

The Scale Aviators Aero Tow V1.a

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.

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, Glider 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 signals, whistle, air horn).
- 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 as required
 - Maintain safe spacing between aircraft (Number of aircraft in flight).
 - 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

- Help 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.