

# MINISTRY OF TOURISM & LEISURE

## GUIDELINES FOR PARASAILING ACTIVITIES

### **1.0 Purpose of guidelines**

The guideline for parasailing activities has been prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure to ensure that the activity is done in the most appropriate and safe way. The standards for equipment and operating procedures defined therein are intended to establish the minimum acceptable procedures for safe and responsible operation of the activity.

### **2.0 Definition**

*Parasailing is an activity where a person is:*

*(a) lifted by a towline from a platform while being towed by a pleasure craft; or*

*(b) lifted by a towline from a winch onboard a pleasure craft*

*when attached to a specially designed parachute.*

### **3.0 General Rules**

#### **3.1 Disclaimer Form/Release of liability waiver**

Without exception, all operators shall require **ALL PASSENGERS** of legal age or if a minor; a parent or legal guardian to read and sign an assumption of risk and release of liability waiver prior to boarding the craft or platform.

*A model of a disclaimer form is at **Annex A**.*

#### **3.2 Pleasure craft winch system use requirements**

Only direct launch and recovery winch systems shall be permitted and must be utilized for both launch and recovery of flight passengers at all times when engaged in parasailing activities.

#### **3.3 Towline inspection and maintenance**

(a) Towline in its entirety shall be inspected daily for damage and/or wear and if necessary shall be immediately replaced.

(b) A minimum of 5 cm shall be trimmed from towlines bitter end after every 400 flights or as may become necessary.

(c) Towline shall be kept clean and well maintained.

#### **3.4 Pre-flight Briefing**

An operator shall designate a person to give a pre-flight verbal and physical briefing before any parasail activities commence.

It shall be the person in charge's responsibility to ensure that pre-flight safety briefing be clearly understood by all participants and shall contain, inter alia the following information:

- (i) a description of the activity;
- (ii) safety precautions while underway and in flight;
- (iii) safety and life saving equipment locations;
- (iv) warnings and procedures for unexpected events such as water landings; equipment malfunctions, and towline separation;
- (v) procedure in the event of any emergency;
- (vi) the proper use of signals;
- (vii) question and answer period; and
- (viii) exclusion of any passenger or participant that may be afraid or intimidated prior to participation.

### **3.5 Dipping**

Toe dipping may be conducted only after operator has ascertained that sea and wind conditions are conducive, a safe and unobstructed sea room is available and in no way the passenger is likely to sustain any injury caused by either poor judgment or failure to observe normal precautions.

### **3.6 Hours of business**

The operating hours for the activity shall be between 09.00hrs to 17.00 hrs.

### **3.7 Flight duration**

The minimum and maximum duration for the flight part of the activity shall be 15 and 20 minutes respectively.

### **3.8 Minimum age requirements**

- a) Minors may participate in parasailing activities only after the operator has made reasonable prior judgment that wind and sea conditions are conducive to such activities and extreme caution should be exercised.
- b) No person of less than 5 years shall be allowed to undertake parasailing activity;
- c) A person between 5 years and 10 years shall be accompanied by an adult while in flight;
- d) A maximum towline length of 90 metres is recommended for children under the age of 12.

### **3.9 Multiple Passenger flight**

A maximum of two passengers shall be allowed per flight, one of whom should be of age.

### **3.10 Daily equipment inspections**

Prior to operating, it shall be the responsibility of the operator or person in charge of the craft/platform or both, to carry out a daily inspection of all systems, parasail canopies, towline, safety gear and related equipment making certain that these are properly maintained and in safe operating condition.

### **3.11 Boat traffic/right of way**

Crafts while engaged in parasailing should not assume themselves to be considered a RAM craft (restricted in their ability to manoeuvre) and should be prepared to give way to other crafts as prescribed by the International Regulations for Prevention of Collision at Sea.

### **3.12 Conduct of the Operator/Person in Charge**

Operator/person in charge shall adhere to the following minimum guidelines:

- (i) He shall employ a zero tolerance policy for deviation of these guidelines as a minimum standard and must at all times place passenger safety first;
- (ii) He must file an incident report to an authorized officer as prescribed [Section 2 of the Tourism Authority Act 2006], immediately upon any known, or passenger implied injury or rescue which requires medical attention, and shall use an approved incident report form;
- (iii) A copy of the emergency procedures manual, incident report form must be kept onboard the vessel at all times while in operation.

*A model of incident report form is at **Annex B** and model of emergency procedures is at **Annex C**.*

## **4.0 Environment Conditions**

### **4.1 Pre-Flight Weather Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of the operator/person in charge, to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favourable for parasailing.

No operator shall knowingly parasail in heavy rain likely to reduce visibility, heavy fog or during a known lightning storm and thunder.

## **4.2 Weather Warnings**

At no time shall any operator willingly conduct parasail once a cyclone class 1 condition is in force.

## **4.3 Wind Conditions**

- (a) It is the responsibility of the operator or person in charge to evaluate and determine if wind conditions are favourable for parasailing.
- (b) Operators shall follow recommendations of equipment manufacturers with regard to canopy selection for weight and wind speeds.
- (c) No craft shall be operated when sustained wind is in excess of 40 mph /34.7 knots.

## **4.4 Sea Conditions**

It is the responsibility of the operator/person in charge to evaluate and determine if sea conditions are favourable for parasailing.

No craft shall operate when the height of waves is judged to be in excess of 2 metres.

## **5.0 Safety Equipment/Requirements**

### **5.1 Parasailing Equipment**

#### **5.1.1 Towline Types**

Only polypropylene high tensile type lines with a double braided low stretch construction shall be utilized.

#### **5.1.2 Towline Requirements**

Towlines shall meet the following standards:

1. The minimum diameter of any towline shall be 1 cm.
2. The maximum length shall be of 150 metres.
3. The minimum tensile strength of any towline shall be 4,800 lbs/21350 Newton (manufacturer's certificate to be submitted).

An in-service date shall be logged whenever new line is installed.

#### **5.1.3 Towline Guides**

All towline contact surfaces must be free from rough or abrasive points.

#### **5.1.4 Approved Safety Equipment**

Operators/person in charge shall use only approved items of equipment in good condition and in such quantities as may be prescribed.

All pleasure craft/platform shall be fitted or provided with the items of equipment as at **Annex D**.

#### **5.1.5 Communications**

At all times crafts and recreational platform when operational must be equipped with:

- a) reliable communications onboard
- b) Red colored hand flag
- c) Whistle
- d) Or any communication system/device suitable for the activity

#### **5.1.6 Additional Equipment for Pleasure Craft/Platform**

- (a) A back up form of communication, such as a cellular phone.
- (b) Basic hand held wind speed meter and
- (c) As at **Annex D**.

### **6.0 Pleasure Craft**

- (i) The number of crafts operating from any parasailing platform be limited to two (2) and shall be permanently attached to the said platform.
- (ii) The pleasure craft shall adhere to the Code of Conduct as per **Annex E**.

### **7.0 Written Log Book**

A written log book shall be kept at all times on board craft/platform and shall contain the following:

- Daily equipment inspections;
- Weather readings every 4 hrs; and
- Maintenance report.

*A model of a log book is at **Annex F**.*

## **8.0 Personnel Requirements**

### **8.1 Minimum Flight Crew Requirements**

A minimum of two experienced crewmembers shall be onboard craft at all times while engaged in parasailing activities and it is the responsibility of the owner/operator to train flight crew prior to employment.

While one of the two crew members will operate the winch craft, the second crew member i.e. the 'lookout' shall maintain continuous watch on the passenger from the time the parasail takes off till the time it lands on the platform.'

### **8.2 In-Flight Floating Devices**

At all times passengers participating in parasailing activities (while in flight) shall wear a properly fitted SOLAS approved life jacket or PFD of the following standards:

(PFD: Type 1 – EN395/396/399 or ISO 12402-4 and Type 2 – EN393 or ISO 12402-5)

### **8.3 Passenger Weight Restrictions**

At no time shall a passenger be allowed to participate in parasailing activities unless the passenger is comfortable and safely fitted into harness.

### **8.4 NPF/NPS**

The operator shall ensure that all staff is registered for the NPS/NPF.

## **9.0 Documents for Inspection**

Documents such as the following shall be made available for inspection:

- Written Log Book
- Pleasure Craft Licence or a copy
- Skipper's Licence

## **10.0 Insurance**

The activity of parasailing shall be covered by a comprehensive insurance policy covering third party liability of at least Rs 5M per person.

**Ministry of Tourism & Leisure  
30 January 2012**