



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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APF TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE - No. APF TD01/2024 High-Performance Canopy Coach Requirements Issued 02 September 2024

SUBJECT: Amendment of High Performance Canopy Coach pre-requisites, aligning requirements with industry needs and realities to make high performance canopy coaching more accessible for more members, and thereby achieving safety outcomes.

BACKGROUND: APF introduced High Performance (HP) Canopy Coach approvals in April 2018, following a rapid increase in members using high-performance parachutes and performing high-performance landings. The introduction coincided with a more structured canopy progression with supervised training under direction of coaches, to provide a safer alternative to “peer-to-peer” instruction. Initially this had the desired effect, with 11 HP Canopy Coaches approved in 2018 and most of these coaches relatively active.

However, between 2019 and 2024, only 9 new HP Canopy Coaches were approved. Currently, there are only 9 registered HP Canopy Coaches, of whom only a few are actively coaching. The current pre-requisites appear to be restrictive and a barrier to entry, even for suitably experienced and skilled individuals. Due to lack of accessibility to HP Canopy Coaches, there has been a resurgence in well-meaning but “unauthorised peer-to-peer” high-performance landing training.

Following industry and discipline specific consultation, it was agreed that:

- High Performance Canopy Coaches should be more accessible to all members, to reduce the occurrence of informal training;
- There is a need for more HP Canopy Coaches;
- There are members who are suitably skilled and experienced, but do not meet the current requirements;
- Existing requirements are too restrictive;
- Pre-requisites need to be amended to be more achievable without lowering standards or compromising safety.

PROPOSED CHANGES: Highlighted in **yellow**

REGULATORY SCHEDULES

Regulatory Schedule 53: Instructor, Packer, Rigger Ratings and Endorsements, Coaches and Assessments

8. Coach Approvals

8.2 Coach Pre-requisites

- (d) **High-Performance Canopy Coach:** An applicant for a high performance canopy coach approval must:
- (i) hold at least a valid Certificate Class E;
 - (ii) hold certificate of competency HLTAID011 Provide/Apply First Aid (or equivalent) that has been completed within the preceding three years;



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- (iii) have documented evidence of a minimum of 1000 high performance landings;
- (iv) have attended at least three Canopy Piloting competitions; or have attended at least three Canopy Piloting skills camps under direct supervision of a High Performance Canopy Coach; or have attended a combination of three Canopy Piloting competitions and/or Canopy Piloting skills camps under the direct supervision of a High Performance Canopy Coach
- (v) be current and proficient at teaching the basic canopy course syllabus for Certificate Class A, B and C as outlined in TOM Appendices G, H & J;
- (vi) have received mentorship under direct supervision from an experienced High Performance Canopy Piloting Coach;
- (vii) have the approval of the Canopy Piloting Committee; and
- (viii) submit a suitable training syllabus to the Canopy Piloting Committee.

ACTION: This Technical Directive 01/2024 will become immediately effective when issued, with all subsequent applications for High Performance Canopy Coach approvals needing to meet this standard. It has no effect on existing approvals.

This Technical Directive will remain in effect until the proposed changes are included in a future release of APF regulations.

COMPLIANCE:

Immediate

AUTHORITY:

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DISTRIBUTION:

Through APF Technical Directive system
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