



**AERO CLUB OF INDIA (NAC-India)**

**Established: 1927**

**(Member: Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, Switzerland-NAC India)**

## **GUIDANCE NOTE ON COMPREHENSIVE REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS / TRAINING CENTRES IN INDIA**

### **1. PURPOSE AND REGULATORY CONTEXT**

This Guidance Note consolidates the governance, safety, infrastructural, operational, and procedural requirements for establishment and operation of Schools/Training centres in India.

It is issued by the Aero Club of India (ACI), designated as the National Air Sports Control of India (NAC-India) under the National Air Sports Guidelines (NASG), to ensure uniform national standards for paragliding training, certification, safety oversight, and international sporting recognition.

All paragliding training, instruction, licensing, and events in India shall be conducted strictly under the aegis of ACI (NAC-India) and in consonance with FAI Sporting Code – Section 7 (Paragliding).

### **2. APPLICABILITY**

This Guidance Note applies to:

- \* Commercial Schools/Training centre
- \* Not-for-profit / Club-based Training Centres
- \* State-supported Adventure Sports Institutes
- \* Defence / Police Adventure Wings (civil training component)
- \* Event-linked temporary training establishments

### **3. REQUIREMENT FOR ACI RECOGNITION AND AUTHORISATION**

Any entity intending to establish a School/Training centre shall obtain prior recognition and authorisation from ACI (NAC-India).

Application to ACI shall be accompanied by:

- a. Legal status of entity (Society / Trust / Section 8 / Proprietorship / Government body)
- b. Details of Promoters, Directors, Chief Functionary
- c. Declaration of adherence to NASG and FAI Sporting Code
- d. Site details with land ownership / access rights
- e. Training syllabus and progression model
- f. Instructor credentials
- g. Safety and emergency framework

No training activity shall be conducted without ACI authorisation.

#### **4. SITE AND LOCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Take-off Site:

- \* Suitable terrain with proven wind cycles
- \* Adequate launch area free of obstructions
- \* Safe inflation and abort zones
- \* Wind indicators (streamers, windsocks)

Landing Zone:

- \* Clear, obstruction-free landing area
- \* Defined approach paths
- \* Emergency overshoot zones

Training Slopes:

- \* Separate beginner slopes for inflation and short hops
- \* Graduated terrain for skill progression

Site Suitability Assessment:

- \* Mandatory technical evaluation by ACI-nominated expert
- \* Wind, turbulence, rotor, and weather pattern study
- \* Seasonal usability mapping

#### **5. INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

- \* Operations office and briefing room
- \* Equipment storage facility (dry, ventilated, secure)
- \* Packing and inspection area
- \* First-aid and emergency response station
- \* Communication systems (radio / mobile redundancy)
- \* Transport access for rescue and evacuation

#### **6. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

All equipment shall conform to EN / LTF / FAI standards.

Mandatory equipment inventory:

- \* Certified equipment suitable for training category
- \* Approved harnesses with reserve
- \* Helmets, radios, wind meters
- \* Ground handling wings for beginners
- \* Equipment logbooks and inspection records

Use of uncertified, modified, or time-expired equipment is strictly prohibited.

#### **7. INSTRUCTOR AND PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS**

Chief Instructor:

- \* Valid ACI-issued Instructor Rating
- \* FAI-recognised competence

\* Minimum experience thresholds as prescribed by ACI

Other Personnel:

- \* Assistant Instructors
- \* Safety Officer
- \* Site Marshal / Launch Controller
- \* Rescue and retrieval support staff

All instructors must be individually registered with ACI.

## **8. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK**

Training shall follow a structured progression model covering:

- \* Ground handling
- \* Short hops
- \* Ridge soaring
- \* Thermalling (where applicable)
- \* Cross-country fundamentals

Student certification, ratings, and endorsements shall be issued only by ACI (NAC-India) in accordance with FAI Sporting Code equivalence.

## **9. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)**

Each school shall maintain a documented Safety Management System covering:

- \* Risk identification and mitigation
- \* Weather assessment protocols
- \* Launch and landing discipline
- \* Incident and accident reporting
- \* Student supervision ratios
- \* Stop-flying authority

ACI reserves the right to audit safety systems at any time.

## **10. WEATHER MINIMA AND OPERATIONAL LIMITS**

Defined operational limits shall include:

- \* Maximum wind speed and gust spread
- \* Wind direction tolerances
- \* Thermal and convective activity limits
- \* Visibility and cloud clearance
- \* Seasonal and diurnal restrictions

Conservative minima shall apply for student pilots.

## **11. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE PLAN**

Mandatory provisions:

- \* Site-specific emergency response plan
- \* Tie-up with nearest medical facility
- \* Rescue equipment and evacuation access

- \* Communication protocol with local authorities

All incidents shall be mandatorily reported to ACI.

## **12. MANDATORY DOCUMENTATION**

- \* Operations Manual
- \* Training Manual
- \* Safety and Emergency Manual
- \* Equipment Inspection and Maintenance Manual

## **13. ACI APPROVAL PROCESS FLOW**

- Step 1 Conceptual planning
- Step 2 Application for ACI Accreditation
- Step 3 Site assessment by ACI expert
- Step 4 Rectification of observations
- Step 5 Provisional recognition
- Step 6 Operational readiness verification
- Step 7 Grant of ACI Accreditation
- Step 8 Commencement of training

## **14. DISCIPLINE, ENFORCEMENT, AND WITHDRAWAL**

Violation of NASG, ACI directions, or safety norms may result in:

- \* Suspension of authorisation
- \* Withdrawal of instructor ratings
- \* Debarment from national and international participation

## **15. CLOSING NOTE**

All Airports are a high-skill, weather-sensitive. Its safe growth in India depends on structured training, disciplined governance, and national standardisation. Fragmented state-level permissions or informal practices undermine safety and international credibility.

This Guidance Note is issued to create a single, nationally consistent framework under ACI (NAC-India), aligned with global FAI standards.

Issued by  
Aero Club of India (ACI)  
National Air Sports Control of India