

Last Amended July, 2022

12-02.14 Novice Paragliding Rating (P2)

A. General Description – A Novice paraglider pilot has the knowledge and basic skills necessary to fly and practice without direct instructor supervision but within significant operating limitations. The pilot understands the USHPA paragliding rating systems and recommended operating limitations.

The pilot shall use good judgment and have a level of maturity commensurate with the rating. Pilots must demonstrate Beginner level skills and knowledge before obtaining the Novice rating. All witnessed flights must be pre-planned by the pilot and discussed with the Instructor.

B. Novice Rating - Required Witnessed Tasks

1. Logged Requirements

a. Attends a minimum of 8 hours of ground school theory as outlined in the ICP Manual

i. Weather

aa. Show students how to observe weather forecasts relating to the site from news broadcasting, newspapers and the Internet.

ab. Monitor weather forecast on a weather radio and or smart phones prior to leaving for flying and on site prior to flying.

ac. Discuss with students the wisdom of calling a local pilot to gain insight into the local conditions.

ii. Launches

aa. Consider altitude humidity and temperature factors (air density).

ab. Consider the slope of the ramp or hill, wind factors and the need for wire assistance.

ac. Discuss the angle of attack requirements, especially with cliff launches.

iii. Danger Signs

aa. High wind, dust blowing, white caps, swaying trees, smoke laying down and lenticular clouds.

ab. Rotor possibilities – note overall wind signs (cloud drift, water lines, bird drift, smoke from fires or smoke stack smoke direction) with respect to wind indicators at launch.

ac. Varying wind directions and differences at launch and landing.

iv. Landing

aa. Consider air density (as listed above in launches)

ab. Wind direction awareness and how wind affects landing. Wind direction indicators other than the wind sock.

ac. Approach.

i. Watch for man-made objects. Lines in the field mean fences, ditches or power lines. Assume all roads have power lines.

ii. Setup procedures for long straight approach.

iii. Discuss approach options and preferred approaches with locals.

iv. Extra speed for handling gradient and turbulence.

v. Review crosswind landing techniques.

vi. Tree landing techniques.

vii. Avoidance of obvious crop fields.

v. Equipment

aa. Food and water.

ab. Instruments – air speed indicator etc.

vi. Site Orientation

ab. Discuss general site specifics, departure time, arrival time, and protocol. Also review the dive syndrome (first flight students flying too fast to LZ) and signs of proper airspeed (bar position, air speed indicator and bar feel).

b. Must have logged a minimum of 35 flights with a required ability to demonstrate an appropriate landing approach with the canopy lowered to the ground between flights.

c. Must have logged a minimum of 7 flying days.

2. Demonstrated Skills and Knowledge

a. Demonstrates layout and preflight of the canopy, harness, and backup reserve parachute.

- b. Gives a reliable analysis of general conditions of the site and self, and a flight plan including flight path, areas to avoid in relation to the wind flow, and obstacles to stay clear of.
- c. Demonstrates 5 consecutive forward inflations with a visual check of the canopy each time.
- d. Demonstrates 5 consecutive controlled reverse inflations with proper surge dampening.
- e. Demonstrates controlled kiting of a glider overhead for 2 minutes in a steady wind.
- f. With each flight, demonstrates a method of establishing that the pilot is properly connected to the glider, with cleared lines and risers just prior to inflation.
- g. Demonstrates flight with smooth variation in airspeed, from above minimum sink to fast flight, while maintaining a heading.
- h. Demonstrates flight showing the ability to comfortably and precisely slow the glider to minimum sink and smoothly increase to normal airspeed while maintaining a heading. The pilot should not slow the glider to near the stall speed.
- i. Demonstrates flight(s) along a planned path alternating 'S' turns of at least 90° change in heading. Flight heading need not exceed 45° from straight into the wind. Turns must be smooth with controlled airspeed, ending in safe, standup landings on a heading.
- j. Demonstrates 180° turns in both directions, and at various speeds and bank angles.
- k. Explains how to safely execute a 360 degree turn, and describes the associated risk factors and decision making process.
- l. Demonstrates hands-off flying, one handed flying skills, weight-shift turns, and rear-riser turns.
- m. Demonstrates symmetric and asymmetric tip folds for increased descent rate.
- n. Demonstrates the ability to judge and allow for proper clearance from a ridge and other vehicles.
- o. Demonstrates 5 landings within 25' of a target (or optional landing task – see Addendum 1 – Optional Landing Task), safe, smooth, on the feet and

into the wind. The target must be sufficiently close to launch such that turns are required to set up an approach and avoid over-flying the target. The target should be at least 100' below the launch point.

p. Explains proper strong wind landing procedures and how to keep from being dragged back.

q. Explains correct canopy maintenance.

r. Explains how to lengthen and shorten the flight path.

s. Explains the right of way traffic rules.

t. Demonstrates the proper use of a speedbar/accelerating system.

u. Demonstrates reserve deployment while hanging in a harness in simulated turbulence or malfunction conditions.

v. Gives a thorough verbal demonstration of knowledge of how to:

i. Maintain directional control during and correct for an asymmetric wing fold of 25% of the wing span.

ii. Fly at minimum sink while precluding any chance of inadvertent stall or spin, particularly when flying through lift, sink or in conjunction with making turns.

iii. Increase descent rate and/or forward speed.

w. Demonstrates proper and effective PLF technique.

x. Must pass the USHPA Novice Paragliding written exam.

y. Must agree to all the provisions of the USHPA standard waiver and assumption of risk agreement for the Novice rating and deliver an original signed copy to the USHPA office.

z. Acknowledges and understands the need to become familiar with site-specific restrictions and launch or landing access limits, consistent with preservation of flying privileges at a site.

C. Recommended Operating Limitations for Novice Paragliding Pilots

1. Should exceed these limitations only after thoroughly mastering all required tasks, and after acquiring a full understanding of the potential problems and dangers involved in exceeding these limitations.

2. Maximum base wind of 12 MPH

3. Maximum peak gusts to 15 MPH

4. Maximum gust rate of 5 MPH in 5 seconds.
5. Should not fly in thermal lift where peak climb rates exceed 200 fpm.
6. If foot launching, should launch only on slopes steeper than 4:1, where the wind is within 25° of being straight up the slope.
7. If tow launching in winds in excess of 3 mph, should only launch where the wind is within 25° of being straight along the tow line.
8. Visual contact with the landing zone.
9. Avoid application of either brake beyond 2/3 of the way from slack to stall position.
10. Limit turns to 30° of bank, limit speed in turns to 1.5 times the straight line, brakes off, cruise speed, and smoothly exit any spiral turn which shows a tendency to steepen or accelerate.
11. Should fly a canopy recommended by the manufacturer as suitable for Beginner to Intermediate rated pilots.