

# RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL PARASAILING

**LISTED BELOW IS A 'DRAFT' OF THE PROPOSED SAFE OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR PARASAILING THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ALL STATES WHO ALLOW THIS ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND THEIR WATERS. ANY DEVIATION FROM THE SAILENT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED RULES IS UNACCEPTABLE.**

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**CPR-01. USCG APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** Operators shall use only USCG approved safety equipment in good condition and in quantities as required by law.  
**CREW EXPERIENCE.** A minimum of two experienced crew members shall be onboard at all times during the operation of any winchboat watercraft. The Captain shall have a minimum of one year operating experience. The first mate shall have six months operating experience. Both Captain and first mate shall have passed a training course offered by a qualified instructor, winchboat and/or parasail manufacturer certified by the Parasail Safety Council.

**CPR-02. CREW CERTIFICATION / STANDARDS.** The Captain and Crew shall have no less than two weeks training by a PSC certified training facility or entity. Training will include 30 hours of ground school addressing the topics below:

- Waterlanding Rescue
- Tow Line Failure Prevention
- Equipment Failure Prevention
- Pre-flight safety Procedures
- Equipment Evaluation and Safe Operating Procedures
- Whiplash prevention
- Safe Operating Techniques

**CPR-03. CPR CERTIFICATION.** Both captain and crew must be current in CPR and First Aid.

**CPR-04. DAILY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION.** It shall be the captain's responsibility for the daily inspection and maintenance of the winchboat, parasail canopy, towline and related equipment to make certain they are properly maintained and in safe operating condition. A written log shall be kept onboard at all times.

**CPR-05. PASSENGER SAFETY BRIEFING.** All passengers and parasail participants shall be given a safety briefing before leaving the dock and/or before the parasail activity commences. This safety briefing should include; a) a description of the activity itself b). the safety precautions while underway c). The procedure in the event of an unexpected emergency. d) the proper use of hand signals e) precluding any participant who appears to be afraid or intimidated prior to their aerial excursion.

**CPR-06. BASIC WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING.** Operators providing parasail rides using a Harness and/or Tandem bar type passenger support equipment shall provide to all passengers prior to boarding the parasail vessel a special water survival training briefing. This briefing should include; a) basic description of the parasail canopy and it's dynamics while in the air b) emergency evacuation procedures during unexpected waterlandings). c) drowning prevention techniques d) high speed deck landings e) body position during high speed waterlandings. f) additional safety warnings and pre-cautions as to the element of dangers with the exception of acts of God. Only rules (a) & (b) shall apply to operators using the rigid chair.

**CPR-07. BOAT TRAFFIC / RIGHT OF WAY.** In addition to USCG for rules of the road for navigation. Vessels while engaged in parasailing should not to be considered a RAM vessel (restricted in their ability to maneuver), as should always give way to other vessels while in the parasail mode.

**CPR-08. PRE-FLIGHT WEATHER EVALUATION.** It will be the Captains responsibility to evaluate and determined if weather conditions are favorable for parasailing. No operator shall knowingly parasail in rain, fog or during a small craft warnings, a low pressure frontal system producing one or more fronts with extratropical storm formation; and/or bands of thunderstorms producing high winds; and/or lightning within a 15 mile radius from the parasailing area.

**CPR-09. WEATHER MONITORING.** Operators shall at all times monitor all available weather channels in and around the area where parasailing operating are conducted by any electronic device, including but not limited to marine radio, cell phones and television.

**CPR-10. OPERATING SEA CONDITIONS.** Winchboats under 29' feet in length/ 8 foot beam shall not operate in seas over 3 feet. Winchboats over 29' and up regardless of beam shall not operate in seas over 5 feet. Additionally, operators shall follow recommendations by winchboat manufacturers on canopy selection for weight and wind speeds. Winchboats under 25' feet and under are not acceptable to operate in any waters.

**CPR-11. OPERATING WIND CONDITIONS. (open ocean)** No winchboat shall be operated in wind conditions such that, the vessel is stationary while the bow is pointing directly into the wind, in the parasail mode, with passengers aloft but in no event shall an operator fly in reported wind conditions of 15 knots.

**CPR-12. OPERATING WIND CONDITIONS. (inland waters)** inland waters shall include lakes, bays and sounds). No winchboat shall be operated in wind conditions such that, the vessel is not capable of maintaining a forward speed of less than 5 mph while the bow is pointing directly into the wind, in the parasail mode, with passengers aloft but in no event shall an operator fly in reported wind conditions of 10 knots.

**CPR-13. TOW LINE LENGTH (open ocean).** At no time shall any winchboat spool drum be equipped with more than 600 feet of tow rope while operating a parasail in open ocean.

**CPR-14. TOW LINE LENGTH (inland waters e.g inland waters shall include lakes, bays and sounds).** At no shall any winchboat spool drum be equipped with more than 300 feet of tow rope while operating a parasail upon inland waters unless the overall operating size exceeds two square miles.

**CPR-15. TYPES OF TOWLINE / BREAKING STRENGTH/ REPLACEMENT.** Only double braided / low stretch polyester and/or nylon line shall used utilized with any commercial winchboat. The recommended diameter is .375 diameter The working strength of any tow rope should not to exceed 3,500 lbs. All tow rope must be replaced after 1000 flights or 3 months whichever is occurs first.

**CPR-16. APPROVED WINCH SYSTEMS.** Only hydraulic winch systems equipped with a functional level-wind should be utilized during parasail operations.

**CPR-17. ROPE GUIDES.** All of the surfaces that contact the rope must be smooth and include rolling pulleys and rotating or swivel heads. Sliding fixed surfaces are not recommended.

**CPR-18. WINCH DRUM DIAMETERS.** The winch drum should have a diameter of at least 20 times the rope diameter.

**CPR-19. PROXIMITY TO SHORELINE, OBJECTS OR OTHER BOAT TRAFFIC.** At no time shall parasail vessels operate within a distance equal to 3 times the tow line length in proximity to a shoreline, objects or other boat traffic. Example: If 600 of tow line is spooled out, then the minimum proximity to a shoreline, objects or other boat traffic would be 1,800 feet.

**CPR-20. APPROVED WINCHBOATS.** Only vessels that are specifically built for parasailing with a self-contained winch system and passenger flight deck are approved. All other custom winchboats must be approved in advance on a case by case basis. No beach or platform parasailing allowed.

**CPR-21. DIPPING.** Deliberate dipping below the ankles and/or allowing a participant to touch the water during his or her flight shall be conducted not more than 100 feet away from the winchboat

**CPR-22. MULTIPLE PASSENGER FLIGHTS.** Multiple passenger flights are allowed only when using the equipment specifically designed for such an activity namely, single and double harness, single and double aerial recliner, and single and double harness. No triple flights allowed.

**CPR-23. APPROVED PARASAIL CANOPIES.** Only Waterbird, Custom Chutes, SportChutes, Powersail, Ascending Parasail, Waterchute, CWS and SportLite parasail canopies are approved for commercial use.

**CPR-24. CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.** All operators are required to abide by all local, state, and federal watercraft laws.

**CPR-25. VESSEL SEAWORTHINESS.** It shall be the responsibility of the Captain in charge to make certain that the winchboat vessel is in seaworthy conditions at all times prior to leaving the dock.

**CPR-26. COMMUNICATIONS.** All winchboats must be equipped with a VHF radio and/or other reliable communications onboard at all times. Channel 16 should be monitored and the weather channels at all times. The above rules are in addition to existing States and Federal Rules governing safe boating practices

#### **Amendments and/or Additions:**

**VESSEL CERTIFICATION FOR TOWING PARASAILS.** Since a parasailing vessel's stability is essential for passenger and crew safety. All vessels towing a parasail for hire must meet with the towing rules set forth in the Federal Code of Regulations 46CFR, Section 173.095(c) criteria based on a force equal to the towline breaking strength acting at 0 degrees above the horizon. Thus allow a comfortable safety factor during unpredictable wind and sea conditions.