

CHAPTER 58
SPORT PARACHUTING

Authority

Unless otherwise expressly noted, all provisions of this Chapter 58 were adopted by the Commissioner of Transportation, pursuant to authority delegated at N.J.S.A. 6:1-29 and 27:1A-3, and were filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

16:58-1.1 Policy

(a) Voluntarily parachuting from aircraft over congested air and ground areas, in the vicinity of or on highways or roads, or over airports, landing fields, or landing strips without proper standardized control constitutes a hazard to the person(s) voluntarily parachuting from an aircraft, to others engaged in aviatational activities and to the general public. No person(s) shall engage in sport parachuting unless under the control and supervision of a fixed base operator licensed and operated in accordance with the procedure and rules contained in this Chapter.

(b) All licensees, any person making a parachute jump, any pilot in command of an aircraft permitting a parachute jump to be made from his aircraft, are governed by the provisions of this Chapter.

(c) Federal Air Regulations which govern parachute jumping require additional action to be taken by persons or organizations involved in parachute jumping and are to be complied with as cited in said regulations. Part 105, Title 14, Chapter 1, Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter F, adopted November 21, 1962, and effective February 26, 1963, is the present regulation covering Federal Requirements on parachute jumping.

16:58-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Aircraft” means any contrivance now known or hereafter invented, used or designed for aviation or flight in the air.

“Drop zone” means an area of defined dimensions, on the earth’s surface, designated for the landing of sport parachutists.

“Parachuting center” means any individual, club or organization licensed as a fixed base operator by the Commissioner of Transportation, State of New Jersey, to foster, control, supervise and regulate sport parachuting of person(s) sponsored or trained by said individual, club or organization.

“Parachuting exhibition” means especially qualified individual or a group of individuals engaged in sport parachuting in a specifically authorized drop zone.

“Sport parachuting” means the act of descending from an aircraft to the earth’s surface by means of a parachute, or similar device, except when such descent is made under emergency conditions for the purpose of saving life.

“Sport parachutist” means anyone engaging in or about to engage in sport parachuting.

16:58-1.3 Liability

Any license issued pursuant to the provisions set forth in this Chapter does not waive any Federal rules or regulations pertaining to parachuting and may be modified, suspended, or revoked in the interest of public safety or as a result of established violations of any of the provisions of Title 6 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

SUBCHAPTER 2. (RESERVED)

Historical Note

This subchapter formerly contained rules concerning the licensing of sport parachuting centers and exhibitions, adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 6:1-29 and 27:1A-3 and cited as N.J.A.C. 16:58-2. The rules were filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. On February 7, 1983, R.1983 d.8 repealed this subchapter as a duplication of rules adopted at 16:54-1, Licensing of Aeronautical Facilities. See: 13 N.J.R. 374(c), 14 N.J.R. 1289(b), 15 N.J.R. 162(c).

SUBCHAPTER 3. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

16:58-3.1 Requirements

(a) All persons engaging in sport parachuting shall carry a valid Class I, II, or III F.A.A. medical certificate or a certificate of physical fitness for parachuting from a licensed physician, or shall sign an approved medical waiver form.

(b) All persons engaging in sport parachuting must be 21 years of age or at least 16 years of age and have written consent from parent(s) to participate in sport parachuting.

(c) Student parachutists must initially make at least five static line jumps. In addition, they must successfully pull a dummy ripcord within three seconds on three successive static line jumps without loss of stability or control. All static line jumps must be under the supervision of a Class C or higher license holder, or a person with equivalent experience.

(d) Student parachutists must make at least five jumps in a four place or larger aircraft with a licensed parachutist holding at least a Class C license (or person of equivalent experience) aboard. Student parachutists may not jump from two place aircraft until capable of dropping their own wind indicator and of judging their exit point accurately. Permission to jump from a two place aircraft will be entered in a student logbook by the club safety officer.

(e) Each sport parachutist must be equipped with two airworthy parachutes on a single harness, consisting of a back pack with at least a 28-foot canopy and a chest pack with at least a 24-foot canopy. The chest pack may be packed without a pilot chute. If a pilot chute is used in the chest pack, it must be of the vane type. Parachutes must meet minimum Federal safety standards as set forth in FAA TSOC-23 and be stamped accordingly; or be approved by a certified parachute loft and be stamped accordingly; such stamp to bear the number of the loft and date of approval, or be approved by a qualified military board.

(f) All sport parachutists must use airworthy instruments (altimeter, stopwatch, or both) for delayed falls of 30 seconds or more, or use an automatic opening device.

(g) Boots, helmets, goggles, and adequate protective clothing must be worn for all land jumps. Gloves must be worn if the temperature at jump altitude is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

(h) Flotation gear should be worn when parachuting within one mile of an open body of water. For planned water jumps, flotation gear must be worn and a manned rescue craft must be in the target area. (An open body of water is defined as one in which a parachutist could possibly drown in the event he accidentally landed in it).

(i) *Altitude classifications and requirements.*

1. *Low altitude.* From 2200 feet up to and including 15,000 feet above the ground;
2. *Intermediate altitude.* From 15,000 feet up to 20,000 feet above the ground;
3. *High altitude.* From 20,000 feet up to 40,000 feet above the ground;

4. *Extreme altitude.* All altitudes above 40,000 feet above the ground;

5. *Low altitude jumps.* May be made without special altitude training or equipment, provided that the elapsed time from altitudes of 8,000 feet up to 15,000 feet, including the exact time of exit from the aircraft, does not exceed 30 minutes. If elapsed time from or above 8,000 feet is expected to exceed 30 minutes, supplementary oxygen must be in use by each individual up to one second prior to exit from aircraft.

6. *Intermediate altitude jumps.* May be made by B, C, or D license holders, or persons of equivalent qualifications. Each parachutist must be on supplementary oxygen source at all times above 8,000 feet to time of exit. Parachutist should have completed a physiological flight training course within the preceding 12 months;

7. *High altitude jumps.* May be made by C or D license holders, or persons of equivalent qualifications; should have attended a basic physiological flight course within the preceding 12 months; must be on supplementary oxygen source attached and functioning during free fall; be equipped with a sensitive type aircraft altimeter; be equipped with high altitude protective clothing;

8. *Extreme altitude jumps.* All jumps from altitudes in excess of 40,000 feet will be coordinated with, and approved, in advance, by the United States Parachute Association for safety and the establishing of new and international records.

(j) *Minimum opening altitudes (above ground).*

1. Student parachutists—2500 feet;
2. Parachutists with Class B or higher license (or equivalent)—2200 feet.

(k) *Maximum ground wind (permissible for jumping).*

| | Steerable canopy | Non-steerable canopy |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. First 15 jumps | 10 mph | 8 mph |
| 2. Over 15 jumps | 18 mph | 15 mph |

(l) Before jumping, at least one accurate wind indicator must be dropped and timed by each plane load of sport parachutists. This rule may be waived only by the club safety officer present providing wind conditions remain constant after the first indicator has been dropped. A wind indicator will also be dropped when there is an hour or more delay between jumps or when the wind changes significantly.

(m) Sport parachutists will not exit aircraft directly over crowds, open air assemblies of persons, or populated areas.

(n) No wings, cloth extensions, or other forms of control surfaces may be used without written authorization from the Division of Aeronautics.

(o) Night and/or water jumps may be made only by a Class B license holder or equivalent or above with the written approval of the area safety officer or the Division of Aeronautics. This approval will list the name or names of individual(s), date, time, and place of jump. No "blanket approval" will be authorized.

(p) Sport parachutists may pack back-type parachutes for intentional jumps, provided:

1. Packing is strictly in accordance with the applicable directives of the manufacturer of that particular parachute.

2. If the canopy has been modified or a deployment sleeve is used, the parachute will be packed in accordance with instructions provided by the licensed rigger or United States Parachute Association Military Board responsible for the modification or sleeve.

(q) A ground crew must be on the drop zone during all jumps, and instructed to stop jumps by prearranged signal, in the case of sudden weather change, the presence of other aircraft in the drop zone area, or other emergency conditions. Maximum use will be made of a megaphone or other satisfactory oral communications method.

(r) During actual jumps, a large cross or "X" shall be displayed on the drop zone. This marker shall be used as the target. Distortion of the "X" to a "T" is the signal to stop jump, but keep the aircraft aloft. Distortion of the

"X" to an "T" is the signal to exit experienced jumpers only. Removal of target shall be the signal to stop jump and land aircraft immediately.

(s) All injuries caused by sport parachuting which require treatment or examination by a physician, or any property damage or injury to persons or property will be reported in writing to the Division of Aeronautics within seven calendar days giving full particulars. All fatalities caused by sport parachuting will be reported to the Division of Aeronautics immediately by the most expeditious means giving all details available. A written report giving full particulars must be submitted within 48 hours.

(t) Drop zone shall be kept clear of all nonessential equipment. No automobiles other than control, first aid and recovery or emergency vehicles are to be in the drop zone unless all jumping has been halted.

(u) All persons engaging in sport parachuting activities shall be familiar with and held responsible for compliance with this Section.

(v) The provisions of this Section are minimal criteria and each organization and/or individual is encouraged to increase these requirements as local conditions or judgment dictate. Upon issuance of any license, special restrictions may be imposed due to terrain, special hazards, prevailing winds or other conditions which compromise safety.