

SPHGC COVID 19 Management Plan

6 April 2020 Draft Version 1.1d

This Sydney Paragliding & Hang Gliding Club (SPHGC) COVID-19 Management Plan is to enable the safe flight operations by paragliders and hang gliders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As advised by the NSW Office of Sport: Maintaining the public's physical and mental well-being is now as important as ever. Where possible, it is important sporting clubs and organisations continue to allow people to exercise, so long as social distancing is practised and rules around public gatherings of no more than two people are complied with.

Aim

To contribute to public health and safety and limit the transmission of COVID-19 by applying reasonable restrictions to flying operations at SPHGC classified sites.

Purpose

To manage, monitor and control SPHGC flying sites and operations. The intention is to meet all government orders, governing body rulings and reasonable community expectations.

Compliance

It is the responsibility of each individual pilot to comply with this plan and all other government orders.

Term

The term of the Management Plan will be from the date of issue until such time that the SPHGC Committee of Management deems it appropriate to be expired or replaced.

Territory

The Management Plan covers the classified flying sites listed on the SPHGC web site: Newport, Cook Terrace, Warriewood, Turimetta, Long Reef NE and Long Reef SE.

Exercise

Paragliding and Hang Gliding are forms of individual sport. The NSW Office of Sport has indicated that individual sports are permissible exercise under the NSW Public Health Orders. This Management Plan is intended to cover all stages of paragliding and hang gliding from set-up, through flight, to pack-up. NSW Public Health Orders state you are allowed to leave home to exercise.

Eligible Pilots

The only pilots able to fly at a SPHGC site during the term are current members of the Sports Aviation Federation of Australia (SAFA) who are financial members of SPHGC. Eligible pilots are also required to be registered with the designated SPHGC WhatsApp group for effective safety briefings and communication.

Controls

The following controls will be used to manage flight operations:

1. Duty Pilot

A Duty Pilot must be appointed for all flight operations to manage the site and communications. The Duty Pilot is a recognised official as per the SAFA Operations Manual.

2. Communication

A pilot may only fly at a SPHGC site with a serviceable radio tuned to the SAFA channel designated by SPHGC. The designated channel will be HGFA 3 (472.125MHz 110.9Hz) unless otherwise stated by SPHGC. The pilot must ensure the radio is on and used for reasonable communications with other pilots and the Duty Pilot for that site. The designated SPHGC WhatsApp group will be used to communicate with pilots not on site wishing to fly and when possible used to coordinate availability and access.

3. Separated Areas

No more than two pilots should gather in each of the following separated areas:

- a. Set-up
- b. Launch
- c. Landing
- d. Pack-up

4. Equipment Setup

A pilot must set up their equipment at an area separate from launch and follow all social distancing and gathering orders current at the time. The Duty Pilot may direct a pilot to a specific set-up area.

5. Access to Launch

A pilot may only enter the launch area if there are less than two other pilots on launch and with the approval of the Duty Pilot.

6. Pilots on Launch

The maximum pilots on launch is two (2). If conditions are not suitable for launching, the pilots should leave the site.

7. No Waiting

If the set-up and launch areas are occupied a pilot cannot wait in the vicinity of the site. Pilots wanting to fly should monitor the designated SPHGC WhatsApp group regarding access and availability to fly. When and where possible a Duty Pilot will communicate and coordinate with pilots.

8. Launching
Once on launch and without delay a pilot will conduct their pre-flight check and launch. In the event the pilot is unable to launch in a timely manner, or if directed by the Duty Pilot, the pilot will leave the site.
9. Wings in the Air
The maximum number of wings in the air at a site will be determined by the Duty Pilot.
10. Flight Duration
The Duty Pilot will determine the allowable flight duration.
11. Landing
A pilot will land after the allotted duration, or as soon as possible when requested by the Duty Pilot. After landing a pilot will quickly move to an area away from the landing zone (LZ) and without delay pack up and leave the site.
12. Top Landing
A pilot may only top land at launch if there are no other pilots on launch. Otherwise, the launch and landing zones must be separated. Alternate LZs are:
 - a. Cook Terrace – lower park or beach
 - b. Warriewood – western field or beach
 - c. Long Reef NE – the point, beach in front of launch, or Fishermans Beach
 - d. Long Reef SE – the beach or point
 - e. Newport – northern end of Newport Beach or Bilgola Beach
 - f. Turimetta – the beach (or for HG only the oval)
13. Repeat Flights
As their daily exercise a pilot is only allowed one flight per day in total at SPHGC sites.
14. Launch Suspension
The Duty Pilot may suspend launch for a period of time for specific aircraft and/or a specific SAFA pilot rating. The Duty Pilot's decision is final. Pilots in the area should leave the vicinity of the site.
15. Flying Away (Cross Country)
A pilot launching at a SPHGC site will land in the vicinity of the site at a designated LZ. They will not fly away from the site to a distant location, i.e. cross country. A pilot that has launched from a SPHGC site will not fly to or fly past another SPHGC site. For clarification if Cook Terrace and Warriewood are both operational with wings in the air no pilot will fly from one to the other unless approved by the Duty Pilots at both sites.
16. Travel
SPHGC recommends that pilots do not travel a long distance, or for long duration to access a site. Restricting travel limits the spread and transmission

of COVID-19. A pilot should drive solo unless in the company of household members and pilots should not carpool or use public transport.

17. Comply With Directives

All pilots will immediately abide by any directive from:

- a. a Duty Pilot, SSO or SO
- b. any member of the emergency services, in particular the Police
- c. a representative of the Northern Beaches Council, in particular a Ranger

18. Breach

All pilots are requested to adhere to this Management Plan. Any breaches of the plan should be immediately reported to the SPHGC and SAFA. A pilot in breach may be disciplined by SPHGC and/or SAFA in accordance with the Operations Manual.