STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

FOR PARAMOTORING / POWERED PARAGLIDING (PPG)
FAI-ALIGNED | NASG-ALIGNED | DGCA-INTERFACED

1. Purpose and Regulatory Context

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the regulatory, safety, and operational framework for conduct of Paramotoring / Powered Paragliding (PPG) activities in India. The SOP 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 provisions of Indian aviation law.

2. Statutory Authority

This SOP is issued under the authority of:

• Article 246 read with Seventh Schedule, Union List Entry 29 of the Constitution of India

• Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024

• National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG)

• Designation of ACI as National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India)

• FAI Sporting Code – Paramotoring / PPG Discipline

3. Scope of Application

This SOP applies to all Paramotoring / Powered Paragliding activities conducted within Indian territory, including:

• Recreational flying

• Training and instruction

• Commercial operations

• National and international sporting events

• Participation by Indian and foreign pilots

• Demonstration and Promotions activities

4. Definitions and Classification

Paramotoring / Powered Paragliding (PPG) refers to foot-launched powered free-flight operations using a paraglider wing and an engine-driven propeller system.

Operations are classified as:

• Recreational

• Training

• Event / Competition

• Demonstration / Promotional

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Aero Club of India (ACI – NAC-India):

• Apex authority for authorisation, licensing, and governance of air sports

• Issuance of FAI Sporting Licences

• Event sanction and safety oversight

Operators / Schools / Clubs:

• Compliance with this SOP

• Maintenance of safety and training standards

Pilots / Athletes:

• Compliance with licensing, currency, and safety requirements

State Governments / District Administration:

• Facilitation and local coordination only

DGCA:

• Airspace safety interface where applicable

6. Eligibility Requirements

• Minimum age as prescribed by ACI

• Valid medical fitness declaration

• Completion of ACI-recognised training

• Valid FAI Sporting Licence issued through ACI

7. Equipment Standards

• Paraglider wing certified to EN or LTF standards

• Paramotor unit compliant with manufacturer specifications

• Mandatory reserve parachute

• Helmet, protective gear, and emergency equipment

• Equipment logbook and serviceability status

8. Infrastructure and Site Requirements

• Suitable take-off and landing areas

• Clear obstacle environment

• Defined safety buffers

• Emergency access and response capability

• Compliance with local administrative permissions

9. Operational Procedures

• Pre-flight checks and weather assessment

• Controlled launch and recovery procedures

• Adherence to approved flying areas

• Post-flight inspection and logging

10. Safety Management and Incident Reporting

• Mandatory risk assessment prior to operations

• Emergency response preparedness

• Reporting of accidents and incidents to ACI

• Cooperation with safety investigations

11. Event Authorisation

All Paramotoring / PPG events, demonstrations, and competitions shall require prior authorisation from ACI (NAC-India). International participation shall be governed by FAI and ACI protocols.

12. Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance with this SOP may result in suspension or withdrawal of authorisation, licences, or event permissions. Serious violations may be escalated to competent authorities as applicable.

13. Review and Amendments

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