

## SECTION 2

### DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS (SPORT PARACHUTISTS)

#### 1. GENERAL

##### 1.1. Skydivers are Designated as follows:

- 1.1.1. Student Skydivers – Below British Skydiving 'A' Licence.
- 1.1.2. British Skydiving Licence holders (see para 2 below).

##### 1.2. Skydivers are also Classified in several ways:

- 1.2.1. British Skydiving National Licence (see para.2 below).
- 1.2.2. Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) International Parachutist Certificate of Proficiency. (see para 3 below).
- 1.2.3. The Category System (see para.4. below).
- 1.2.4. Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) Levels (see para.5. below).
- 1.2.5. The Grading System (see para. 6.below).
- 1.2.6. Student Tandem Skydivers (see para.7. below).

#### 2. BRITISH SKYDIVING NATIONAL LICENCE

- 2.1. **British Skydiving 'A' LICENCE:** Category 8 and at least 'CH-Grade 1'.
- 2.2. **British Skydiving 'B' LICENCE:** British Skydiving 'A' Licence, 50 descents and at least 'CH-Grade 2 and JM-Grade 1'.
- 2.3. **British Skydiving 'C' LICENCE:** British Skydiving 'B' Licence, 200 descents, at least one further 'Grade 1' and 'C' Licence Written Examination.
- 2.4. **British Skydiving 'D' LICENCE:** British Skydiving 'C' Licence, and 1000 descents.
- 2.5. British Skydiving Licence applications must be endorsed by an Advanced Instructor.
- 2.6. Military static line descents using round/conical parachutes will not qualify in respect of jump numbers.
- 2.7. FAI (UK National) Certificates issued prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 remain valid.
- 2.8. Skydivers are required to hold the appropriate British Skydiving Licence in order to have the privileges associated with that Licence. A one-month 'grace' period will be allowed between qualifying for a Licence and the receipt of the Licence from the British Skydiving HQ.
- 2.9. Skydivers jumping at British Skydiving Affiliated PTOs who were trained, or jump outside the British Skydiving system, e.g. in a foreign country, may be integrated into the appropriate British Skydiving Licence/ category as deemed suitable by a CI.

*N.B.(1) Applications for British Skydiving Licences can be found on Forms190A-D.*

### **3. FAI INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTIST (SKYDIVER) CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY**

#### **3.1. 'A' CERTIFICATE (PARACHUTIST):**

25 Freefall jumps. 5 Minutes of Freefall time. 5 formation (FS) jumps or, 5 freefly (FF) jumps, involving at least 2 participants and made under the supervision of an instructor. Demonstration of control of the body in freefall in all axes (back-loops, turns, barrel rolls etc.). Ability to pack a main parachute.

#### **3.2. 'B' CERTIFICATE (FREEFALL PARACHUTIST):**

50 Freefall jumps. 30 Minutes of Freefall time. Successful completion of 10 formation (FS) skydives, at least 5 of which must involve a minimum of 3 participants or, ten formation freefly (FF) jumps, at least five of which must involve a minimum of three participants.

#### **3.3. 'C' CERTIFICATE (EXPERIENCED PARACHUTIST):**

200 Freefall jumps. 1 hour of freefall time. Successful completion of 50 formation (FS) skydives, at least ten of which must involve a minimum of 4 participants or, 50 formation freefly (FF) jumps, at least 10 of which must involve a minimum of 4 participants.

#### **3.4. 'D' CERTIFICATE (SENIOR PARACHUTIST):**

500 Freefall jumps. 3 hours of Freefall time.

*N.B.(2) International designations of parachutists (skydivers) do not correlate directly with the British Skydiving system.*

### **4. THE CATEGORY SYSTEM**

#### **4.1. Category 1**

Has received a minimum of six hours ground training and has been cleared to make a first static line descent.

#### **4.2. Category 2**

Has demonstrated the ability to fall in a stable position counting throughout.

#### **4.3. Category 3**

4.3.1. Has demonstrated the ability to perform three consecutive stable Dummy Ripcord Pulls (DRPs), counting and maintaining a positive arch throughout.

4.3.2. Progression to free fall will only take place after a minimum of five static line descents and will only be authorised by at least a Category System Instructor (see Section 4 – Instructors), who must satisfy him/herself that the criteria laid down for progression has been attained. The first free fall descent will take place no later than the day following the last of the successful DRP descents.

#### **4.4. Category 4**

- 4.4.1. Has demonstrated the ability to perform two consecutive stable delayed openings, counting throughout, of between three and five seconds.
- 4.4.2. Category 4 descents must take place from a minimum altitude of 4,000ft AGL.

#### **4.5. Category 5**

- 4.5.1. Has demonstrated the ability to perform two consecutive stable delayed openings of ten seconds, maintaining a heading and counting throughout.
- 4.5.2. Student Skydivers may transfer to the AFF method of training, at level 3 once they have obtained Category 5.

#### **4.6. Category 6**

Has demonstrated the ability to perform the following:

- 4.6.1. Two consecutive delayed openings of fifteen seconds.
- 4.6.2. Use an altimeter in free fall.
- 4.6.3. Upon successful completion of Category 6, Student Skydivers may be converted to 'throwaway' pilot chutes. For at least the first 2 conversion jumps no further freefall progression may take place.

#### **4.7. Category 7**

- 4.7.1. Has demonstrated the ability to perform controlled 360° turns in both directions.
- 4.7.2. Category 7 descents must take place from a minimum altitude of 6,000ft AGL.

#### **4.8. Category 8**

Has demonstrated the ability to perform the following:

- 4.8.1. An unstable exit
- 4.8.2. A dive exit
- 4.8.3. Back loops
- 4.8.4. Tracks, including a track turn as an avoidance manoeuvre.
- 4.8.5. No tracking exercises may be commenced below an exit altitude of 7,000ft AGL.
- 4.8.5. A back loop, 360° left turn, 360° right turn, a short track and wave off, from a minimum altitude of 8,000ft AGL.

#### **4.9. General**

- 4.9.1. All Student Skydivers, including AFF Student Skydivers making consolidation descents, are to be observed where practicable from exit to full canopy deployment by at least a Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI). Up to Category 4, this must be done by the dispatching instructor.

- 4.9.2. Details of release, count, position, arch, pull and recovery must be entered in the Student Skydiver's log for Categories 2-4 inclusive. These may be in the form of abbreviations such as GATW (Good all the way). All negative aspects must be written in full. All details of performance of Student Skydivers will be entered in their logs by an instructor.
- 4.9.3. Prior to being awarded an A Licence, All Student Skydivers, including AFF Student Skydivers must receive a brief on, but not limited to; jumping in higher winds, the use of a knife, being responsible for themselves in the aircraft and making informed decisions about the actions to take in an Aircraft emergency.
- 4.9.4. All briefs/lessons for progression and equipment conversions, up to 'B' Licence must be given by at least a CSBI, other than some Grading System briefs which may be given by suitably qualified coaches (see Paragraph 6, below). These briefs/lessons should be entered in the skydiver's log, dated and signed by the instructor/coach.
- 4.9.5. British Skydiving 'C' Licence skydivers and above may use 'pull-out' pilot chutes.

## **5. ACCELERATED FREE FALL (AFF) LEVELS.**

Has received a minimum of six hours ground training and has been cleared to make a first AFF descent.

### **5.1. Level 1**

Has completed 'Ground School' and has achieved the following:

- 5.1.1. Heading awareness.
- 5.1.2. Awareness of altimeter and instructors.
- 5.1.3. Reasonably co-ordinated Practice Pulls.
- 5.1.4. Pull on instructor's signal.
- 5.1.5. Additional possible exercises may be introduced at the instructor's discretion at a level indicated or at any subsequent level:
  - a. Solo pull on own altitude awareness.
  - b. Heel clicks.
  - c. Free arm time.
  - d. Wave off.

### **5.2. Level 2**

- 5.2.1. Free arm time.
- 5.2.2. Practice Pulls
- 5.2.3. Reasonable body position.
- 5.2.4. Solo pull on own altitude awareness

5.2.5. Additional possible exercises may be introduced at the instructor's discretion at a level indicated or at any subsequent level:

- a. Turns (instructor attached).
- b. Tracking (instructor attached).
- c. Secondary instructor release.

**5.3. Level 3**

5.3.1. Leg and arm awareness

5.3.2. Heading maintenance (whilst totally released)

5.3.3. Additional possible exercises may be introduced at the instructor's discretion at a level indicated or at any subsequent level:

- a. Spotting

**5.4. Level 4**

Start and stop turn(s)

**5.5. Level 5**

5.5.1. Turns left and right

5.5.2. Additional possible exercises may be introduced at the instructor's discretion at a level indicated or at any subsequent level:

- a. Solo exit.
- b. Sub-terminal control.
- c. Tracking.

**5.6. Level 6**

5.6.1. Solo exit

5.6.2. Sub-terminal control

5.6.3. Attempt back loop(s)

5.6.4. Tracking

5.6.5. Additional possible exercises may be introduced at the instructor's discretion at a level indicated or at any subsequent level:

- a. Front loop(s)
- b. Unstable exit.
- c. Track turns

**5.7. Level 7**

5.7.1. Solo dive exit

- 5.7.2. Alternate 360° turns
- 5.7.3. Back loop(s)
- 5.7.4. Track and track turns
- 5.7.5. Wave off

## **5.8 Level 8**

Solo exit and pull stable within 10 seconds.

## **5.9. General**

- 5.9.1. Student Skydivers cannot progress more than one level per descent.
- 5.9.2. Levels 1-3 require 2 AFF Instructors and Levels 4-8 require 1 AFF Instructor.
- 5.9.3. AFF graduates may not be awarded Category 8 until a minimum of 10 consolidation jumps have been completed. These consolidation jumps may be started after the successful completion of Level 7. The AFF Student must be dispatched and supervised by at least a CSBI or AFFBI. Those dispatching instructors must have received a brief to dispatch AFF Students by at least an AFFI or be an AFFI (logbook endorsement).
- 5.9.4. Non AFFIs will only follow out consolidation students after successful completion of their Level 8.
- 5.9.5. Level 8 will only be authorised and carried out by an AFFI, who must satisfy him/herself that the criteria laid down for progression has been attained.
- 5.9.6. AFF skydiving including consolidation jumps may only take place at a PTO where regular AFF skydiving takes place and where AFF instructors are regularly available.
- 5.9.7. Continuation training for partially trained Student Skydivers or Student Skydivers trained outside the British Skydiving system will be at the discretion of the CI.

## **6. THE GRADING SYSTEM**

Once a skydiver has obtained 'A' Licence or above (or, prior to obtaining 'A' Licence for CH1 or JM1), that skydiver's continuation training may continue via a choice of various disciplines:

### **6.1. Jump Master (JM)**

- 6.1.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Jump Master (JM1) the skydiver must be introduced to JM by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI), a Category System Instructor (CSI), an Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor (AFFBI), or an Accelerated Free Fall Instructor (AFFI) of proven JM instructional ability.
- 6.1.2. The skydiver must also:
  - a. Demonstrate the ability to 'Spot' correctly from at least 10,000 ft AGL.

- b. Receive a full safety brief (given by an instructor) on, be familiar with and be able to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a jumpmaster and has received an introduction to the British Skydiving Operations Manual.
  - c. Receive a full safety brief (given by an instructor) on, be familiar with and be able to carry out flight line checking on other skydivers of 'A' Licence and above.
  - d. Receive a full brief (given by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated JM1 Grade skydiver) on, and be able to undertake, packing, inspection and basic fault finding on a ram air canopy.
- 6.1.3. Formal training lessons/briefs for JM1 may be carried out prior to the skydiver obtaining an 'A' Licence, at the discretion of the CI. However, before a JM1 is awarded, the instructor concerned must ensure that the skydiver has obtained 'A' Licence and lessons/briefs have been completed and signed for in the applicant's logbook.
- 6.1.4. Holders of JM1 may not act as jumpmaster until an 'B' Licence has been obtained.

*N.B.(3) The requirements for obtaining JM1 may found on Form 247.*

## **6.2. Canopy Handling (CH)**

- 6.2.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Canopy Handling (CH1), the Student Skydiver must be introduced to CH by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI), a Category System Instructor (CSI), an Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor (AFFBI) or an Accelerated Free Fall Instructor (AFFI) of proven CH instructional ability, received a full safety brief and been instructed, both theoretically and practically on canopy handling relevant to CH1, and has successfully achieved the following:
- a. Flat turns on at least 3 descents.
  - b. Increased the range of the canopy using the toggles on at least 3 descents.
  - c. Displayed a reasonable level of canopy handling.
  - d. A CH1 written examination.
- 6.2.2. Student Skydivers must have successfully completed CH1 before applying for a British 'A' Licence.
- 6.2.3. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Canopy Handling Manual are acceptable for training for CH1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.2.1. (above) are met.
- 6.2.4. It is permissible to complete both 'flat turns' and 'increasing the range of the canopy using the toggles, exercises on the same descent.

*N.B.(4) CH1 written examination can be found on Form 240.*

- 6.2.5. To obtain Grade 2 in Canopy Handling (CH2) the skydiver must be Grade 1 in CH (CH1) and be introduced to CH2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated 'C' Licence or above CH2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven CH instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and been instructed, both theoretically and practically in canopy handling relevant to CH2, and has successfully achieved the following:
- a. Completed 5 of 10 pre-declared safe landings, within an area of 30 metres diameter.
  - b. Increased the range of the canopy in straight flight, using front and rear risers, on at least 3 descents.
  - c. Rear riser turns, as an avoidance manoeuvre, on at least 3 descents.
  - d. A CH2 written examination.
- 6.2.6. Skydivers must have successfully completed CH2 before applying for a 'B' Licence.
- 6.2.7. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Canopy Handling Manual are acceptable for training for CH2, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.2.2. (above) are met.
- 6.2.8. It is permissible to complete riser exercises and a pre-declared landing on the same descent. However, risers are not to be used as part of the landing pattern.

*N.B.(5) CH2 written examination can be found on Form 241*

*N.B.(6) The requirements for obtaining CH 2 may be found on Form 247*

*N.B.(7) The qualifications to become a CH coach may be found on Form 134B.*

### **6.3. Canopy Piloting (CP)**

- 6.3.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Canopy Piloting (CP1) the skydiver must hold a 'C' Licence and a Grade 2 in CH (CH2) and be introduced to CP1 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated 'D' Licence or above CP1 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven CP instructional ability or Canopy coach and have a log book endorsement from the CI/Advanced instructor, have received a full safety brief and been instructed, both theoretically and practically in canopy piloting relevant to CP1, and has successfully achieved the following:
- a. Proficiency at conducting canopy drills (dive recovery techniques, straight approaches - 90 , 90 - 160 , 200 - 270 turns) at altitudes above 3,000ft AGL.
  - b. Proficient, high-performance landings, using front risers during a straight on approach, on at least 5 consecutive descents.
  - c. Proficient, high-performance landings, using a front riser/harness to create a final approach turn of between 45 and 90 , on at least 5 consecutive descents.
  - d. Proficient, high-performance landings, using a front riser/harness to create a final approach turn of between 90 and 160 , on at least 5 consecutive descents.



- e. Proficient, high-performance landings, using a front riser/harness to create a final approach turn of between 200 and 270 degrees, on at least 5 consecutive descents.
  - f. A CP1 written examination.
- 6.3.2. Initially in air drills and high-performance landings must be supervised by a CP coach or equivalent. Student Canopy Pilots may then practise their skills. The CP Student must not progress to the next stage unless a CP coach or equivalent has endorsed Form 248.
- 6.3.3. All successful high-performance landings must be validated by a CP coach or equivalent using Form 248. The candidate must also countersign the coach's validation on Form 248.
- 6.3.4. Upon successful completion of each stage the candidate must not attempt larger degree final approach turns before gaining a requisite amount of experience as dictated by a CP coach or equivalent, who has evaluated the candidate over a reasonable period of time.
- 6.3.5. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Canopy Piloting Manual are acceptable for training for CP1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.3.1. (above) are met.
- 6.3.6. Skydivers who have not been awarded CP1 must not attempt unsupervised high performance/swoop landings. Skills should only be practised at a PTO where a CP coach or equivalent is available for guidance.
- 6.3.7. British Skydiving 'C' Licence CH2 Grade skydivers who hold Official 'Pro Swooping Tour' 'Advanced' qualification are deemed to have qualified as CP1.
- N.B.(8) CP1 written examination can be found on Form 249.*
- 6.3.8. To obtain Grade 2 in Canopy Piloting (CP2) the skydiver must hold a 'D' Licence, a Grade 1 in CP (CP1) and have logged 500 high-performance swoop landings, including 100 in the previous 12 months, and has successfully achieved the following:
- a. Safe, high-performance runs, over a minimum 185ft long, 30ft wide carving course, that consists of 10ft vertical markers with a defined entry and exit gate, on at least 3 pre-declared consecutive descents.
- 6.3.9. During the above (a) run the candidate must, in a controlled manner, negotiate the course by scoring the entry gate and then flying to the exit gate without making any physical contact with the surface or vertical markers that define the course. "Scoring" is defined as some part of the candidate's physical body below the tops of the vertical markers that form the entry and exit gates.
- 6.3.10. Skydivers must be CP2 holders before being permitted to take part in a British Skydiving Canopy Piloting competition.
- 6.3.11. British Skydiving 'D' Licence CP1 Grade skydivers who hold Official 'Pro Swooping Tour' 'Pro' qualification are deemed to have qualified as CP2
- N.B.(9) The qualifications to become a CP coach may be found on Form 134C.*

#### **6.4. Formation Skydiving (FS)**

- 6.4.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Formation Skydiving (FS1) the skydiver must, be introduced to FS by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated FS1 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven FS instructional/coaching ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Control fall rate and turn in place.
  - b. Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
  - c. Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
  - d. Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
  - e. Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).
  - f. Complete four points of 4-way FS.
- 6.4.2. Prior to obtaining FS1, an 'A' Licence skydiver may make 2-way jumps, when not carrying out coaching jumps, provided he/she has received a full safety brief and the other skydiver is at least a 'C' Licence FS1 skydiver or equivalent, approved by the CI.
- 6.4.3. Prior to obtaining FS1, during coaching jumps, no more than one non-FS1 skydiver per group (maximum of a 4-way), all other skydivers must be at least FS1 grade or equivalent, including an FS coach or equivalent.
- 6.4.4. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Formation Skydiving (FS) Manuals are acceptable for training for FS1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.4.1. (above) are met.

*N.B.(10) The qualifications to become an FS coach may be found on Form 134.*

#### **6.5. Canopy Formations (CF)**

- 6.5.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Canopy Formation (CF1) the skydiver must be a 'B' Licenced skydiver with a minimum of 100 descents, 5 of which must have been within previous 2 months, be introduced to CF by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated CF1 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven CF instructional ability, have received a full safety brief on 'CF Basics' (see British Skydiving CF Manual) and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Safely approach, and fly in close proximity to, a target canopy
  - b. Control 3D movement relative to another canopy using appropriate inputs.
  - c. Dock safely on one other person having exited the aircraft after them.
  - d. Receive a centre dock and pilot a 2-stack/2-way plane.
  - e. Receive and make a wing dock.
  - f. Brief the Pilot and spot for a 2-way CF jump from at least 8,000ft AGL.
  - g. Land safely within 50m radius of a pre-declared target and show good altitude, heading and airspace awareness throughout each qualifying jump.

- h. Pack CF-specific equipment of the type(s) they are using (packing certificate and/or logbook endorsement).
- 6.5.2. A CF1 Grade skydiver is able to make 2-way CF formations with other CF1 or CF2 holders with CI approval. A CF1 holder must not make canopy formations larger than 2-way unless with a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated CF1 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven CF instructional ability.
- 6.5.3. Training programmes such as those contained in the British Skydiving Canopy Formation Coaching Manual are acceptable for training for CF1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.5.1. (above) are met.
- 6.5.4. To obtain Grade 2 in Canopy Formation (CF2) the skydiver must be a Grade 1 in Canopy Formation (CF1), be introduced to CF2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated CF2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven CF instructional ability, have received a full safety brief on 'Considerations for Larger CF' (see British Skydiving CF Manual) and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Safely approach and fly in close proximity to a target formation.
  - b. Control 3D movement relative to at least 3 other canopies using appropriate inputs.
  - c. Safely approach a 2-way stack or planed formation and dock 3rd.
  - d. Safely approach a 3-way stack or planed formation and dock 4th.
  - e. Receive a dock as 2nd or 3rd in a stack.
  - f. Pilot a formation of 4 or more canopies in a stacked or planed formation.
  - g. Brief and complete a 4-way CF jump, which will include briefing the Pilot appropriately.
  - h. Spot for a 4-way CF jump from at least 8,000ft AGL.
  - i. Land safely within 50m radius of a pre-declared target and show good altitude, heading and airspace awareness throughout each qualifying jump
- 6.5.5. Training programmes such as those contained in the British Skydiving Canopy Formation Coaching Manual are acceptable for training for CF2, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.5.4. (above) are met.

*N.B.(11) The qualifications to become a CF coach may be found on Form 134A.*

## **6.6. Individual Style (IS)**

- 6.6.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Individual Style (IS1) the skydiver must, be introduced to IS by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated IS1 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven IS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Complete a 'Full Series' with precision within 16 seconds.

*N.B.(12) Guidelines for obtaining IS1 can be found on Form 187.*

## 6.7. Freestyle/Freeflying (FF)

- 6.7.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Freestyle/Freeflying (FF1) the parachutist must first demonstrate (in a belly to earth position, as in 6.4.1. above) the ability to:
- a. Control fall rate and turn in place.
  - b. Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
  - c. Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
  - d. Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
  - e. Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).
- 6.7.2. The skydiver may then be introduced to FF (for FF1 training) by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated FF1 or FF2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven FF instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Fly in a 'back fly' recovery position without rapid deceleration or 'corking'.
  - b. Fly in a controlled sit/stand position.
  - c. Control fall rate in a sit/stand position.
  - d. Control forward and backward movement in a sit/stand position.
  - e. Control turns in both directions in a sit/stand position.
  - f. Fly relative to others in a sit/stand position.
- 6.7.3. Once FF1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make FF descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).
- 6.7.4. To obtain Grade 2 in Freestyle/Freeflying (FF2) the skydiver must be Grade 1 in FF (FF1) and be introduced to FF2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated FF2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven FF instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Fly in a controlled head down position.
  - b. Control fall rate in a head down position.
  - c. Control turns in both directions in a head down position.
  - d. Fly relative to others in a head down position.
  - e. Display independent body movement in a head down position, e.g. hand claps.
- 6.7.5. Training programmes such as those contained in the British Skydiving Freefly Progression Manual are acceptable for training for FF1 & FF2, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.7. (above) are met.

*N.B.(13) The qualifications to become a FF or BFF coach may be found on Form 134D or 134F.*

## 6.8. Skysurfing (SS)

- 6.8.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Skysurfing (SS1) the skydiver must first be a 'C' Licence holder and demonstrate (in a belly to earth position as 6.4.1. above) the ability to:
- Control fall rate and turn in place.
  - Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
  - Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
  - Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
  - Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).
  - Maintain a 'stand up' position for 15 consecutive seconds.
  - Perform a controlled 360 degree turn in both directions whilst in a 'stand up' position.
  - Perform a straight body position forward and backward loop starting and returning back to a 'stand up' position.
  - Return back to a stable (belly to earth) position within 3-5 seconds from a fast side or back spin of at least 2 revolutions per second.
- 6.8.2. The skydiver may then be introduced to SS (for SS1 training) by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated SS2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven SS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- Jump a board of at least 3 feet in length and deploy in a 'stand up' position
  - Perform a stable 'surfing down the slipstream' type exit.
  - Perform a controlled 360 degree turn in both directions whilst upright on the board.
  - Perform a controlled back or front loop on the board.
  - Demonstrate forward movement by tracking whilst upright on the board.
- 6.8.3. Once SS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make SS descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).
- 6.8.4. To obtain Grade 2 in Skysurfing (SS2) the skydiver must be Grade 1 in SS (SS1) and be introduced to SS2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated SS2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven SS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- Perform a controlled seated turn of 720 degrees (sit spin), starting and stopping on heading.
  - Perform a controlled 'helicopter' spin, rotating a minimum of 3 x 360 degrees but not exceeding 6 complete revolutions.

- c. Perform a full 360-degree back-loop or front-loop with a half twist from a standing position, under control.

*N.B.(14) Guidelines for obtaining SS1 and SS2 can be found on Form 189.*

## **6.9. Wing Suit (WS)**

- 6.9.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Wing Suit (WS1) flying, the skydiver must be a 'C' Licence holder with Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1), with at least 500 descents or at least 200 descents within the previous 18 months.
- 6.9.2. The skydiver may then be introduced to WS (for WS1 training) by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated WS2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven WS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
  - a. Fly the wing suit safely and in a controlled manner (with overall stability) on at least three descents.
  - b. Deploy the main parachute in a safe wing suit manner (at the correct altitude) on at least three descents.
  - c. Fly a predetermined flight pattern and land within 50 metres of the target.
  - d. Demonstrate the correct post opening procedures on all qualifying descents.
- 6.9.3. Once WS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make WS descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).
- 6.9.4. To obtain Grade 2 in Wing Suit (WS2) the skydiver must be Grade 1 in WS (WS1) and be introduced to WS2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated WS2 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven WS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
  - a. Control fall rate, by arching/de arching and use of wings.
  - b. Control of horizontal movement: forwards, backwards (slowing down relative to others) and sideways.
  - c. Maintain control whilst flying suit at its best and least effective capabilities.
  - d. Recover from an unstable exit and continue on correct flight path.
  - e. Dive and approach a target.
  - f. Land within 25 metres of the target on 5 consecutive descents.
- 6.9.5. Once WS2 has been obtained, the skydiver may jump with groups larger than 3 with CI approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice).
- 6.9.6. Training programmes such as those contained in the British Skydiving Wing Suit Training Manual are acceptable for training for WS1 & WS2, provided all the requirements of the above sub-paras are met.

*N.B.(15) The qualifications to become a WS coach may be found on Form 134E.*

## **6.10. Tracking (TR)**

- 6.10.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1) 'belly to earth' the skydiver must hold a British Skydiving 'B' Licence and first demonstrate, in a belly to earth position (as in 6.4.1. above) the ability to:
  - a. Control fall rate and turn in place.
  - b. Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
  - c. Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
  - d. Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
  - e. Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).
- 6.10.2. The skydiver may then be introduced to TR (for TR1 training) 'belly to earth' by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR1, TR2 or TR3 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
  - a. Fly in a tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading'.
  - b. Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.
  - c. Control fall rate in a tracking position.
  - d. Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.3. Once TR1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 4 without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice).
- 6.10.4. No Tracker in the group may fly on their backs unless they are at least a TR2 grade skydiver or training for TR2.
- 6.10.5. Skydivers training for TR1 and TR2 may not be in the same group.
- 6.10.6. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.
- 6.10.7. To obtain Grade 2 in Tracking (TR2) 'back to earth' the skydiver must be Grade 1 (TR1) and be introduced to TR2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR2 or TR 3 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
  - a. Fly in a tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR skydiver as a guide for directional control.
  - b. Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.

- c. Control fall rate in a tracking position.
  - d. Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.8. Once TR2 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 6 without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice).
- 6.10.9. The leader of the tracking group must be in a 'belly to earth' position. However, they may be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced TR tracker over them who is 'belly to earth' to assist in the directional control.
- 6.10.10. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.
- 6.10.10. To obtain Grade 3 in Tracking (TR3) 'angle flying' the skydiver must be Grade 2 (TR2) and be introduced to TR3 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR3 Grade skydiver or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a. Fly in a 'belly to earth' and 'back to earth' tracking position of more than 45 degrees without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR3 skydiver as a guide for directional control.
  - b. Control fall rate whilst in an angle flying position greater than 45 degrees.
  - c. Control angled flight of angles greater than 45 degrees relative to others within the group, of no more than 4.
  - d. Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.11. Once TR3 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 6 without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice).
- 6.10.12. The leader of the angle flying group must be in a belly to earth position. However, they can be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced tracker over them who is belly to earth to assist in the directional control.
- 6.10.13. Training programmes such as those contained in the British Skydiving Tracking Progression Manual are acceptable for training for TR1, TR2 & TR3, provided all the requirements of the above sub-paras are met.

*N.B.(16) The qualifications to become a TR coach or BTR coach can be found on Forms 134G & 134H respectively.*

**6.11. Note:**

- 6.11.1. The award of a Grade in any of the disciplines may only be made by an Advanced Instructor.



- 6.11.2. Grades are awarded by the placement of a discipline specific stamp in the skydiver's British Skydiving Licence.
- 6.11.3. British Skydiving 'D' Licence skydivers wishing to take part in the above disciplines (except Skysurfing and Canopy Piloting competitions) may do so without first taking part in the various Grading System training requirements, though they are recommended to do so.

#### **6.12. Coach Rating Renewal**

- 6.12.1. Coaching ratings expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year but may be renewed up to six months after that date. To renew a coaching rating the coach must satisfy his/her CI that he/she is current in all aspects of skydiving coaching relevant to his/her status and has completed the following.
  - a. A minimum of five lessons / briefs during the preceding year.
  - b. For all disciplines that require in air coaching, the coach must have completed a minimum of 30 descents in the previous year, of which 5 must be coaching descents.
- 6.12.2. Where coaches hold more than one rating, the 5 coaching descents are a total of all their coaching descents and not per discipline.
- 6.12.3. A CI will require his/her coaching rating(s) countersigned for renewal by another CI other than him/herself.

### **7. STUDENT TANDEM SKYDIVERS**

#### **7.1. Definition**

A Student Tandem Skydiver is defined as anyone making a descent attached to a Tandem Instructor, other than those defined in paragraph 7.3 (below).

#### **7.2. Progression**

Tandem Students wishing to progress to 'Solo' skydiving may do so in a number of ways: Complete the Basic Training Syllabus for either the Category System or Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) training system (Section 5, Paragraph 2.1).

- 7.2.1. Convert to AFF at Level 2 after completing a minimum of 2 Tandem descents. The Tandem descent prior to conversion must be preceded by Tandem/AFF conversion training, after which the Tandem conversion descent must be successfully completed.

*N.B.(17) The requirements for Tandem/AFF Conversion may be found on Form 273.*

#### **7.3. Non-Student Tandem Skydivers**

British Skydiving 'B' Licence skydivers participating in Tandem Instructor Evaluation Courses (see Section 4, Para 5.2.2), Tandem System Conversion Courses (see Section 4, Para 5.5.2), or assisting on Tandem Instructor currency descents (see Section 4, Para 5.6.1 & 5.7.2c), are not classified as Student Tandem Skydivers.