

Orange County Soaring Association Winch Operating Rules

OCSA will conduct winch operations following the guidelines in the British Gliding Association's **Winch Operators Manual (Revised Edition October 2002)**. In addition, OCSA will use the following specific rules:

1. **Pilot Eligibility.** The ranking OCSA Flight Instructor or club Officer will prepare a list of pilots eligible to winch launch at the current location on the current day. Eligible pilots must:
 - have attended the pilots' briefing for the current day
 - be an OCSA club member or sign a visitor's release
 - have a ground launch endorsement (to fly without an instructor).

2. **Glider Eligibility.** All aircraft must pass a minimum safety inspection to include:
 - CG hook (with or without bridle), or chin hook with back-release. Nose hooks are not allowed if they cannot back-release.
 - Functional check of back release
 - Positive Control Check
 - Harness / seat belts are appropriate and can be adjusted correctly for size of pilot, and are in good condition

It is strongly recommended that gliders be equipped with a radio with a Push-to-Talk button on the control stick, to keep both hands free for operating the flight controls.

3. **Line Boss.** The Line Boss is in charge of the glider end of the launch operation. The Line Boss will:
 - manage radio communication with the Winch Operator
 - have binoculars to observe the glider in flight
 - verify that each pilot and aircraft is eligible to winch launch at the current location on the current day
 - communicate to the winch the type of glider being launched, the type of tow hook (chin or CG), and the name of the pilot (and instructor, if applicable)
 - control the launch using the OCSA Radio Signals
 - acknowledge signals from the Winch Operator

4. **Winch Operator.** The ranking OCSA Flight Instructor or club Officer will prepare a list of members eligible to operate the winch at the current location on the current day. The Winch Operator is in charge of the winch end of the launch operation. The Winch Operator will:
 - ensure that the winch is stable on the ground by using chocks, stakes, weights, and/or a vehicle hitch
 - have a radio with noise-canceling headphones
 - maintain radio communication with the Line Boss
 - maintain radio communication with the pilot (if so equipped)
 - maintain radio communication with other traffic as necessary
 - acknowledge signals from the Line Boss and the pilot
 - have binoculars to observe the glider in flight
 - declare a Positive Release when observed
 - stop the cable by braking the drum when the cable reaches 70° to 80° elevation
 - release the glider by cutting the cable if the cable reaches 90° elevation

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5. **Commands and Signals.** All radio communications will begin and be acknowledged with:
- OC Winch
 - OC Retrieve
 - OC Line
 - OC Glider

The Line Boss will use the following radio commands:

- Stand by
- Take out slack
- Launch – launch - launch
- Abort – abort - abort
- Add 5
- Take off 5

The Pilot will use the following visual signals:

- Rock wings (Add 5)
- Yaw glider (Take off 5)

The Winch Operator will use the following radio commands:

- Stand by
- Abort
- Positive release

6. **Other conditions.** The ranking OCSA Flight Instructor or club Officer may amend these rules as required to satisfy local operating conditions.