



Parachute Association of Ireland

Information for Members.

In light of some recent changes and events in Sport Parachuting in Ireland the Board of the PAI wish to clarify and inform members as to the nature and status of the Association.

Our Association is the National Representative Body for Sport Parachuting in Ireland.

- **Affiliation to the National Aero Club of Ireland (NACI) and the FAI.**
 - The National Aero Club of Ireland is the internationally recognised national body representing Sport Aviation at the Federation Aeronautique International (FAI).
 - It is only through our affiliation to the FAI that Irish Parachutists may participate in International and World Parachuting Championships.

- **Licences**
 - The PAI is authorised to issue Parachuting Certificates (commonly known as Licences) through its affiliation to the NACI/FAI. These certificates (licences) range from "A" (novice) to "D" (expert). The qualifications for these are the same as for the International FAI Licence.
 - These are **not** a licence to make parachute descents as permitted by national Law.
 - There are in fact certificates of achievement and the standards required for these in Ireland is on par or above those required for International (FAI) Certificates/Licences.

- **Permission to make Parachute Descents in Ireland.**
 - Aviation activities in Ireland are currently regulated and licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority. The IAA is a Government appointed Civil Authority and carries out the duties formerly done by the Aviation Section of the Department of Transport.
 - In Irish Law no pilot is permitted to allow articles or persons to depart from an aircraft in flight. A permit is thus required to allow parachute descents to be made.

- Originally two types of permit were issued.
 - "Restricted" permits allowed novice parachutists to be instructed by those authorised as Instructors.
 - Qualified Parachutists who were permitted to jump without the supervision of an Instructor required a "General" permit.
- As the Sport expanded the Aviation Authorities were induced to allow novices to make descents under nominated Instructors without the need for a "Restricted Permit". Clubs were given a Green Card which allowed them to legally operate under this system. Only the IAA could issue this card.
- The PAI Operations Manual and training program for instructors and other Ratings was accepted as the definitive system of operations and the PAI were authorised to grant Parachute Permissions to affiliate clubs.
- In 2007 this situation changed and the IAA adopted a more hands-on approach regulating and licensing each club individually on an annual basis, but still accepting the PAI Operations Manual as a suitable standard. Copies of the Operations Manual are available at affiliate centres.

- **Aims and objectives of the PAI**

- The PAI sets standards for Safety and Training for Sport Parachuting in Ireland. Clubs affiliated to the PAI adhere to an agreed Safety code and to be audited annually by the inspection team appointed by the S&T Committee to confirm that jumpers are operating to the required standard.
- The Safety and Training Committee of the PAI reviews these standards, sets targets for Training Programs and reviews incident reports with a view to accident prevention and safer parachuting for all. In this regard the PAI offers certification and Rating of Parachutists.
- The PAI Operations manual is updated on an ongoing basis to reflect changes in national and international trends and experiences.

The Functions of the PAI as set out in the PAI Operations Manual are:-

- To promote sport parachuting at national and international levels;
- To oversee sport parachuting in the Republic of Ireland;
- To represent the interest of PAI members;
- To raise, hold and distribute funds from its members and affiliate centres and from other bodies or agencies to support the promotion and development of sport parachuting.

- To set standards relating to safety, training and operations for sport parachuting and to codify these in this PAI Operations Manual;
 - To monitor the implementation of standards relating to safety, training and operations for sport parachuting;
 - To affiliate centres for sport parachuting in the Republic of Ireland;
 - To issue licences, certifications and ratings to members;
 - To provide or provide for training for PAI members seeking PAI ratings;
 - To represent Irish sport parachuting at national and international levels;
 - To organise competitive activities mainly at national level;
 - To provide grants to members and to affiliate centres in a manner which best reflects the interests and development of sport parachuting in the Republic of Ireland.
- **Membership**
 - Although Clubs affiliate to the PAI it is the membership, individually voting at the AGM who elect the Board. To vote at AGM members must have attained the A Licence as a minimum requirement. New members are enrolled prior to making their first jump by the Club which trained them. On renewing their annual membership members are expected to pay the full membership fee.
 - The monies raised from memberships are used to pay affiliation fees to both the NACI and FAI. Our remaining funds enable us to subsidise home competition, teams training for World Parachuting events and to entice Expert Coaches to conduct Training Programmes in Ireland.

The Current Board (as of 12th February 2009) of the PAI has the following members:

Treasurer	Eddie Duffy	21 years in Sport	1500 Jumps
	Karl Carey	9 Yrs in Sport	2000 Jumps
Competition	Jim Gunning	12 Years in Sport	2000 Jumps
S&T Chair	Vincent Howard	17 Years in Sport	2900 Jumps
IPC Rep	Ray Smullen	6 Years in Sport	1200 Jumps