

10.7.6 - AIR ACTIVITIES

1. PHILOSOPHY

The Branch Air Activities Advisory Panel has responsibility to develop appropriate ACTIVITY Guidelines for the safe conduct of Scouting activities in the environment of flight.

In practical terms this has been interpreted as the provision of programs and easily accessible resources and training courses for both youth members and Leaders.

2. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- (a) to provide for the safe conduct of Scouting activities by youth members and Leaders of the ACT Branch;
- (b) to encourage youth members and Leaders to participate in a range of air activities;
- (c) to facilitate training of youth members and Leaders in activities which have an intrinsic risk of danger to life.

3. ACTIVITY AREAS

3.1 POWER FLYING

Leader Qualifications

The Leader in charge of the youth party shall be an accredited leader and shall be responsible for ensuring standards of safe conduct are met.

Safety Procedures

1. The Leader shall obtain and hold a signed consent form giving permission for flying, from every parent or guardian, for each participant under 18 years of age who wish to fly.
2. Where the flights are to be paid for by the participants, or where the pilot is paid, or both, the Leader shall ensure that:
 - (i) the pilot is a holder of a current commercial or higher category Pilot Licence.
 - (ii) The flight is carried out as a charter flight under the Civil Aviation Authority Air operations Certificate, following the procedures laid down in the Operators Company Operations Manual, and
 - (iii) The aircraft to be used is in the charter category and the holder of the Operators Certificate is approved to use that type of aircraft.

3. When an offer is made by a private-licensed pilot or aircraft owner, where a member of the movement approaches a pilot or owner to fly members of the movement, the Leader shall ensure the following are observed:
 - (a) that the pilot holds a current private or higher category licence endorsed for the aircraft type to be used;
 - (b) that the aircraft owner has adequate insurance coverage for each of the passengers;
 - (c) that the pilot is sufficiently experienced to fly members of the movement . (As a guide the pilot should have a minimum credit of 150 to 200 flying hours.)
 - (d) that the flight is conducted as a private category flight as defined by the Civil Aviation Regulations and orders;
 - (e) that the pilot has made one flight in the aircraft to be used in the thirty days preceding the flight with members.

3.2 GLIDING

Leader Qualifications

The Leader in charge of youth parties shall be an accredited Leader and shall ensure that the glider pilot making the flight is authorised to perform the functions of that particular flight in accordance with the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) Manual of Standard Procedures and the GFA Gliding Regulations.

Safety Procedures

1. The Leader shall gain and hold signed consent forms giving permission for glider flying from a parent or guardian for each participant under the age of 18 years, who wishes to fly;
2. The gliding activity can only be undertaken through a Gliding Club or the NSW Air Activities program at Camden NSW, or a person being a member of the Gliding Federation of Australia;
3. The Leader shall ensure that the glider pilot conducting the flight is a gliding instructor or is authorised to conduct trial instructional flights or air experience flights;
4. The Leader shall ensure that gliding operations are conducted in accordance with gliding regulations and the Gliding Federation Manual of Standard Procedures;
5. The Glider/Sail plane to be used shall be a charter category when joy flights are conducted by charter passenger pilots operating under Civil Aviation Authority Air Operations Certificate;

6. Where the flight is a trial instructional flight, Gliding Federation form 5A,B,C shall be completed and presented to the pilot.

3.3 Other Air Activities

Similar to Sea Scout Groups, Air Scout Groups and other Groups are encouraged to build activities like model plane construction and flying, weather, protocols and practices at airports etc, into their normal scout programs.

Participation in other Air Activities such as Hang Gliding, Parascending, Parachute Jumping; Ballooning etc are subject to discussion and approval of the ACT Commissioner for Adventurous Activities. The decision will be subject to advice from the Air Activities Advisory Panel and availability of appropriate insurance cover.

4. Ratio of Leaders to Participants

There should be a minimum of two adult Leaders with the party so that if one is flying, one is available to ensure:-

1. That all participants observe safety measures while waiting at the airport or airfield;
2. That at no time are youth members left without adult supervision while awaiting flights;
3. That Scouting personnel are kept off runways and taxiways at the airfield unless under instruction from officials;
4. That Scouting personnel keep clear of and do not handle aeroplanes, gliders, sail planes, 'tow' or retrieval vehicles, cables or ropes unless instructed to do so by officials;
5. Participants in this activity can be Rovers, Venturers, Scouts, Cub Scouts and Joey Scouts.

AUTHORITY

This policy was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 10 December 2003.