



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

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)**

*FOR SPORTS AEROBATICS*  
*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 Sports Aerobatics 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, 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 Adhinyam, 2024
- National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG)
- Designation of ACI as National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India)
- FAI Sporting Code – Aerobatics (CIVA)

### **3. Scope of Application**

This SOP applies to all Sports Aerobatics activities conducted within Indian territory, including:

- Aerobatic training
- Practice flights
- National and international competitions
- Aerobatic displays and demonstrations
- Participation by Indian and foreign pilots
- Demonstration and Promotional Activities

## 4. Definitions and Classification

Sports Aerobatics refers to controlled flight manoeuvres involving intentional deviations from normal flight attitudes, performed in accordance with approved aerobatic sequences.

Operations are classified as:

- Training
- Practice
- Competition
- Display / Demonstration

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Aero Club of India (ACI – NAC-India):

- Apex authority for governance, licensing, and sporting oversight
- Issuance of FAI Sporting Licences
- Event sanction and safety oversight

Aerobatic Operators / Clubs:

- Compliance with this SOP and approved operating procedures
- Maintenance of aircraft and safety systems

Pilots:

- Valid licence, medical fitness, and aerobatic currency

State Governments / Event Organisers:

- Facilitation and local coordination only

DGCA:

- Aircraft certification, airspace approval, and flight safety interface

## 6. Eligibility and Licensing Requirements

- Minimum age as prescribed by ACI
- Valid medical fitness declaration
- Completion of ACI-recognised aerobatic training
- Valid FAI Sporting Licence issued through ACI
- Compliance with aerobatic currency and recency requirements

## **7. Aircraft and Equipment Standards**

- Aircraft certified and approved for aerobatic flight
- Compliance with structural load limits and operating envelopes
- Parachute mandatory for pilots where prescribed
- Aircraft maintenance and inspection records
- Safety and emergency equipment

## **8. Infrastructure and Aerobatic Box Requirements**

- Approved aerobatic box with defined lateral and vertical limits
- Adequate ground safety buffers
- Airspace clearance and NOTAMs where applicable
- Emergency response and fire services
- Coordination with aerodrome authorities

## **9. Operational Procedures**

- Pre-flight briefings and weather assessment
- Approved aerobatic sequences and safety altitudes
- Separation and traffic coordination
- Post-flight debriefing and logging

## **10. Safety Management and Incident Reporting**

- Risk assessment prior to operations
- Emergency and bailout procedures
- Mandatory reporting of accidents and incidents to ACI
- Cooperation with safety investigations

## **11. Event and Display Authorisation**

All aerobatic competitions, displays, and demonstrations 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.