

# The Scale Aviators Aero Tow V1.0

## Flight Line Director (FLD) – Aero Tow

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Flight Line Director (FLD) at a Scale Aviators aero-tow event is responsible for the **safe, efficient, and orderly conduct of flight operations** on the active flight line.

All pilots, tow pilots, and ground crew must comply with the directions of the FLD while on the active flight line.

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## Key Duties

### 1. The FLD has Overall Flight Line Authority

- Has final authority to start, suspend, or stop flying operations for safety or coordination reasons (weather, runway conflicts, emergencies, airspace concerns).
  - Ensures all operations comply with event rules and site requirements.
  - May suspend operations immediately if safety is compromised.
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### 2. Pre-Event Planning

- Coordinate the layout of:
    - Flight line
    - Pilot stations
    - Launch and landing areas
    - Tow lanes
    - No-fly zones
    - Pit safety zones
  - Planning to be done in consultation with other FLDs, tow pilots, and the Event Committee.
  - Layout may be adjusted during the day due to weather or operational requirements.
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### 3. Pilot & Crew Briefings

Conduct (with the Event Committee):

- Mandatory pilot and tow crew briefing.
- Tow procedures and release protocols.
- Standard launch and landing patterns.
- Circuit direction and height limits.
- Emergency procedures.
- Communications procedures (radio protocol and hand signals).
- Site-specific rules and airspace considerations.

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## 4. Traffic Management

- Control sequencing of launches and landings.
  - Issue clear “Launch”, “Hold”, and “Clear to Land” instructions.
  - Maintain safe spacing between aircraft.
  - Prevent simultaneous conflicting operations.
  - The FLD can ask the tug pilot to go around and climb out if there are too many gliders in the circuit lining up for landing.
  - When there are many gliders in the landing phase, the FLD needs to direct glider pilots to land long, short, or wide as needed to minimise risk of landing collisions.
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## 5. Tow Coordination

- Coordinate tow pilots and glider pilots.
  - Ensure safe towline handling and spacing between tows.
  - Monitor tow release area and ensure clean separation.
  - Confirm safe handoff from tow climb to circuit/landing pattern.
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## 6. Flight Line Communications

- Monitor the designated Control tower frequency. VHF aeronautical band radio will be provided, it is to be used as receive only unless you are a suitably qualified operator.
  - Keep flight line communications clear, concise, and safety-focused.
  - Relay information between tow pilots, glider pilots, launch crew, and spotters.
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## 7. Ground Safety & Crowd Control

- Maintain a sterile friendly active flight line.
  - Ensure non-essential personnel remain behind safety boundaries.
  - Confirm towlines are managed safely and do not present a trip or entanglement hazard.
  - Ensure pits and staging areas remain clear of the runway/tow path.
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## 8. Emergency Response

In the event of an incident:

- Immediately halt flying operations if required.
- Manage downed aircraft or entangled towlines.
- Coordinate first aid response if necessary.

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- Secure the area before resuming operations.
  - Ensure retrieval only occurs when safe.
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### 9. Conflict Resolution & Rule Enforcement

- Enforce event safety rules consistently.
  - Resolve disputes calmly and fairly.
  - May remove non-compliant pilots from the flight line pending Event Committee review.
  - Escalate serious matters to the Event Committee.
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### 10. Documentation & Reporting

If required:

- Log incidents and safety violations.
  - Record launch counts or flight durations.
  - Provide summary report to the Event Committee.
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### 11. End-of-Day Duties

- Oversee orderly cessation of flying.
  - Ensure tow equipment is secured.
  - Debrief with Event Committee and pilots.
  - Identify safety improvements for future events.
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## FLD Rotation

- FLDs may be rotated throughout the day.
  - Qualified pilots may be appointed as Duty FLD as required.
  - Incoming FLD must be fully briefed before assuming control.
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## Recommended Qualifications & Equipment

### Qualifications

- Thorough understanding of:
  - RC glider aero-tow operations

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- Towline safety
- Landing pattern management
- Emergency procedures
- Site-specific operating rules

### **Equipment (Provided by The Scale Aviators)**

- High-visibility vest
  - VHF aeronautical band radio
  - Clipboard/log sheet
  - Whistle to be used to get some ones attention
  - Air horn to be used to get everyone's attention.
  - Cones for visual boundaries
  - Star pickets for starting power aircraft (Aircraft must be restrained when starting)
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### **Conduct & Leadership**

- Communicate clearly, calmly, and assertively.
- Be consistent and impartial.
- Put safety before schedule.
- Remain approachable and professional.
- Smile and be friendly to everyone — leadership sets the tone of the event.