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About British Skydiving

Home of British Skydiving - the National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting

1 History

British Skydiving is the trading name of British Parachute Association Ltd, which was founded in 1961 to organise, govern and facilitate skydiving (sport parachuting) within the United Kingdom. In 1966, British Skydiving incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (registered in England, number 875429). British Skydiving is the governing body for all skydiving in the UK, both civilian and military. It is the only skydiving organisation in the country approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). British Skydiving is recognised by the home countries' sports councils.

2 National and international representation

British Skydiving is well positioned within the organisation of skydiving competition and safety on a global basis. Skydiving is the largest of the aviation sports with over 70 countries represented on the International Parachuting Commission (IPC). IPC is a Commission of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the World Air Sports Federation, which represents all aviation sport in the world. British Skydiving is affiliated to the FAI through the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, which is the UK's National Airports Control (NAC). British Skydiving nominates two delegates to IPC, one of whom chairs an IPC subcommittee; and two delegates to the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom. British Skydiving is a founder member of the European Parachuting Union (EPU). British Skydiving engages with the wider sporting landscape by membership of the Sport & Recreation Alliance.

3 Composition and structure

British Skydiving is a third sector, not-for-profit membership body funded largely by membership subscriptions. British Skydiving has a core Membership of around 6,400 Full (voting) Members, who elect its governing Board of Directors, which takes office at the Annual General Meeting, together with two nominated independent directors appointed by the AGM. In addition, British Skydiving has some 60,000 Student and Temporary Members each year. Of the 'full' membership, the vast majority are active skydivers in the UK. British Skydiving Council meets seven times a year to direct the strategic affairs of the Association. Council has Committees that oversee the Association's main areas of activity: Safety and Training, Competitions, Communications and Development. An employed staff of 10 carries out the day-to-day running of the Association. It includes two qualified and experienced skydivers who manage the Association's safety, technical and training functions, and an administrative team. The contact details of British Skydiving HQ are: British Skydiving HQ, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF, telephone +44 (0)116 278 5271; email: info@britishskydiving.org , www.britishskydiving.org

4 Safety, operations, and the legal framework for skydiving in the UK

British Skydiving is recognised internationally as having an enviable safety record. This has been achieved by dedicated work over the years, which continues unabated. The legislation covering parachuting in the UK is the Air Navigation Order (ANO), which was enabled under the Civil Aviation Act

1982. Article 57 (Dropping of persons) states that before parachuting (skydiving) can take place an operator (club/team/PTO) must have a written 'Permission' from the CAA. It is the operators' own responsibility to put in place a satisfactory operation manual. All UK skydiving Clubs, Centres, Schools etc (Parachute Training Organisations - PTOs) and Display Teams, both civilian and military, operate in accordance with a single, shared Operations Manual - the British Skydiving Operations Manual - supplemented by local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

CAA must be satisfied regarding the fitness and competence of applicants for skydiving Permissions. British Skydiving has the expertise to monitor and inspect clubs and teams, and to make reports and recommendations to the CAA. All 'Permissions' issued by the CAA to sport Parachute Training Organisations and teams in the UK are issued on the recommendation of British Skydiving. British Skydiving also operates to an 'Exposition and Civil Aviation Authority Schedule of Approval', reference GA/101/96. This sets out the organisation and procedures acceptable to the CAA and describes the responsibilities, control and inspection procedures by which British Skydiving assures compliance with the terms of its CAA Approval.

Historically, British Skydiving has been regulating skydiving since 1961. Prior to 1984, skydiving from an aircraft in flight was prohibited in the United Kingdom (other than in an emergency) and could be conducted only under the terms of exemptions from the Air Navigation Order. With the Air Navigation (Second Amendment) Order 1983, having effect from 31 January 1984, skydiving became a permitted activity, subject to the grant by CAA of a written permission, and in accordance with appropriate conditions specified in such CAA permission documents. A comprehensive skydiving manual was required, incorporating various provisions relating to aircraft and operational safety procedures. In 1996, British Skydiving produced its Exposition and CAA Schedule of Approval to meet this requirement.

Today, the required operating standards for skydiving in the UK are set out in a cascade of documents comprising:

- CAP 660 - CAA's minimum requirements for the grant and renewal of skydiving permissions;
- The British Skydiving Operations Manual which represents the accepted standard for skydiving in the UK. Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs) may achieve an acceptable standard for operations by compliance with the British Skydiving manual;
- Individual PTO Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that amplify the British Skydiving Operations Manual in the light of conditions that apply specifically to that PTO.

Collectively, these documents represent a Code of Practice that was, in the main, developed by British Skydiving itself. All of the above involves a vast amount of work and fortunately British Skydiving is ideally placed to carry this out to a consistently high quality. If CAA had to carry out the work itself, the cost may be so high that the continuing existence of sport parachuting in the UK might be threatened.

5 Parachute ratings (qualifications)

British Skydiving runs courses to train and qualify instructors, who currently operate at some 30 British Skydiving Affiliated Parachute Training Organisations. British Skydiving has a well-established progression system of ratings (qualifications), which is constantly evolving to meet the developing needs of the sport.

6 Communications

British Skydiving publishes six issues a year of its Members' magazine 'Skydive the Mag', which is highly regarded as one of the top skydiving magazines in the world. British Skydiving Skydive Starter Mag encourages those who have made their first jump to progress in the sport. British Skydiving and

Skydive the Mag have sister websites - www.britishskydiving.org and www.skydivethemag.com that offer members, as well as the wider public, a wealth of online information about all aspects of our exciting sport. British Skydiving is active on social media platforms including Facebook [facebook.com/British Skydiving](https://www.facebook.com/BritishSkydiving). Skydive the Expo, held on the day of the AGM each January, is one of Europe's biggest exhibitions of skydiving kit and services, complemented by an extensive programme of seminars, rounded off with an Annual Gala Dinner and evening entertainment - www.skydivetheexpo.co.uk

7 Competitions

Through its Competitions Committee, British Skydiving promotes excellence in skydiving, sponsoring national teams and individuals to World Championships. It also supports major events such as British Skydiving National Championships in all of the major skydiving disciplines, together with UK Skydiving League (UKSL) in Formation Skydiving and Grand Prix competitions in several other disciplines held at PTOs throughout the UK. Current UK World-ranked and current and previous UK National Champions travel to British Skydiving Affiliated Drop Zones across the home countries to run a programme of Skills Coaching Roadshows to develop the skills of upcoming athletes in the various competitive disciplines - including Formation Skydiving, Artistic Skydiving and Canopy Formation. These Coaching Roadshows have undoubtedly contributed to increases in competition entries in skydiving competitions in the UK, particularly in Formation Skydiving - where the UK boasts one of the largest 4-way FS Nationals in the world