The following Operation and Safety Standards are presented as an existing set of best practices for use and operation of the site. The West Coast Soaring Club has limited ability to enforce the following standards and reserves the right to revise the following standards.

**OPERATION AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The West Coast Soaring Club has as its priority the preservation of the site and the long term recreational accessibility to its members and the general public. The following site safety standards are intended to promote the safe and courteous use of the site by all users, including but not limited to rated individual hang glider and paraglider pilots, training schools, students, and tandem operators. The term “standards” implies no regulatory authority, but should be adhered to out of courtesy to the Club and its members. The West Coast Soaring Club thanks all users for their cooperation.

These standards are to be continuously reviewed and revised with the goal of enhancing safety and practicality. All users of the site are encouraged to make recommendations for changes to the standards that will enhance our safety and enjoyment of the site.

**1 DEFINITIONS:**

**HPAC/ACVL:** The Hang gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada. A non-profit society representing the interests of pilots, that liaises with Transport Canada, regulates instruction and obtains third party insurance for its membership.

**New Pilot Identification:** a bright easily visible ribbon approximately one metre in length tied to a glider to indicate a pilot with less than 10 hours of total airtime.

**Site:** In this document refers to the whole flying activity area, including launch and landing areas.

**WCSC:** The West Coast Soaring Club, which is a non-profit society representing hang glider and paraglider pilots. The WCSC takes responsibility for securing access to land for recreational hang gliding and paragliding.

**2 PILOT REQUIREMENTS:**

**Ratings:** Pilots are required to have a HPAC/ACVL novice rating or equivalent for unsupervised flights.

**Insurance:** All pilots must carry HPAC/ACVL third party liability insurance.

**Visiting Pilots**: The WCSC will maintain signage informing and encouraging visiting pilots to conform to site requirements.

**Membership:** All regular users are encouraged to become members of the WCSC.

**Equipment:** All users are expected to operate airworthy equipment, have a reserve parachute and wear a suitable helmet.

**Experience:** All pilots with less than 10 hours of experience are expected to fly with new pilot identification.

**Site Briefing:** Prior to their first flights at this site, pilots will receive a briefing from an experienced pilot.

**Associations and Agencies:** Pilots are expected to obey Transport Canada and HPAC/ACVL policies and requirements not addressed in this document.

**3 INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS:**

**School Registration:** All Instructors or schools operating as a commercial enterprise from the site must register their intentions with the WCSC.

**Instructor Certifications:** Instructors hired to teach students by supervising solo flights from the site or through tandem instruction must possess valid HPAC instructor certification and first aid certification.

**Minimum Instructor Supervision:** Schools must ensure that a suitably experienced instructor is required to supervise both the student’s launch from the launch site and landing from the landing field during instructional solo flight.

**Record Keeping and Reporting:** Instructors or schools operating as a commercial enterprise are to keep records of site use and to file an annual report with the WCSC detailing the number of students, flights, training days, and a summary of any incidents and accidents.

**Responsibility for Operating Conditions:** Instructors are responsible for choosing forgiving conditions for inexperienced students.

**First Flight:** Instructors must insure that students are suitably prepared, prior to them undertaking their first solo flight from the site.

**Advanced Manoeuvres**: Advanced manoeuvres must not be instructed at or near the site.

**Communication**: Students must be in reliable radio communication with their instructors during flights.

**Tandem Top-landings:**  Pilots conducting tandems for instructional purposes must not attempt top-landings.

**4 LAUNCH PROTOCOL:**

**Keep Launch Area Clear:** Pilots will not move into launch position until they are prepared to fly when the launch is congested.

**Launch Attempts:**  If a pilot spends a significant amount of time attempting to launch without success, they will move to the end of the launch queue when the site is congested.

**By-stander Assistance:** Trained by-standers are encouraged to render assistance to launching pilots.

**Top-landings:**  Top-landings may only be attempted when there are no pilots attempting to launch and by-standers are safely clear.

**5 AIRMANSHIP:**

 **Keep clear of launch area:** Pilots will clear the air in front of the take off if others are attempting to launch.

**Follow standard right of way rules:**  All pilots must be familiar with and follow right of way rules for both thermal and ridge flying.

**Aerobatic flight:**  Aerobatic flight is to be avoided in areas of high traffic or over crowded areas

**6 LANDING PROTOCOL:**

**Respect Landing Areas:** Be aware of the locations of active landing fields and specific requirements for the use of these landing fields. Make reasonable flight plans to be able to land on an appropriate landing field.

**Respect for Private Property and Out of Bounds Areas:** Make every effort to avoid harming private or public property.

**Out-landing Courtesy:**  If an out-landing is unavoidable, be courteous and polite to the landowners, avoid damaging property, and leave promptly.

**7 SITE MANAGEMENT:**

**Parking:** Park only in designated areas and avoid parking in any area that may be used by emergency vehicles.

**Litter:** Do not litter on the site. If litter is found, pick it up, and dispose of it properly.

**Sanitation:** Use portable toilet facilities and public washrooms whenever possible.

**Wildlife:** Be aware of native wildlife. Do not harass wildlife.

 **Spectators:** Spectators should be directed to safe vantage points. Participants will hold the safety of the general public as the highest priority.

**Smoking:** Do not smoke on site. Discourage spectators from smoking. Smoking has the potential to damage paragliding and hang gliding equipment as well as to start forest fires.

**Camp Fires:** Camp fires are discouraged at the sites. If campfires spots are found make sure they are completely out and then clear away and bury any ash and charcoal remaining.

**Vegetation:** Do not introduce invasive weeds to the sites. Do not destroy ground cover vegetation. Do not cut trees or brush without appropriate authorization.