jump with one USPA AFF rating holder, exit safely, maintain stability, and deploy at the planned altitude without assistance prior to attempting disorienting maneuvers.
 - (3) All students must jump with at least one USPA AFF rating holder until demonstrating stability and heading control prior to and within five seconds after initiating two intentional disorienting maneuvers involving a back-to-earth presentation.

c. Tandem

- (1) All jumps must be conducted by a USPA Tandem Instructor.
- (2) For progressive training requirements following tandem jumps, refer to “Crossover training.”

5. Crossover training [E]

- a. Students may transfer after the first or subsequent jumps to another training method after demonstrating sufficient knowledge and skill in the areas of equipment, aircraft, exits, freefall maneuvers, deployment, emergency procedures, canopy control, and rules and recommendations to enter into that program at a comparable level of proficiency and training.
- b. Students previously trained in a harness-hold program must have exited stable without jumpmaster assistance or performed a stable IAD or static-line jump with a practice deployment supervised by a USPA IAD or Static-Line Jumpmaster prior to performing freefall jumps with an appropriately rated USPA Jumpmaster.

6. Students training for group freefall [S]

- a. All student freefall training for group freefall jumps must be conducted by a USPA Coach under the supervision of a USPA AFF, IAD, or Static-Line Instructor, or by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher rating holder (except USPA Tandem Instructor).

- b. All students engaging in group freefall jumps must be accompanied by a USPA Coach or higher rating holder (except USPA Tandem Instructor) until the student has obtained a USPA A license.
- 7. Instruction of foreign students [E]
 - a. Foreign non-resident jumpmasters and instructors appropriately and currently rated by their national aero club may train students from that nation in the U.S., provided the instruction is conducted in accordance with the USPA Basic Safety Requirements.
 - b. Appropriately and currently rated USPA Jumpmasters and Instructors may assist in this training.
- 8. No skydiver will simultaneously perform the duties of jumpmaster and pilot-in-command of an aircraft in flight. [NW]
- 9. All student jumps must be completed between official sunrise and sunset. [NW]

F. WINDS [S]

Maximum ground winds

1. For all solo students
 - a. 14 mph for ram-air canopies
 - b. 10 mph for round reserves
2. For licensed skydivers are unlimited

G. MINIMUM OPENING ALTITUDES [E]

Minimum container opening altitudes above the ground for skydivers are:

1. Tandem jumps—4,000 feet AGL
2. All students and A-license holders—3,000 feet AGL
3. B-license holders—2,500 feet AGL
4. C- and D-license holders—2,000 feet AGL

H. DROP ZONE REQUIREMENTS

1. Areas used for skydiving should be unobstructed, with the following minimum radial distances to the nearest hazard: [S]
 - a. solo students and A-license holders—100 meters
 - b. B- and C-license holders—50 meters
 - c. D-license holders—unlimited
2. Hazards are defined as telephone and power lines, towers, buildings, open bodies of water, highways, automobiles, and clusters of trees covering more than 3,000 square meters. [NW]
3. Manned ground-to-air communications (e.g., radios, panels, smoke, lights) are to be present on the drop zone during skydiving operations. [NW]

I. PRE-JUMP REQUIREMENTS [NW]

The appropriate altitude and surface winds are to be determined prior to conducting any skydive.

J. EXTRAORDINARY SKYDIVES

1. Night, water and demonstration jumps are to be performed only with the advice of the local USPA S&TA, Instructor Examiner or Regional Director. [NW]
2. Pre-planned breakaway jumps are to be made by only class C- and D-license holders using FAA TSO'ed equipment. [E]
3. Demonstration jumps into level 2 areas, to include stadiums, require a D license with a USPA PRO Rating[E]

K. PARACHUTE EQUIPMENT

1. Each skydiver is to be equipped with a light when performing night jumps.
[NW]
2. All students are to be equipped with the following equipment until they have obtained a USPA A license:
 - a. a rigid helmet (except tandem students) [NW]
 - b. a piggyback harness and container system that includes a single-point riser release and a reserve static line [FB]
 - c. a visually accessible altimeter [NW]
 - d. a functional automatic activation device that meets the manufacturer's recommended service schedule [FB]
 - e. a ram-air main canopy suitable for student use [FB]
 - f. a steerable reserve canopy appropriate to the student's weight [FB]
 - g. for freefall, a ripcord-activated, spring-loaded, pilot-chute-equipped main parachute (except tandem students) or a bottom-of-container (BOC) throw-out pilot chute [FB]

3. Students must receive additional ground instruction in emergency procedures and deployment-specific information before jumping any unfamiliar system. [NW]
4. For each harness-hold jump, each AFF Jumpmaster must be equipped with a visually accessible altimeter. [NW]
5. All skydivers wearing a round main or reserve canopy and all students must wear flotation gear when the intended exit, opening, or landing point is within one mile of an open body of water (an open body of water is defined as one in which a skydiver could drown). [S]

L. SPECIAL ALTITUDE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLEMENTARY OXYGEN

Supplementary oxygen available on the aircraft is mandatory on skydives made from higher than 15,000 feet (MSL). [NW]