



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

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

FOR ULTRALIGHT & LIGHT SPORT AIRCRAFT (SPORTING & RECREATIONAL USE)
FAI-ALIGNED | NASG-ALIGNED | DGCA-INTERFACED

1. Purpose and Regulatory Context

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the regulatory, safety, and operational framework for Ultralight and Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) activities undertaken as sporting and recreational aviation 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 Adhinyam, 2024
- National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG)
- Designation of ACI as National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India)
- FAI Sporting Code – Ultralight / Light Aviation disciplines

3. Scope of Application

This SOP applies to Ultralight and Light Sport Aircraft operations conducted as sporting or recreational activities within Indian territory, including:

- Recreational flying
- Sport flying and proficiency flying
- Training under ACI-recognised clubs
- National and international sporting events
- Participation by Indian and foreign pilots
- Demonstration and Promotional activities

This SOP does not apply to scheduled commercial air transport or certified FTO operations.

4. Definitions and Classification

Ultralight and Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) refer to small, low-mass fixed-wing aircraft operated primarily for sport and recreation, within performance and weight limits as prescribed by FAI and national authorities.

Operations are classified as:

- Recreational
- Training (Sporting / Club-based)
- Competition / Rally
- Demonstration / Fly-past

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Aero Club of India (ACI – NAC-India):

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

Ultralight / LSA Clubs & Operators:

- Compliance with this SOP and approved operating procedures
- Aircraft maintenance and safety management

Pilots:

- Valid licence, medical fitness, and currency

State Governments / Aerodrome Operators:

- Infrastructure support and facilitation

DGCA:

- Aircraft certification, airworthiness, and airspace interface

6. Eligibility and Licensing Requirements

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

7. Aircraft and Equipment Standards

- Aircraft compliant with FAI technical standards and manufacturer specifications
- Valid Certificate of Airworthiness or Permit to Fly, as applicable
- Maintenance as per approved schedules

- Mandatory safety equipment and emergency gear
- Aircraft and maintenance logbooks

8. Infrastructure and Operating Environment

- Approved aerodromes, airstrips, or designated flying sites
- Suitable runway length and surface
- Obstacle clearance and safety buffers
- Emergency services and recovery arrangements
- Airspace coordination and NOTAMs where applicable

9. Operational Procedures

- Pre-flight planning and weather assessment
- Weight, balance, and performance calculations
- Standard take-off, en-route, and landing procedures
- Post-flight inspections and logging

10. Safety Management and Incident Reporting

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

11. Event and Rally Authorisation

All ultralight and light sport aircraft rallies, competitions, 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.