

Freely Equipment Guidelines



These guidelines apply directly to all jumps other than those made in a strictly belly-to-earth orientation. Even traditional belly jumps may have moments when the relative wind is hitting the jumper and their equipment at unforeseen angles and therefore it is strongly recommended that all jumpers adhere to the guidelines.

Accidental deployments at the much higher freefall speeds encountered during freeflying combined with different body orientations can result in equipment failure and/or serious injury.

Safety in freeflying requires attention to your parachute equipment and clothing. Most modern parachute systems are designed with freeflying in mind and should be safe, but not all are, and many older systems were developed with “belly-to-earth” flying in mind. Regular equipment maintenance and checks are imperative, as is proper pre-jumps checks and buddy checks.

General

- Your parachute system must be in excellent condition.
- No student equipment. (Student equipment was not designed for the high stresses and complications introduced by freeflying.)
- Main and reserve parachute sizes should be compatible with the container design to ensure a correct fit, proper tension on the closing loops and BOC pouch. (Parachutes should neither be too small nor too big for the container.)



Parachute System

- The parachute harness should be tight enough to avoid it moving during freefall. (It is especially important that the yoke does not slip off a shoulder.)
- Chest strap should be tight with the excess webbing secured.
- Leg straps should be adequately tightened to prevent harness from moving/slipping, with excess webbing secured to prevent release during freefall.
- Elastic bungee between leg-straps is recommended to prevent the leg-straps moving. (Pull-ups, string or other non-elastic cord is not to be used for this purpose.)
- Riser covers must be tight and secure to prevent premature opening or exposure of risers. (Magnetic or tuck-tab covers recommended. “Stiffeners” on tuck-tabs must be in good condition. Velcro not advisable or recommended).
- Cutaway and reserve handles must be secure with Velcro in very good condition. (Pud/soft style handle for reserve advisable.)
- Main and reserve closing flaps must be secure, with the “stiffener” in good condition. (Tuck-tab flaps recommended; Bottom-to-top last flap for main recommended.)
- Closing loops (main and reserve) must be sufficiently tight and in a good condition
- No twin, rear pin reserves.
- Deployment system: Only hand-deploy BOC (bottom of container) or pull-out system allowed. Recommended that BOC has tuck-tab style secured handle for freefly, no “loose hackey”. (No leg-strap throwaways or ripcord deployment.)
- The BOC pocket must be tight and in excellent condition, to avoid a premature opening. Ensure the pilot-chute is a good, tight fit.
- All parts of bridle should be covered or tucked away with no chance of being prematurely exposed.
- Automatic activation device (AAD) is highly recommended for all jumper levels.
- If Velcro is used anywhere, it must be in excellent condition.

Other equipment and clothing

- Goggles or glasses should be tight and secure.
- A visual altimeter is mandatory.
- One functioning audible altimeter is mandatory, a second is recommended.
- An approved hard helmet is mandatory until Certificate Class C and highly recommended for everyone else (especially beginner free flyers regardless of other experience). Helmets also assist in housing and hearing audible altimeters. Helmet straps should be secured. A quick release system is recommended for camera helmets.
- Purpose designed clothing or jumpsuits are best.
- Avoid clothing that may open in freefall (secure zipper system on jumpsuit).
- Avoid clothing that may cover your handles should it come loose, or that can stretch or be distorted by freefall (e.g. long sleeved sweat shirt).
- No rubber bands on hip rings to secure t-shirts. (Rubber bands wear out the material at the attachment point of the leg-straps due to excessive rubbing.)

