



## Normal Operating Procedure (inc. Risk Assessment) Flying Fox

### Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through PGL's risk assessment process:

- a. Extreme weather.
- b. Injury from participation/physical exertion.
- c. Fatigue/exhaustion/dehydration.
- d. Injury due to incorrect set-up and operation.
- e. Injury from falling objects.
- f. Collision/entanglement with elements/structures/equipment/people.
- g. Entrapment of hair, fingers, loose clothing, etc. in element or operating structure.
- h. Splinter injury from pole/fences.
- i. Injury from cables and cable clamps.
- j. Tear/de-gloving injuries from rings and other jewellery.
- k. Danger of ground fall from:
  - i. Intentional misuse of equipment and systems.
  - ii. Incorrect attachment.
  - iii. Poor fitting of harnesses.
  - iv. Equipment failure.
- l. Rope burn injury.
- m. Slips/trips/low to ground falls.
- n. Rapid deceleration on wire.

Implementation of the following operating procedures reduces the residual risk to a level as low as reasonably practicable given the intended purpose of the activity.

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### Control Measures

#### Deployment Requirements

Instructor Qualifications: Assessed by an approved PGL Assessor.

Instructor – Participant ratio: 1:15 2:30

Total group size: 15

Active participation: 2, 4



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## **1. Equipment Requirements**

### **Per Zip Line:**

- 3 x Dynamic safety rope (instructor platform cows tail)
- 24 x HMS karabiner
- 8 x Petzl TRAC Zip Wire trolley
- 8 x Dynamic rope
- 8 x Petzl connect adjustable lanyard

### **Landing area:**

- 1 x Rake
- 1 x Retrieval rope (on bases where necessary)

## **2. Guest & Instructor equipment requirements**

### **Per Instructor:**

- 1 x Sit harness

If performing demo:

- 1 x Chest harness
- 1 x Combi sling

### **Per Guest:**

- 1 x Sit harness
- 1 x Chest harness
- 1 x Combi sling
- 1 x HMS karabiner

## **3. Specific Clothing Requirements**

- Trousers or long shorts
- Flat soled shoes or boots unable to slip off
- Long hair tied back
- Jewellery removed where possible, or made safe.
- Where a chest harness is worn, a top or t-shirt must be worn that covers the individual's shoulders
- Loose items removed from pockets
- Any items constituting a risk of entanglement removed

## **4. Session Preparation**

- a. Instructor to carry out a routine visual inspection of the element and activity area, checking the integrity of the whole element (to include poles, ladders, high lap splices, anchor points and guys, etc., as per daily rope inspection checks ACOP.
- b. Check for fallen branches or unsafe trees.
- c. Off ground activities must not be operated in wind conditions above Force 5, (17-21 knots/19-24 mph/29-38 kmh) or during any storm that breaches the 30/30 rule in respect of lightening.



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- d. If the instructor has any concerns about the integrity and safe use of the element and activity area, then they should raise this with the appropriate senior staff member, prior to any activity taking place.
- e. On all days when the activity takes place, a record of the first routine inspection of the day should be logged for future reference.
- f. All set-ups must be rigged in accordance with PGL/MIC Technical Advisor approved methods/policy.
- g. Instructors should prepare themselves for the session ahead by ensuring they are aware of relevant group information, and have a broad session plan which can be finalised when meeting the group.
- h. Gates, chain and signs must be in place to prevent other persons from accidentally entering the zip runway areas.
- i. Instructor to visually and physically check the runways and landing area for any debris or obstructions.
- j. Landing area must have sufficient and even distribution of shingle to slow guests appropriately.

### **5. Session Instruction**

- a. Guests must receive a session intro and safety briefing with demonstration of how to land as per the ACOP.
- b. Ensure that guests understand how the landing will take place, including a demonstration from the instructors showing how feet should be kept down to bring a complete stop prior to the end of the zip wire.
- c. Where necessary all accompanying adults are shown how to retrieve a guest who has returned to the sag span on the wire.
- d. All staff operating in the attachment and dispatch area of the dispatch platform must be safeguarded by attachment to a safety system.
- e. Guests are held in the waiting area of the platform, they must not proceed to the attachment area, until requested by the dispatch instructor.
- f. The instructor must attach the guests zip trolley to the cable in the attachment area only.
- g. All guests must be reminded of the process and safety techniques for landing before being dispatched, including not inverting.
- h. Participants must be suitably physically and cognitively able to stop themselves, if the instructor deems them to be unable to do this they must not be allowed to participate for their own safety.
- i. There must be an effective communication and recognised signal between the launching instructor and accompanying adult to ensure the zip is 'all clear' before the guests are launched.
- j. The platform instructor must perform a final departure check of the safety chain for each guest before they dispatch them from the platform. Guests or instructor must show a physical 'squeeze' check of karabiners. See off ground FDCs ACOP for details.
- k. Only when the dispatch instructor is satisfied that an 'all clear' and all final departure checks have been carried out and the guests have been reminded of the landing procedure can they remove the chain gates or cows tail safety to allow guest to step into the dispatch area.
- l. Once in the dispatch area guests can dispatch themselves.
- m. The gate to the dispatch area must be securely closed before the next guest is called through the holding gate.
- n. Only participants of 120kg or less are allowed on the zip wire.



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- o. No one is to invert during their descent.
- p. Guests must put their feet down to slow themselves in the landing area.
- q. Guests are to be instructed to remove their own trolley and safety after landing and accompanying adults to assist only where guests may struggle.
- r. Guest should leave the landing area as soon as they are detached from the zip cable and have been given the all clear from the landing instructor to do so.
- s. Guests should give the 'all clears' when they can, but the accompanying adult, may remain in the landing area, to assist with this.
- t. 'All clears' are called only when the area and runway is clear of all people and obstructions.
- u. Guests should return to the dispatch platform, by the designated path only.
- v. When self-launching, **FDCs** should be carried out as normal procedures including clear communication to the accompanying adult.
- w. Instructors can self-launch if it adds value to the session and guest experience.
- x. When returning from the landing zone to the dispatch platform, guests must carry the ropes and zip trolley and safety over their shoulder to prevent tripping over.

### 6. Rescues

#### Unconscious:

- a. To rescue an unconscious guest, requires a physical lift of them to release them from the zip wire, this requires a minimum of 5 people. Therefore, in the first instance call for help.
- b. The rescue is detailed in the ACOP.

#### Retrieval Rescue:

- a. To rescue a guest that has failed to land and returned to the sag point of the wire a retrieval rope should be attached to the wire by the accompanying adult and guest retrieved.
  - b. The rescue is detailed in the ACOP.
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