
ADVANCED PACKER COURSE SYLLABUS

Aim

The aim of this course is to qualify people as Advanced Packers, allowing them to inspect and pack reserve parachute piggyback systems (excluding Tandem equipment) of the appropriate type as per the manufacturers and British Skydiving instructions.

Note:

Initially, AP candidates will undertake an Advanced Packer Grade (S) covering square reserves only. A single (R) rating for rounds only is not possible. Tandem equipment ratings (T) are not covered by this course.

Course Duration

- The course is held over a minimum period of four days.
- The examination will not necessarily be at the end of the instruction period but must take place within 12 calendar months from the end of the course.

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Candidate Requirements

- Must be a full British Skydiving Member.
- Must hold a British Skydiving Approved Packing Certificate and have been involved in skydiving for at least 18 months.

Course Instructors and Examiners

- Rigger Examiners or Advanced Riggers may instruct and examine the course syllabus.
- Maximum of three candidates per instructor; with all instructors present and available during all teaching and practice sessions.

N.B. 1 Advanced Riggers are to run their first courses with a Rigger Examiner and must have attended a "Methods of Instruction" lecture on a British Skydiving Instructors' Course or be able to demonstrate good instructional experience and background.

N.B. 2 On completion of the first course with a Rigger Examiner, the course report will include a recommendation or otherwise for the AR to run future courses. This will be submitted to the Riggers Subcommittee, for the British Skydiving HQ to record on the list of those qualified to run Advanced Packing Courses.

Establishments

- All courses are to be run in an environment with facilities suitable to teach and examine good Advanced Packing practices.
- Those wishing to run Advanced Packer Courses must notify British Skydiving HQ at least 14 days prior to the course, *giving details of facilities etc.* The British Skydiving Riggers' Subcommittee will be informed of the course(s) at the next meeting.
- All courses must be held under current British Skydiving requirements and guidelines.

Initial Training Course Syllabus

For the rating types chosen:

1. British Skydiving Operations Manual requirements.
2. Safety notices and information.
3. Equipment compatibility and pack volume study.
4. Documentation, including packing cards, inspection check lists and packing logs.
5. Packing tools selection and safety requirements.
6. General Rigging and assembly.

7. Canopy and container inspection techniques and reports.
8. Inspection of AAD and RSL installations *should include an introduction to MARDs*
9. Contamination of materials.
10. AAD requirements.
11. Closure loop replacements.
12. Packing demo.
13. Packing lessons and practice.

Post Training Course Information

After successfully completing an Advanced Packer training course and prior to the examination, candidates will work under the direct supervision of a current British Skydiving Advanced Packer or Parachute Rigger. The Supervisor must have at least 200 logged repacks. The Supervisor will countersign all the relevant paperwork and be responsible for all work carried out. If the supervisor is to be an Advanced Packer, they must have held the rating for a minimum of two years and be recommended by at least a Parachute Rigger and added to the list of Approved Supervisors kept at British Skydiving HQ.

During the end of training course debrief, it is the responsibility of the instructing rigger to emphasise the importance of good coaching and lots of practice during the training period prior to the candidate attending the examination.

Examination Courses

When the candidate is confident in their packing ability, they may attend the examination. phase

as below. Initial Exam Course – for (S) rating

- The examination will start with a written test and a review of the candidate's reserve packing log.
- Examination for an initial rating will consist of a minimum of four reserve repack tests.

Four reserve inspection and repack tests with different types of equipment to include the following:

- a) Complete assembly of a system from separate container and reserve canopy.
- b) 1 AAD installation – no machine stitching required/allowed.
- c) 1 fitted with an RSL.
- d) 1 Pop Top type fitted with AAD.
- e) 2 with damaged closure loops including a pop top type.

Conversion Course – addition of round rating AP(R)

- The examination will start with a written test for the round rating and a review of the candidate's reserve packing log for reserves.
- Tensile testing and testing for acid mesh should be introduced to the candidate.
- Final examination for the conversion course will consist of a minimum of two round reserve inspection and repack tests. These tests will be with different types of equipment to include at least the following:
 - a) A complete assembly of a round system from separate container and reserve canopy.
 - b) 1 Pop Top fitted with an AAD.

Course Reports

- A completed Form Number 175 must be submitted to British Skydiving HQ and the Riggers' Subcommittee on completion of the initial training course.
- Following the examination phase, Form 208 must be submitted to British Skydiving HQ and the Riggers' Subcommittee. These must be sent by the examining Rigger and will include the AP grade that the candidate has been awarded.

Limitations of work

- Advanced Packers grade (S) are cleared for all assembly, inspection and reserve packing on square reserves, to include fitting AADs (except Tandem equipment).
- Advanced Packers Grade (R) are cleared for all assembly, inspection and reserve packing on round reserves, to include fitting AADs.
- Advanced Packers are not cleared for any work that requires sewing machine stitching.

Currency and Records

- Advanced Packers must keep a printed log of all reserves packed.

The rating will be endorsed annually by an Advanced Rigger or Chief Instructor, who is a current AP, who must be satisfied that the holder is current and up to date with the latest packing related developments and techniques (see Form 302 – Requirements and Guidelines for Renewing Advanced Packer Ratings).