STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

FOR SKYDIVING & PARACHUTING
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 Skydiving and Parachuting activities in India. This 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, the 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 – Skydiving / Parachuting (ISC)

3. Scope of Application

This SOP applies to all Skydiving and Parachuting activities conducted within Indian territory, including:

• Recreational skydiving

• Training and instruction

• Tandem jumps

• National and international competitions

• Demonstration , display and promotional jumps

• Participation by Indian and foreign jumpers

4. Definitions and Classification

Skydiving / Parachuting refers to intentional exit from an aircraft using a parachute system for descent and landing.

Operations are classified as:
• Student / Training jumps
• Licensed solo jumps
• Tandem jumps
• Event / Competition jumps
• Demonstration jumps

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Aero Club of India (ACI – NAC-India):
• Apex authority for governance, licensing, and discipline oversight
• Issuance of FAI Sporting Licences
• Event sanction and safety oversight

Operators / Drop Zones / Training Organisations:
• Compliance with this SOP and approved operating procedures
• Aircraft coordination and safety management

Jumpers / Athletes:
• Valid licence, medical fitness, and currency

State Governments / District Administration:
• Facilitation and local coordination only

DGCA:
• Aircraft, airspace, and flight safety interface

6. Eligibility and Licensing Requirements

• Minimum age as prescribed by ACI
• Valid medical fitness declaration
• Completion of ACI-recognised skydiving training
• Valid FAI Sporting Licence issued through ACI
• Currency and recency compliance

7. Equipment Standards

• Main and reserve parachutes compliant with FAI and manufacturer standards
• Automatic Activation Device (AAD) mandatory where prescribed
• Harness-container system and altimeters
• Reserve parachute repack cycles as approved
• Equipment inspection and packing records

8. Infrastructure and Drop Zone Requirements

• Approved drop zones with defined landing areas
• Clear obstacle-free landing environment
• Emergency medical and rescue arrangements
• Aircraft suitability and coordination
• NOTAMs and airspace coordination where applicable

9. Operational Procedures

• Aircraft loading and exit procedures
• Separation and deployment altitudes
• Canopy flight and landing patterns
• Post-jump debriefing and logging

10. Safety Management and Incident Reporting

• Mandatory risk assessment prior to operations
• Emergency response planning
• Immediate reporting of accidents and incidents to ACI
• Cooperation with safety investigations

11. Event and Demonstration Authorisation

All skydiving events, competitions, tandem operations, and demonstration jumps shall require prior authorisation from ACI (NAC-India). International participation shall comply with FAI and ACI protocols.

12. Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance with this SOP may result in suspension or withdrawal of licences, authorisations, 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.