AERO CLUB OF INDIA (NAC-India)
Established: 1927
(Member: Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, Switzerland-NAC-India)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

FOR MICROLIGHT & POWERED HANG GLIDING (WEIGHT-SHIFT TRIKES)
FAI-ALIGNED | NASG-ALIGNED | DGCA-INTERFACED

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1. Purpose and Regulatory Context

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the regulatory, safety, and operational framework for Microlight and Powered Hang Gliding (PHG) operations in India. It is issued by the Aero Club of India (ACI), the National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India), in alignment with the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) Sporting Code, National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG), and applicable Indian aviation statutes.

2. Statutory Authority

This SOP derives authority from:

- Article 246 read with Seventh Schedule, Union List Entry 29 of the Constitution of India
- Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024
- National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG)
- ACI designation as National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India)
- FAI Sporting Code – Microlight / PHG disciplines

3. Scope of Application

This SOP applies to Microlight and Powered Hang Gliding activities conducted within India, including:

- Recreational operations
- Training and instruction
- Sporting and demonstration flights
- National and international events
- Operations involving Indian and foreign pilots
- Demonstration and Promotional activities

4. Definitions and Classification

Microlight / Powered Hang Gliding (PHG) refers to weight-shift controlled aircraft powered by an engine, typically consisting of a trike unit suspended under a delta wing.

Operations are classified as:

- Recreational
- Training
- Event / Competition
- Demonstration / Promotional

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Aero Club of India (ACI – NAC-India):

- Apex authority for governance, licensing, and event sanction
- Issuance of FAI Sporting Licences
- Oversight of safety and compliance

Operators / Clubs / Training Units:

- Compliance with this SOP and DGCA interface requirements
- Maintenance of aircraft and operational records

Pilots:

- Valid licence, medical fitness, and currency

State Governments / District Administration:

- Local facilitation and coordination only

DGCA:

- Airspace and flight safety interface

6. Eligibility and Licensing Requirements

- Minimum age as prescribed by ACI
- Valid medical fitness as applicable
- Completion of ACI-recognised Microlight / PHG training
- Valid FAI Sporting Licence issued through ACI
- Compliance with DGCA requirements where applicable

7. Aircraft and Equipment Standards

- Aircraft compliant with manufacturer specifications and FAI technical norms
- Engine, wing, and control systems maintained as per approved schedules
- Mandatory safety equipment including helmet and emergency gear
- Aircraft logbooks and maintenance records

8. Infrastructure and Operating Sites

- Approved airstrips or designated operating areas
- Adequate runway length or launch area for weight-shift aircraft
- Obstacle clearance and safety buffers
- Emergency services access
- Coordination with local authorities where required

9. Operational Procedures

- Pre-flight inspection and weather assessment
- Standard operating speeds and weight limitations
- Controlled take-off, flight, and landing procedures
- Post-flight inspections and record keeping

10. Safety Management and Incident Reporting

- Risk assessment prior to operations
- Emergency response and contingency planning
- Mandatory reporting of accidents and incidents to ACI
- Cooperation with safety investigations

11. Event Authorisation

All Microlight and Powered Hang Gliding events shall require prior authorisation from ACI (NAC-India). International participation shall follow FAI and ACI protocols.

12. Compliance and Enforcement

Failure to comply with this SOP may result in suspension or withdrawal of authorisations, licences, or permissions. Serious breaches may be escalated to competent authorities as required.

13. Review and Amendments

This SOP shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with international standards, national policy, and evolving safety requirements.