

PANAM PROFESSIONAL EXHIBITION (PRO) RATING

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This section specifies the procedures for obtaining and renewing the PANAM Pro Rating.

1 PURPOSE

The Professional Exhibition (Pro) Rating serves as a certificate of proficiency. It is required for all demonstration jumps.

The Pro rating for all demonstration jumps will be known as a Pro Rating. (Pro)

2 INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

- As a form of pre-qualification for the Pro rating the club CI or SO should make a candidate perform the following: (Once a B licence is obtained, a parachutist may start with this preparation)
- Make ten successive, pre-declared jumps into a circle 25 (twenty five) meters in diameter.
- Make all jumps in front of at least three witnesses, one of whom is a PANAM Instructor.
- Obtain signatures for each of the ten jumps from all 3 witnesses.

To qualify for the Pro rating, the applicant must:

- Be a current member of PANAM.
 - Possess a PANAM C Licence.
 - Have passed a PANAM Jumpmaster course.
 - Have at least 300 jumps on a Ram-Air type canopy.
 - Make ten successive, pre-declared jumps into a circle ten meters in diameter.
- Note: This means that these ten jumps must be one declared jump after another declared jump. If a jump is not pre-declared then it does not count for or against meeting the requirements.
- Specific requirements of those ten jumps are listed on the Pro rating application form (Form 3).
 - Make all landings standing up.
 - Make all jumps in front of at least three witnesses, one of whom is a PANAM Instructor.
 - Obtain signatures for each of the ten jumps from all 3 witnesses.
 - Forward the completed application form to PANAM, together with a General Application form.
 - The smallest canopy used during qualification on at least 5 jumps will be the smallest sized canopy to be used for demonstration jumps.
 - PANAM will issue a Pro Rating which must be renewed annually.
 - If a Pro Rating holder's competence is questioned by a CI/SO or SJO, the Pro Rating holder may be required to reaffirm his proficiency.

3 ANNUAL RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Annually, the Pro Rating holder must demonstrate his continued proficiency and forward a completed Pro Renewal application to NSTO. Within the previous 12 months the Pro holder must:

- Perform 50 jumps of which 5 must be successful Demonstration jumps
- OR**
- Perform 50 jumps of which 5 must be re-qualification jumps as required in the Initial Requirements above.

A Pro rating having lapsed for more than two years the rating holder must redo all 10 qualifying jumps.

If a Pro rating holder's competence is questioned by a CI/SO or SJO, the Pro rating holder may be required to reaffirm his proficiency.

4 DEMONSTRATION JUMPS

4.1 DEFINITION

The presentation of Sport Parachuting made at a site other than a recognised permanent drop zone for the benefit, enjoyment, and entertainment of spectators and to promote the sport.

4.2 GENERAL

- No demonstration jump will receive NCAA or PANAM approval unless first approved by a CI/SO or SJO.
- All demonstration jump requests must be made on the appropriate PANAM request form, and shall emanate from an affiliated DZ or SJO. One copy to NCAA and one copy to NSTO.
- All persons engaged in demonstration jumps should understand that these are the showpiece of Sport Parachuting, and they should conduct themselves accordingly.
- The Loadmaster shall be responsible for ensuring that all the parachutists are qualified for the jump proposed, and that all equipment is suitable. He must ensure that all PANAM MOPs and Doctrine are complied with, and should pay particular regard to weather conditions, ground/air signals/communication and operating procedures.
- All Demonstration Jumps shall be conducted in compliance with the PANAM MOPs as set forth by PANAM.

4.3 ADMINISTRATION

- The following documentation must be held on record by the DZO or SJO.
- PANAM demonstration jump application form duly completed by loadmaster
- Request from the organisers in writing.
- Local Authority permission in writing if applicable.
- Written permission from the land owner.
- Plan/Map of the demonstration jump DZ and its environs, showing all potential hazards. (i.e.: buildings, power lines, motorways, water, etc.)
- Third Party Liability Insurance shall be held by the requesting DZ or SJO, the policy having a minimum cover of One Million Rand (R1 000 000).
- An inspection of all proposed demonstration jump DZ's must be carried out prior to the jump. The loadmaster for the jump must be aware of all details pertaining to the site.

4.4 DEMONSTRATION JUMP REQUIREMENTS

- All parachutists must possess a current Pro rating.
- No round canopy may be used without NSTO approval.
- The loadmaster shall not permit a demonstration jump unless he is in possession of written permission for the jump to take place.
- No demonstration jump will be made with a wind velocity in excess of 50kph.
- Crowd Control
 - Reasonable precautions will be made to keep spectators out of the immediate landing area. It will be the responsibility of the show organisers on the ground to provide temporary fencing, ground marshals, or loudspeaker warning or similar deterrents to keep spectators out and away from descending parachutists.
- Communications
 - It is recommended that a licensed parachutist be present at the landing area as part of the ground crew. Should this be impractical, a responsible member of the organizers should be thoroughly briefed regarding ground crew responsibilities.
 - In the absence of ground to air radio communication, the ground crew will communicate with the jump aircraft and the parachutist by means of ground panels or smoke.
- Recommendations
 - DZ's should endeavour to carry out exhibition jumps and parachute displays at every opportunity. Properly executed they are one of the best means of public education towards the sport.
- Two key points to remember in the acceptance, organisation and performance of an exhibition are:
 - Safety of the spectators and parachutists involved
 - Public relations for the sport.
- An exhibition that is poorly organised or carried out under adverse conditions can do irreparable damage to the public image of the sport.
- The permission of the property owners as well as the local municipality is required prior to application for clearance.

- **NCAA clearance must be obtained for all demonstration jumps.**

- The CI may place whatever restrictions he deems necessary on the demonstration jump.

Namely:

- Equipment used.
- Experience level.
- Maximum winds.
- Safety back-up etc.

- Validity of liability insurance depends on the exact compliance of all doctrine, restrictions, clearances, waivers and PANAM MOPs, issued to participants.

- Never accept an exhibition jump if you are not 100% positive that the jump can be performed safely within any limitations/restrictions set out for the jump by the CI or property owners.

- High altitude jumping (above 7000 feet) is generally not recommended for demonstration jumps because of:

- Poor spectator value.
- Difficulty in spotting for small areas.

- The general rule to follow is that the smaller the intended DZ is the lower the selected jump altitude should be.

- Smoke should be utilised whenever possible on demonstration jumps for spectator benefit.

- A commentator who is familiar with parachuting should be used at all exhibitions whenever possible.

- When convenient, always complete your exhibition with a packing display for the spectators.

- Always ensure that all your equipment such as smoke bombs etc., is attached in a fashion so that it cannot be dropped (accidentally) and endanger the spectators below.

- Always select an exit point that:

- Would allow the emergency ejection of smoke bombs, etc. without endangering spectators
- Would allow you to land on the DZ or alternate under your reserve in the event of a malfunction.

- Ensure that all jumpers and ground crew are neatly dressed for the exhibition and present themselves like sportsmen.

- Smoke on the target during canopy descent is an excellent ground wind indicator and is impressive to the spectators.

4.5 ORGANISATION CHECKLIST

- Pre-jump:

- CI clearance.
- Property owner and/or municipal permission.
- NCAA clearance.
- Adequate Liability Insurance carried.
- Agreement contract signed with sponsor, if required.
- Selection of parachutists to be involved as jumpers and ground crew.
- Check the participating jumpers have the proper equipment as required.
- Book the aircraft and pilot for date and time of jump.
- Collect all necessary equipment for the jump such as WDI's, target, smoke bombs. Preplan the jump with an alternate plan for low ceiling.

Arrange ground transportation. Boats if necessary.

- Brief all participants on planned jump.
- DZ. Alternates. Target signals to be used. Time. Individual responsibilities. Contact the sponsor periodically to confirm schedules etc.
- Notify all local news media with pertinent details.

- Day of Exhibition:

- Check weather conditions.
- Confirm aircraft booking.
- File flight plan if required.
- Remind news media if required.
- Get to airport early for final briefing.

- Send ground crew to DZ early to set up target, PA system etc.
 - Have ground crew phone airport shortly before scheduled take off time to confirm weather conditions, etc.
 - Be prompt on take off and jump times.
 - NEVER jump under adverse conditions.
 - Mix with spectators after jump if possible to answer questions, get spectators opinions of the jump, etc.
 - Clean up the area of target, smoke bombs etc.
 - Thank the sponsor for the opportunity of working for them.
- Post-jump:
 - Ensure that the aircraft bill is paid promptly.
 - Request letter of recommendation from sponsor for club files.
 - If an annual event, try to obtain a booking for next year.
 - Debrief all participants. A thorough debriefing and critique can expose weak points and enable you to improve future exhibitions.
- CAUTION:** Smoke adds immensely to spectator appeal and should be used on all exhibitions, whether free fall or precision displays. However, smoke can be dangerous if not properly used. All parachutists using smoke should be familiar with the opening characteristics of the type being used.