



Sydney Paragliding and Hang Gliding Club

Code of Conduct

The Sydney Paragliding and Hang Gliding Club (SPHGC) is an affiliate member of the Sports Aviation Federation of Australia (SAFA) and as such the SPHGC adopts the SAFA Code of Conduct and the SAFA Code of Conduct for Instructors. SAFA Code of Conduct can be found at;

<https://members.SAFA.asn.au/SAFA-login.php>

After logging in as a member, go to Forums/Docs/Other and select Documents. The Code of Conduct can be downloaded from the Membership Documents section.

The SAFA Code of Conduct for Instructors is detailed in Section 9.2 of the SAFA Management and Policies Manual.

After logging in as a member, go to Forums/Docs/Other and select Documents/Policies and Safety Management. The Management and Policies Manual can be found there.

It is also a requirement of SPHGC membership and use of Club administered flying sites that you agree to observe & abide by the following values:

1. Respect for the all Northern Beaches flying sites. Our flying sites and surrounds are a precious resource for our sport & our club. Our custodianship of it and ongoing access is never guaranteed and is under regular scrutiny by the Northern Beaches Council. Please ensure that you access & use it in a manner that enhances our likelihood of keeping OUR resource open. This includes familiarity with site guides/rules – this is your responsibility. The site guides are detailed on our website. If in doubt it is a requirement that you ask a representative of the club for clarity. Launching/flying/landing only from or within specifically designated areas, in appropriate conditions following approved site procedures.

It is a requirement of our “consent to use our flying sites” that:

- All pilots recognise that our sites are shared use areas with the general public and your behaviour reflects on the Club and Sport.
- All pilots be aware and adhere to the “No Fly Zones” of each site and SAFA requirement for separation from buildings and people.



- All Pilots should ensure that they are aware of any airspace restrictions within the scope of their intended flight. The Club does not condone any episode of airspace breach and will not protect any pilot from investigation by the SAFA or CASA should this occur.
 - All pilots should be aware of the classification of flying sites on the Northern Beaches and must not fly at sites which are beyond their pilot certification. Sites which are not classified are for PG5/Advanced pilots only. This is an SAFA requirement/privilege as per the Operations Manual. Failure to observe this requirement may impact the reputation of the SPHGC with the Northern Beaches Council and put at jeopardy our use of all flying sites.
2. Respect for other stakeholders. Please respect the rights and differing expectations of other site stakeholders – these include residents, landowners, and members of the public and other site users. Flying is not a right – it’s a privilege and our ability to participate requires quality relationships with other stakeholders whose interest may not necessarily be aligned to ours.
 3. Respect for our sport. Know the rules, know your limitations, participate within them and make safety your primary consideration. Every time you fly the site you are representing your sport & your club. Please help portray an image we can all be proud of. Consider the safety of locals and other visitors. This particularly applies to where large numbers of the public can be found near launch and landing zones i.e beach areas. Pilots are also asked to keep their language in check at all times.
 4. Respect for your club and your fellow members. In a sport like ours we may not always agree but we can control the manner of our disagreement. Please be considerate towards others. Animosity between any Member of the Club or Public will not be tolerated by the Club in any instance. This applies to either verbal or electronic formats such as Email, Social Media postings or any other such carriage service. Should it be felt that an issue warrants investigation on Pilot Behaviour or Safety grounds, the member should direct their concerns in writing to the Club Committee of Management.

It is a Common Courtesy to fellow Pilots that the following is considered at all times:-

- That all setting up of Hang Gliders or Paragliders is done outside of Launch areas to maximize the efficient use of this space and to prevent any likelihood of damage occurring to equipment or persons due to a launch issue.
- Ground handling of Paragliders is to be immediately ceased when other Pilots show a genuine intention of launching or landing. If in doubt pull your wing down.
- If, whilst you are flying, you can see that other pilots are set up to launch but appear to be waiting; there is a good chance that they are waiting for space to fly. Even though you may feel that there is room for another aircraft, you



should remember that we are a community which includes low airtime or tandem operations and that we all deserve the opportunity to fly. Share the air by having several short flights rather than one or two longer ones.

- All Landing Zones are to be vacated as soon as practicable to allow safe flight operation.
 - Avoid flying in front of pilots who are top landing- your wake can cause problems.
 - Avoid carrying out flying manoeuvres which create large wake turbulence upwind of other pilots flying or launching.
 - Commercial Tandem Operators add a colourful and interesting introduction to our sport for members of the public. Please allow these operations to blend into your flying at the site. Commercial Operators have no greater right to use the sites than other pilots and should respect the need to share the air.
 - When a club duty officer is controlling operations (generally at a busy site) all pilots must report to the Duty Officer before launching and obey their instructions at all times. Please respect that they are volunteers and that the club will not tolerate failure to adhere to their directions whether or not you agree with them.
5. Respect for all branches of the Emergency Services and to immediately follow any directives given by a member of such services. We all need the unconditional support of Emergency Services and if they request we land, pack-up, and/or move away from launch/flying/landing sites, we should follow their directives immediately and with courtesy.
 6. Respect for our environment. Please don't litter whether biodegradable or not. This means anywhere in or around our sites including car parks. Whilst we can't always control other site users in this regard, we can lead by example by leaving the site clear of rubbish at the end of a flying day.
 7. Every pilot, not just Duty Pilots, Safety Officers or Committee Members, is permitted to ask another pilot for proof of SAFA membership and also for their PG/HG certification. Pilots administering this self-regulation aspect of our sport have the support of the club to politely handle such matters.
 8. Media Involvement. Should any incident occur where the Media seeks comment or information, all pilots are requested to refrain from making detailed comments on any such incident/ accident which has occurred. Instead the member is to direct any enquiry to the SAFA Operations Manager by phone on 0417 644 633 or email ops@HGFA.asn.au. In the absence of this contact information, direct the enquiry to the Club President or Senior Safety Officer. This is to prevent the fuelling of speculation, inaccuracies or a negative portrayal of the Club/Sport; and prevent the names of the persons involved being released prior to informing of Family/Partners etc.



Please be active in upholding these values with other club members and visiting pilots. The future of our site and our sport depends on these efforts and having a consolidated club voice.

Failure to abide by the above 'Code of Conduct' above could result in suspension of flying privileges or escalation to the SAFA as deemed necessary at the time by the Committee.

Safe and Enjoyable Flying.

SPHGC Committee of Management

** Our Thanks to the Newcastle Paragliding Club for the use of their Code of Conduct template