



# **GENERAL AVIATION**

**Paragliding Regulation**

**Issue 01 Revision 00**

**June 2025**

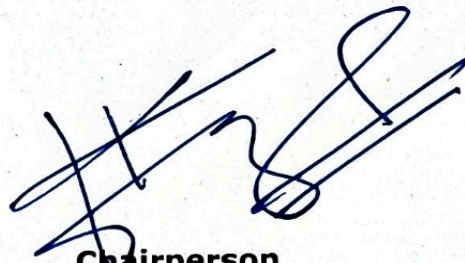
## Foreword

Paragliding is a sport and recreational activity. However, similar to other outdoor activities, it also carries inherent safety risks. Improper practices can put you and others at risk of serious injury or even death. It is therefore of paramount importance that paraglider pilots recognize the risks and take appropriate safety measures to ensure that the paragliding activities are conducted in a safe manner.

The Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 states that a person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property; thus, paraglider pilots shall abide by this regulation and operate the paraglider in a safe manner at all times. Any person who contravenes this regulation shall be subject to legal sanction.

A person shall not use any aircraft in the Kingdom of Bhutan for the provision of any air service except under, and in accordance with the conditions of a permit sanctioned by the head of BCAA. An operation of paragliders in the Kingdom of Bhutan without sanction from the BCAA would contravene Paragliding regulation.

Hence, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 66(1) of the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan, and Section 4.10 of the Bhutan Air Navigation Regulations (BANRs), the Paragliding regulation is developed for paragliding activities in the Kingdom of Bhutan.



**Chairperson  
Authority Member  
Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority**

Secretary  
Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport  
Thimphu, Bhutan

## RECORD OF AMENDMENTS

<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Rev No</b>	<b>Particulars of Issue/Revision</b>	<b>Amendment Date</b>	<b>Entered By</b>
01	00	Initial issue	March 2025	Flight Operations

## LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<b>Page</b>	<b>Issue no /Revision no</b>	<b>Amendment Date</b>
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## Definitions

A. In this regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) **Act** - means the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 which can be amended as required
- (b) **Authority Member**- means the governing body for Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority.
- (c) **BANRs**- means Bhutan Air Navigation Regulations
- (d) **BCAR** – means Bhutan Civil Aviation Requirements
- (e) **Head of the Authority**- means the head of the Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority(BCAA)
- (f) **Applicant**- means any Person/Company/Institution/Firm, seeking permission for paragliding operation for a tour, expedition etc. for commercial or non-commercial purposes
- (g) **Permit issuing Authority**- means the BCAA
- (h) **Permit Holder / Operator**- means the person/company/firm holding permit to carry out commercial or non-commercial paragliding activities under this regulation
- (i) **Solo flight**- means when the person acting as a pilot is the sole occupant of the aircraft
- (j) **Tandem flight**- means a glider that is designed for two people; a Paragliding flight with two people.
- (k) **Operation**- means conduction of the commercial or non-commercial paragliding activities under this regulation.
- (l) **Paraglider**- means the canopy which may be used to glide in the air
- (m) **Restricted Areas**- means Palaces, Monasteries/Heritage and archeological sites, Military establishment, Schools, Towns, Hospitals, Market areas, Dangerous areas-forest fire area, landslides, power station, wildlife sanctuaries and airports.

B. Words and expressions used in this requirement but not defined shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 and other requirements and regulations of BCAA.

### 1. Short title, extent, and commencement

- 1.1 This regulation shall be called as Paragliding Regulation;
- 1.2 It shall extend to the whole of the Kingdom of Bhutan; and
- 1.3 This requirement shall come into effect on 01 June 2025

### 2. Scope and Applicability

2.1 This regulation is developed in line with the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan and Bhutan Air Navigation Regulations. It shall apply to paragliding operations within the airspace of Bhutan.

### **3. Type of operation**

#### 3.1 Commercial operation

3.1.1 Activities that are covered under commercial paragliding shall include both tandem and solo paragliding.

3.1.2 Any applicant wishing to conduct commercial paragliding activities shall apply for a permit to the BCAA at least one month prior to the date of the proposed operation for the event as per the prescribed form (*Annexure-'A'*).

3.1.3 The BCAA shall scrutinize the application including their paragliding equipment and the operating permit shall be issued upon fulfilling all the requirements by an applicant.

#### 3.2 Non-Commercial operation

3.2.1 Activities which are covered under non-commercial paragliding shall include:

- a. Solo paragliding; and
- b. Tandem non-commercial paragliding.

3.2.2 Any applicant wishing to conduct non-commercial paragliding activities shall apply for a permit to the BCAA at least two weeks prior to the date proposed for the event/activity as per the prescribed form (*Annexure-'B'*).

3.2.3 Any foreigner wishing to obtain a paragliding permit in Bhutan shall submit their application through a local agent.

3.2.4 The BCAA shall scrutinize the application including their paragliding equipment, and the operating permit shall be issued upon fulfilling all the requirements by an applicant.

### **4 Documents required for issue of Operating Permit**

#### 4.1 Commercial Operation

- a. Operation Manuals
- b. Insurance documents
- c. Minimum two pilots details and license
- d. Details of area of operations
- e. Location clearance from the concerned Dzongkhag administration
- f. Medical fitness certificate
- g. Details of paraglider equipment
- h. Copy of safety risk assessment carried out in the designated location chosen or approved for paragliding
- i. work permit in case of foreign pilots
- j. List of key personnel

- 4.2 Non-Commercial Operation
  - a. Insurance documents
  - b. Pilot details and license
  - c. Details of an Area of operations
  - d. Location clearance from the concerned Dzongkhag administration
  - e. Medical fitness certificate
  - f. Details of paraglider equipment

## 5 Renewal of Permit – Commercial Operation

5.1 The permit holder/operator shall submit an application along with the necessary requirements mentioned in Section 4.1 to the BCAA.

5.2 Renewal of paragliding permit shall be issued based on the assessment of the operator's past safety performance.

5.3 The permit shall be issued for the period of one year.

## 6 Fees and charges

6.1 The fee and charges are as mentioned below:

Description	Initial Issue (Nu.)	Renewal (Nu.)
(i) Permission for commercial operation	50,000	30,000
(ii) Permission to operate for non-commercial per event per paraglider (event refers to up to one month)	5,000	NA

## 7 Area of Operations

7.1 Paragliding operations shall be permitted in areas where location clearance has been obtained. However, the paragliding operation shall not be permitted in areas where there are airplane operations, huge public gathering, over yellow rooftops and other restricted/prohibited areas.

## 8 Timing

8.1 Paragliding activities shall be conducted from sunrise to sunset and in visual meteorological conditions. The paraglider pilots shall remain clear of clouds and insight of ground at all times.

## 9 Paraglider Pilot Licensing and Authorization

Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority shall not issue license and authorization for Paraglider pilots. The authority shall validate license/authorization issued by ICAO member state or an association approved/recognized by the Authority of



the member State for the period of two years.

#### 9.1 Solo Pilot

The following qualifications are required for a Solo Pilot:

- a) The paraglider pilot shall be between 18 to 65 years of age;
- b) The pilot shall hold a current paraglider license issued by an ICAO member state or an Association approved/recognized by the Authority of the member State. The BCAA shall verify the validity of the license with the concerned Association;
- c) The pilot shall have at least 100 flying hours of experience (Digital or physical log book proof shall be required); and
- d) The pilot should have a valid medical certificate.

#### 9.2 Tandem Pilot

The following qualifications are required for a Tandem Pilot:

- a) The paraglider pilot shall be between 21 to 50 years of age;
- b) The pilot shall hold a current paraglider license issued by an ICAO member state or an Association approved/recognized by the Authority of the member State. The BCAA shall verify the validity of the license with the concerned Association;
- c) The pilot shall have at least 150 flying hours of experience (Digital or physical log book proof shall be required); and
- d) The pilot should have a valid medical certificate.

### **10 Duties and responsibilities of permit holder/operator**

10.1 The operator shall arrange the following equipment for inspection by the BCAA:

- (a) Flying equipment of Internationally Homologated design;
- (b) Safety Parachute and Helmet; and
- (c) Ground support equipment and retrieval Vehicle.

10.2 The operator and his employees shall at all times ensure strict compliance with the requirements and the provisions therein.

10.3 Any change in the pilot shall be affected upon obtaining the approval from BCAA.

10.4 The operator shall ensure that paragliding equipment is used in accordance with the bearing capacity prescribed by the manufacturing

company or the operation manual.

10.5 In case of any incident/serious incidents/accident, the operator shall immediately inform the local Dzongkhag administration, RBP personnel and the BCAA.

10.6 The Operator shall have an Emergency Response Plan in place.

10.7 Paragliding safety equipment including reserve parachute shall be mandatory.

10.7 Digital logs of each paraglider/pilot must be maintained every day.

10.8 Every permit holder/pilot/operator shall produce the following items:

- a) Paragliding equipment – The equipment shall be produced before the BCAA every one year or after usage of 200 hours, whichever is earlier; and
- b) Pilots – Pilot license acceptance.

10.9 The operator shall obtain the consent of every passenger/client before an operation.

10.10 The operator shall contact and inform the nearest Air traffic control about the area of operation and the time of operation.

10.11 The operator and pilots are reminded that any paragliding activities are carried out entirely at their own risk. Any costs which accrue to the BCAA or RGOB as a result of paragliding activities shall be charged to the permit holder. The permit holder shall ensure that they have adequate insurance coverage for such risks.

## **11 Oversight and Enforcement**

11.1 The BCAA shall have the overall responsibility of oversight and implementation of this regulation.

## **12. Offense and Penalty**

12.1 An operator/pilot operating the Paraglider without the prior approval of BCAA shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 50,000/- and the seizure of the equipment.

12.2 The operator infringing personal privacy or properties of others shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 20,000/- which is payable to BCAA.

12.3 An operator/pilot operating in unauthorized/restricted areas shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 25,000/-

12.4 If a Pilot/passenger when in-flight drops or discharges any item or substance causing damage to property or injury to a person on the ground, operator/pilot shall be liable to compensate as deemed appropriate.

12.5 The contravention of any other provisions of this regulation by the permit holder or Pilot shall be liable for a penalty of Nu.10,000 and the permit may be suspended or revoked.

12.6 The operator/permit holder/pilot if found guilty of any accident/misbehaviour with passengers, and malpractices during the paragliding operations, their permit shall be suspended/revoked/cancelled.

### **13. Legal implication**

13.1 The operator/pilot, willfully making a false statement/suppression of a material fact/intention to mislead the permit-issuing authority, his/her permit shall be revoked and may be banned from applying in future.

13.2 Transfer of permit from one operator to another shall not be allowed.

13.3 The BCAA shall not be liable to an operator for any acts/omission resulting in any loss suffered by the operator in the course of operation.

### **14. Other Important Instructions for Permit Holder/Operator**

14.1 The operator/permit holder shall ensure that paragliding activities shall not be carried out in bad weather.

14.2 The training activities for paragliding shall not be permitted.

**Annexure – A**



**APPLICATION FORM FOR PARAGLIDING PERMIT - COMMERCIAL  
(For New Applicant/Renewal)**

Name of the applicant.....  
Contact No.....  
CID No.....

Name of Firm / Company / Organization

- i) Full Address.....
- ii) E-mail:.....
- iii) Mobile/Telephone/Fax No.....

Detail of the Partners (enclose a copy of partnership deed), if any.....

Paraglider model no. /MSN (attach additional page, if required).....

Details of the key personnel.....

Location of operations.....

Details of paragliders/safety equipment etc. (Please enclose list).....

Pilot license, medical, insurance, logbook, training records (attach copies).....

Date and Number of previous permit issued (only for renewal), if any.....

**Undertaking**

I/we.....  
hereby undertake that:

- (1) I/We have carefully read and understood the Paragliding regulations and hereby agree to abide by the provisions laid down in the regulation.
- (2) I/we agree to submit any information required by the BCAA.
- (3) I/we take complete responsibility of all staff who are working under our company/firm/ Organization.
- (4) The authorized official shall be allowed for unhindered access to our facilities for the purpose of inspection.
- (5) I/We shall indemnify the authority against any judicial process, litigation, or any other action and liabilities due to any technical failure and contraventions of any rules and regulations and the laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

I/We hereby declare that the above information is true to the best of my/our knowledge. If the above information is found to be incorrect or fraudulent, I/We will have no objection for denial of my/our application.

(Affix Legal Stamp)

Signature of the applicant.....

Name.....

Place:.....Date:.....

Address / Mobile/Tele No .....

**Annexure – B**



**APPLICATION FORM FOR PARAGLIDING PERMIT (NON-COMMERCIAL)**

Name of the applicant.....  
Contact No.....  
CID No. /Passport No.....

Name of Firm / Company / Organization

- i) Full Address.....
- ii) E-mail:.....
- iii) Mobile./Telephone/Fax No.....

Paraglider Model no. /MSN (attach additional page, if required).....

Details of Paraglider pilot:

- i) Pilot license.....
- ii) Medical.....
- iii) Insurance.....
- iv) Logbook.....
- v) Training records.....

Note – Attach a copy for all of the above items

Location of operations.....

Duration of Event / Activity.....

Details of Participants.....

Details of insurance.....

Details of paragliders/safety equipment etc. (Please enclose a list).....

Date and Number of previous permit issued (only for renewal), if any.....

**Undertaking**

I/we.....  
hereby undertake that:

- (1) I/We have carefully read and understood the Paragliding regulation, and hereby agree to abide by the provisions laid down in this rule.
- (2) I/we agree to submit required information to BCAA as per the instructions.
- (3) I/We shall indemnify the Authority against any judicial process, litigation, or any other action and liabilities due to any technical failure and contraventions of any rules and regulations and laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

I/We hereby declare that the above information is true to the best of my/our knowledge. If the above information is found to be incorrect or fraudulent, I/We will have no objection for denial of my/our application form.

(Affix Legal Stamp)

Signature of the applicant.....

Name .....Place.....

Date:.....Address .....

Mobile/Tele No .....

**Annexure - C**



**Required Equipment**

**Mandatory Equipment:**

- (A) Gloves
- (B) Ankle shoes
- (C) First Aid Box
- (D) Helmet
- (E) Repair kit
- (F) Parachute
- (G) Goggles

**Additional Safety Equipment:**

- (A) Communication equipment for rescue operations.
- (B) Ladder
- (C) 50mts Nylon rope of 8 mm in diameter.
- (D) Carabiners – two for each glider
- (E) Pulley – one for each glider
- (F) Descender/figure of 8 - one for each glider.
- (G) Oxygen cylinder with a mask.
- (H) Other equipment as per the directives of the BCAA.

**Specifications of Glider:**

**Specifications of Reserve Parachute:**

**Specifications of Helmet:**