

## **1. PURPOSE**

Safe Air Activities requires that the Activity Leader has considered the following requirements and implemented these best practices in both their planning for and in the implementation of the Activity.

The provisions contained in this Practice Note, should be read together with SCOUTS South Africa's Safe Scouting Policy.

Please note that Practice Notes and any appendices associated with the Safe Scouting Policy are operational in nature and may change from time to time as required. Any changes will be communicated through the structures of SCOUTS South Africa, and the most up to date version will always be available on the national website.

## **2. AIR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 A National Air Activities Committee will be formed, with representation from all Regions where Air Activities form a regular part of the programme. The committee will be chaired by the National Coordinator Air Activities.
- 2.2 In the absence of the National Coordinator Air Activities, the Chair National Scout Programme, or a suitably qualified person appointed by them, will chair the committee.
- 2.3 In any Region where Air Activities form a regular part of the programme, the RTC Scout Programme or in their absence the Regional Commissioner must ensure that a Regional Coordinator Air Activities is appointed to serve on the National Air Activities Committee for their Region.
- 2.4 Where the number of Air Scout Groups in the Region may require additional supervision and support, Regional Sub-Committees may be formed.
- 2.5 The National Air Activities Committee is responsible for the compilation, issue, and observance of local rules for the use, conditions and equipment for all Air Activities, and for the safety of those using them, and in particular ensuring that:
  - i. The Activity Leader holds the appropriate Air Skills License.
  - ii. The Activity Leader is aware of, and will ensure that all participants comply with, the Safety Procedures in place at the venue or facility where the Activity is going to be held.
  - iii. For any Activity that will include being in or on an aircraft, and flying as passengers, (other than on commercial flights), navigators, aircrew, pupil pilots or pilots, the Activity Leader is fully aware of their responsibility for the safety of the Scouts involved.
  - iv. All participants understand that, apart from the pilot and qualified aircraft crew, the Activity Leader is fully responsible for giving all instructions, which must be obeyed.

## **3. PROVISIONS**

### **3.1. General Rules**

- 3.1.1. The term Air Activities includes all Activities that are aviation related, including, but not limited to: being on the airside of an airport, airfield or landing strip, parachuting, micro lighting, paragliding and UAS/UAV operations.
- 3.1.2. All Air Activities require an approved Activity Permit and a suitably qualified and trained Activity Leader.
- 3.1.3. All Air Activities require a programme for the Activity to have been prepared in advance. A draft of this programme must be submitted with the application for an Activity Permit.
- 3.1.4. Any Air Activity requires that, in the planning the nearest hospital or clinic have been identified as well as a means to transport the participants there in the event of an emergency.
- 3.1.5. The planning must ensure that all of the necessary equipment for the safe execution of any planned programme activities is available and in working order.
- 3.1.6. All Air Activities shall comply strictly with all legislation and regulations of any competent authority having jurisdiction over the Activity or place of such Activity. At venues where parachuting and other Air Activities are practiced, special attention must be given to the rules governing these disciplines by the body controlling them. These rules may be obtained from the AERO CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA who will advise Scouters of the recognised bodies.
- 3.1.7. No Air Activities shall take place unless the Activity Leader has a valid Air Skills Licence appropriate for the Activity.
- 3.1.8. Every Member participating in an Air Activity must hand in a correctly completed and signed "*Parent Consent and Indemnity Form - Events and Activities*" before the start of the activity.
- 3.1.9. In the case of a flying activity it is the responsibility of the Air Skills Licence holder to make sure that each pilot has the appropriate rating to take passengers on board. Ratings can be obtained from the National Air Activities Committee.
- 3.1.10. The Regional Coordinator Air Activities is responsible for endorsing the Activity Permit.

### **3.2. Air Skills Licences**

- 3.2.1. Air Skills Licences are issued by the Regional Coordinator Air Activities who maintains the Register which is also filed at the Regional Office.
- 3.2.2. All licences should be loaded onto the SSA Membership management system, currently Scouts.Digital.

#### 4. DEFINITIONS

Aircraft	Generic term used to describe any vehicle made to fly including but not limited to powered and unpowered aircraft, gliders, microlights, ultralights, balloons, hang gliders, para-gliders (powered or not), parachutes, UAS and UAV (drones).
Crew	Persons aboard any aircraft who have a role in the operation of, or training in the operation of the craft.
Passengers	Persons aboard any aircraft, who do not participate in the safe operation of the craft.
UAS/UAV	Unmanned Aircraft System or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle commonly referred to as "drones".