



# Visiting Pilot Information

*Dear Visiting Pilot,*

*Welcome to Australia – we at the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA) hope you enjoy your visit and get amongst some of the great flying on offer.*

*This information is provided to ensure that you understand the local operating requirements and to provide a little information on where to find the flying sites.*

*As you would now be aware, it is a legal requirement when flying a hang glider or paraglider in Australia to join the HGFA as a Visiting Pilot Member. This membership also provides third party liability insurance cover to \$10,000,000. This insurance is required in Australia regardless of any other insurance a visiting pilot may have. Should a claim be made against the policy an excess of \$2,000 is payable by the pilot involved. This HGFA insurance does not cover any personal injury or loss to the pilot, it covers third parties only.*

*With the issue of your HGFA Membership you would have been provided with a membership card. You may be asked to show this card to a Club Safety Officer or Competition Director, so **please ensure that you keep the membership card with you when you go flying as evidence of membership.***

*I trust you enjoy your stay and that your flying is safe and memorable.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Chris Fogg  
HGFA General Manager*

**Hang Gliding Federation of Australia**  
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**LOCAL REGULATIONS**

Hang gliders and paragliders operating in Australia are required to operate in accordance with Civil Aviation Orders Part 95.8 (CAO 95.8).

**Along with other requirements, CAO 95.8 requires that hang glider and paraglider pilots are members of the HGFA and operate in accordance with the HGFA Operations Manual.**

**CAO 95.8 states that a hang glider or paraglider shall not be flown:**

- (a) at a height in excess of 10,000 feet above mean sea level;
- (b) at a height in excess of 300 feet above ground level unless a serviceable altimeter is carried so as to be easily read by the pilot at all times whilst in flight;
- (c) within an area designated by a Regional Director of the Civil Aviation as an area where the operation of hang gliders would constitute a hazard to other aircraft;
- (d) within 8 kilometres of a military aerodrome;
- (e) within controlled airspace;
- (f) over any city, town or populous area below 1000 feet above terrain or such a height that the hang glider could land outside the city, town or populous area, whichever is the higher, except that during the launching and landing phase of flight only the requirement to be able to land clear of a city, town or populous area shall apply.
- (g) **except as provided for in (h) at a height lower than 100 feet within a horizontal distance of 25 metres from:**
  - (i) a public road;
  - (ii) persons other than those persons directly associated with the operation of hang gliders at the launch or landing sites; or
  - (iii) a dwelling except with the permission of the occupier;
- (h) during the launching phase closer than a horizontal distance of 25 metres from persons other than those persons directly associated with the operation of hang gliders provided those other persons are behind a line passing through the launch point at right angles to the intended direction of flight; or
- (i) at any regatta, race meeting or public gathering; or
- (j) in any airspace designated under regulation 99AA or 99A of the regulations in which the Authority has directed that gliders must carry or use radio communication equipment unless radio communication equipment is carried or used in accordance with the directions.

**Additionally a hang glider or paraglider shall not be flown:**

- (a) within 8 km of any airport that is used by a regular passenger transport aircraft; or
- (b) at night.

**A hang glider or paraglider must only be operating in accordance with visual flight rules, as follows:**

- (a) A visual reference to the ground or water must be maintained when within 2000 feet of the surface; and
- (b) **Flight visibility must be at least 5000 metres and the hang glider or paraglider's distance from cloud must be greater than 1500 metres horizontally and 1000 feet vertically above or below cloud.**

**Hang gliders and paragliders shall not be operated:**

- (a) in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life or property of others; or
- (b) in such a manner, or in such circumstances as is or are likely to cause avoidable danger to any person or property (including animals) on land or water or in the air.

Nothing may be dropped from a hang glider or paraglider in flight except:

- (a) ballast in the form of water or fine sand;
- (b) ropes and cables with the appropriate fittings used in launching; and
- (c) components designed to be jettisoned in flight, such as drag parachutes or jettisonable wheels; or
- (d) other items with the approval of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

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**RULES OF THE AIR**

**Give way to other aircraft on your right.** Power driven aircraft are required to give way to gliders, balloons and aircraft that are seen to be towing other aircraft or objects.

**Collision Avoidance**

When two aircraft in clear air approach **head on**, or nearly so, both shall alter course to the **right**.

When approaching head on along a ridge the hang glider, paraglider or sailplane with its **right wing towards the ridge shall have right of way**. The aircraft that has the ridge to its left shall give way by turning away from the ridge.

**When joining a thermal turn in the same direction** as any hang glider, paraglider, or sailplane already circling.

When thermaling give way to hang gliders and paragliders that are climbing up from **below**.

**Be aware that the rules of the air for sailplane pilots require that sailplanes give way to sailplanes above them in thermals.** Extra caution must be taken when operating in the same thermal as a sailplane. Remember that the sail restricts the upward vision of a hang glider or paraglider pilot, and that in sailplanes the wing restricts the downward vision of the pilot.

**Operation in Proximity to other Aircraft**

Maintain a good lookout at all times. Avoid abrupt changes in direction and speed when other aircraft are present. Be especially careful where other aircraft are displaying a red streamer indicating that the pilot in command holds a Restricted Pilot Certificate.

**Minimum separation distances for hang gliders and paragliders are at least 20 metres horizontally and 50 feet vertically.**

**Overtaking Rule**

When overtaking another aircraft, **the aircraft that is being overtaken has the right of way**.

A hang glider or paraglider that is ridge soaring shall overtake by passing between the ridge and the other aircraft. Other than when ridge soaring the **overtaking** aircraft shall alter course to the **right**.

**Landing Rule**

When aircraft are approaching to land, the one **ahead** has the **priority**.

**Take off Rule**

An aircraft which is about to take off shall not do so until there is **no apparent risk of collision** with other aircraft.

**Country Code**

**Fire is a major hazard in the Australian summer. Smoking should be confined to within a motor vehicle or building. Tow vehicles should stay on established roads and tracks.**

*Operations on or over private or public property must be conducted with due regard to the rights of the landowner.*

**Hang gliding and paragliding operations rely on the good will of landowners.**

**When out landing, pilots should:**

- endeavour to contact the land owner to explain their situation and thank the land owner for use of their property; and**
- refrain from having retrieve vehicles drive across paddocks; and walk from the paddock taking care to leave fences, gates and any other property as found.**

**Local Flying Clubs Contacts**

**Pilots should contact the local Senior Safety Officer (SSO) or Club President before flying any sites.**

Contact details for Clubs can be found in the HGFA Soaring Australia magazine or can be obtained from the HGFA Web Site.

**HGFA Office contacts:**

Telephone: 03 9336 7155

Fax: 03 9336 7177

E-mail: [office@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:office@hgfa.asn.au) Web site: [www.hgfa.asn.au](http://www.hgfa.asn.au)

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<b>POPULAR HGFA CONTROLLED SITES</b>					
<b>Area</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Minimum IPPI Level Required</b>	<b>Location - Elevation</b>	<b>Wind Direction - Strength</b>	<b>Controlling Club</b>
Nth Queensland	Rex Lookout - Coastal	Safe Pro 4 Para Pro 4	Nth of Cairns - 300'	SE - 10k+	Cairns HGC
	Gillies - Inland	Safe Pro 4 only	SW of Cairns - 1200'	NE to SE - Nil +	Cairns HGC
SE Queensland	Rainbow Beach - Coastal	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	NE of Gympie - 400'	NE - 10k+	Sunshine Coast HGC
	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Noosa & Inland Sunshine Coast - 200' to 800'	All directions 10k+	Sunshine Coast HGC
	Mt Tamborine - Inland	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 4	SW of Brisbane - 1200'	NW to SW - Nil +	Canungra HGC (\$ 15 annual site fee)
	Beechmont - Inland	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Sth of Brisbane - 1000'	SE to NE - 5k+	Canungra HGC (\$ 20 annual site fee)
	Flying Fox - Inland	Safe Pro 4 Para Pro 3	SSW of Canungra-1000'	NE to NW - 5k+	Canungra HGC
Northern NSW	Tallows - Coastal	Safe Pro 3 only	Byron Bay - 300'	SSE to E - 10k+	Byron Bay HGC
	Various Inland Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	W of Byron Bay - 600' to 1200'	All directions - Nil +	Byron Bay HGC
North Western NSW	Mount Borah - Inland	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Manilla, north of Tamworth - 800'	All directions	Manilla Skysailors
Mid North Coast NSW	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Laurieton area - 200' to 1500'	All directions - Nil +	Mid North Coast HGC
Central NSW	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Newcastle and Hunter Valley - 300' to 1500'	All directions Nil +	Newcastle HGC
Sydney Area	Stanwell Park - Coastal	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Sth of Sydney - 600'	SSE to ENE - 10k+	Stanwell Park HGC
Australian Capital Territory	Various Inland Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Canberra area - 400' to 1200'	All directions Nil+	ACTHGA
North East Victoria	Mount Buffalo - Inland	Safe Pro 5 No PG	Bright - 3200'	E to NW Nil+	NE Victoria HGC
	Mount Emu - Inland	Safe Pro 4 Para Pro 4	Mount Beauty - 3200'	SW to NW Nil+	NE Victoria HGC
	Tawonga Gap - Inland	Safe Pro 4 Para Pro 4	Mount Beauty - 1200'	NE to E 5k+	NE Victoria HGC
	Mystic Bowl - Inland	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Bright - 1500'	NE to NW 5k+	NE Victoria HGC
	Various Inland Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Bright Area - 500' to 1000'	All directions Nil+	NE Victoria HGC
Southern Victoria	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Melbourne area - 300' to 1500'	All directions Nil+	Vic HGPA
Tasmania	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Throughout Tasmania - 300' to 1200'	All directions Nil+	THPA
South Australia	Various Inland and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Adelaide area - 300' to 1000'	All directions Nil+	SAHGA
West Australia	Various Inland Tow Sites and Coastal Sites	Safe Pro 3 Para Pro 3	Perth area - 100' to 600'	All directions Nil+	HGAWA