



Canadian Sport Parachuting Association
Association Canadienne de Parachutisme Sportif
204 - 1468 Laurier Street, Rockland, ON K4K 1C7
Tel. (613) 419-0908 Fax. (613) 916-6008

9 May 2020

Dear Registered Participants,

In this difficult time, CSPA staff and the Board of Directors are working hard to provide support to the skydiving community. Since March, we have exchanged different ideas and elaborated many scenarios allowing our DZs and skydivers to get safely back in the air.

Skydiving is an activity requiring many levels of logistics that require various levels of authority. Canadian dropzones must follow both provincial and municipal rules, which can vary from one province/region to another. In addition, the use of skydiving aircrafts is regulated by the federal government, which adds yet another layer of complexity that we have to navigate.

Opening of dropzones

Contrary to the many inquiries we've received, it is important to note that CSPA has no actual authority over when dropzones are able to re-open, or how they should go about operations with respect to COVID-19. Although we would like to be able to free our industry from the restrictions preventing the opening of our DZs, we are all currently at the mercy of federal, provincial and municipal regulations.

Over the past few weeks, we have been constantly monitoring these regulations and assisting our dropzones in not only keeping them informed but developing suggested policies that can be put in place for a safe reopening.

As of now, the federal government has published a staggering 11 Interim Orders restricting flights in Canada and 8 guidance documents and exemptions to the Canadian Aviation Regulations. CSPA has developed a Special Procedures Manual to guide our DZs in this maze of regulations in order to help them comply with the flight restrictions and have them up and ready in the shortest time possible.

Furthermore, we understand the upfront cost with regards to making the decision to reopen a dropzone. For this reason, we are hoping to make it more financially feasible for dropzones by waiving Club/PSO/Dropzone membership fees for this season. This was a large financial decision that was not taken lightly.

Paying your dues

After analyzing our finances throughout March and April, we can also see a trend in skydivers letting their affiliations expire. We've even had questions as to whether we can extend expiration dates because the country is not skydiving right now. We recognize that many CSPA skydivers are having their own struggles during this pandemic. Many have lost their jobs and so hobbies, such as skydiving, are not on the list of priorities. We respect that, as many of our volunteers are in the same position.

However, it's important to note that without revenues from affiliations, both new and renewing, CSPA will struggle even more financially than it already is. And while dropzones may not be in operation and you may not be skydiving, CSPA must still be able to provide services and the insurance policy still must be current. Furthermore, your affiliation



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includes many benefits, especially the CanPara magazine which will help you stay informed and educated. Even though you are not skydiving, CSPA is still operating to our full capacity, helping dropzones, fighting airspace issues, developing new programs and updating current ones. We are continually striving to ensure you have a great season when the pandemic lifts, and preplanning for next year.

Staying Current

We are all uncurrent as skydivers. A “Safety Day” approach to the start of the season is highly recommended, even if you already had one in March. In addition, while we wait, we can all be practicing emergency procedures. That includes the physical motions of course, but it also includes thinking through responses to a variety of unusual situations, both personal and in coach / instructor roles. If you are unsure what to think about, check in with your DZ or instructors, or visit the [Emergency Procedures Endorsement](#) pages for your CoP level. How about participating in a virtual safety day?

Get your gear ready. Our riggers cannot repack everyone on the same day! Is your jumpsuit washed and repaired? Is your visor clean? Are your audible batteries fresh?

We can also visualize. This will be much more fun than EPs! Visualize our climb-outs and exits. Visualize flight control checks, landing area, and likely approaches and flight plans for various wind conditions. Visualize your favorite kinds of jumps!

Ratings

With the many uncertainties in mind, the CWC has given some thought to how ratings certification and currency might be affected.

Ratings certification: Anyone who took a CSPA coach or instructor course in 2018/2019 and needs more time to certify their rating should file for an extension, using the last page of your portfolio and sending it to office@cspa.ca. Effective now, extensions received before November 30, 2020 will have the \$25 extension fee waived.

Ratings currency: Next, for those who have certified ratings, there are two types of currency to think about: technical ratings currency (on paper), and actual currency.

- 1. Technical currency:** For now, the existing process for ratings validation will remain in place. Complete your ratings revalidation form and submit it with your affiliation renewal. In the meantime, the CWC will monitor the status of the skydiving season and will have further discussions if it seems that most ratings holders won't be able to reasonably maintain currency requirements. Options MAY include modified requirements or waiving them entirely. However, as we are cautiously optimistic that we will get to jump out of airplanes, we are NOT moving forward with these options yet, but we are actively discussing alternatives. (Please note that some currency requirements were modified over the winter - details are on the CSPA website.)



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- 2. Actual currency:** Collectively, we are as uncurrent as we've ever been. Please carefully consider this before doing any jumps in a coach or instructor role. At a minimum, do enough personal jumps first to work out your own routines related to the DZ's modified procedures. Think of it as adding a new piece of equipment: we need to sort out our own processes first, so that we aren't distracted when we need to look after our students and novices. Practice jumps/dispatches in each rating with your peers before taking a student (usual situations, not unusuals). Think about how we can teach and coach effectively from 2m away!

The longer it takes to get started, the more we need to be mindful that nobody in Canada will be current.

Inputs

CSPA welcomes inputs from its Registered Participants during this difficult time. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members or the National Office.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and blue skies.