

FLYING FOX POLICY

1. PHILOSOPHY

A Policy for the conduct of *Scout* activities involving Flying Foxes is required for the following reasons:

- 1.1 There is inherent risk in these activities.
- 1.2 Leaders in Scouting need to be aware of risks, and apply adequate skills to ensure that activities are conducted safely.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Control of all activities described in this Policy shall be vested in the Chief Commissioner.
- 2.2 Authority for the control of these activities shall normally be delegated to the State Commissioner (Activities).
- 2.3 A State Advisory Committee comprising Delegates from each Region shall be established to regularly review the conduct of Flying Fox activities: - SACFF.
- 2.4 The promotion, administration and regulation of Flying Fox activities shall be vested in appropriately qualified Region Coordinator (Flying Fox), appointed by the Region Commissioner or Region Commissioner (Activities).

3. APPLICATION

- 3.1 The term “Flying Fox” describes a pioneering apparatus for moving persons along an elevated fixed rope, hawser or cable, whilst suspended from a moving (pulley) block.
- 3.2 This Policy shall not apply to traversing techniques used in Rock-Related activities and controlled by the Rock-Related Activities Policy.
- 3.3 This Policy shall not apply to commercially conducted activities, run by persons or organisations outside the Association.
- 3.4 Before participation in any commercially conducted Flying Fox activity, the policy on Prohibited Activities, and the guidelines for participation in Commercially Run Activities, should be considered.

4. OPERATION

4.1 The State Advisory Committee (Flying Fox) is to:

- a) regularly review this Policy, Schedules to the Policy, and other documentation as applicable;
- b) advise State Office on technical matters relating to this Policy in all dealings with the public, authorities and any other similar interest groups;
- c) form sub-committees as required to assist with technical standards, safety and training;
- d) determine and specify minimum standards for all equipment used for these activities;
- e) authorise qualifications for the conduct of Flying Fox activities run by State Activity Centres;
- f) maintain records of qualifications issued and appointments made by the Committee.

4.2 The Region Coordinator (Flying Fox) is to:

- a) promote, administer and regulate Flying Fox activities within the Region;
- b) authorise qualifications for the conduct of Flying Fox activities within the Region;
- c) maintain records of qualifications issued and appointments made within the Region;

- d) register any qualification issued, cancel any qualification, or recommend to the Region Commissioner the suspension of any Leader's appointment if practices are conducted in an unsafe manner or contrary to this Policy.

5. QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications and appointments referred to in this Policy shall be valid for three years, and may be re-issued subject to satisfactory re-assessment. The following qualifications are included:

5.1 Flying Fox Assistant

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of a Flying Fox Instructor:

- a) the necessary maturity and common sense to safely conduct, and supervise youth members participating in Flying Fox activities
- b) ability to fit safety equipment to meet the manufacturers specifications

5.2 Flying Fox Basic Guide

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of a Flying Fox Instructor:

- a) the necessary maturity and common sense to safely conduct, and supervise youth members participating in Flying Fox activities
- b) knowledge of all aspects of Schedule A to this Policy
- c) technical ability to safely assist an Advanced Guide or above in constructing and managing a Flying Fox activity

5.3 Flying Fox Advanced Guide

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of a Flying Fox Instructor:

- a) have fulfilled the requirements of Flying Fox Basic Guide
- b) technical ability to safely construct and manage Flying Fox activities in a variety of locations and over a range of spans, using both natural fibre and wire rope construction methods

5.4 Flying Fox Supervisor

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of a Flying Fox Assessor:

- a) have fulfilled the requirements for Flying Fox Advanced Guide
- b) the instructional ability to train both adult and youth members in the requirements for safe construction and management of Flying Fox activities.
- c) the technical ability to assess, safely construct and manage Flying Fox activities in a variety of locations and over a range of spans, using both natural fibre and wire rope construction

This qualification allows the holder to run an activity involving registered members of the Association and the public.

5.5 Flying Fox Instructor

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of a Flying Fox Assessor:

- a) have fulfilled the requirements for Flying Fox Advanced Guide
- b) knowledge of all aspects of Schedule B to this Policy
- c) the instructional ability to train both adult and youth members in the requirements for safe construction and management of Flying Fox activities
- d) the technical ability to assess, safely construct and manage Flying Fox activities in a variety of locations and over a range of spans, using both natural fibre and wire rope construction

- e) must have completed the component 'Train Small Groups' of Certificate 4 Workplace Training and Assessment (or equivalent)

5.6 Flying Fox Assessor

Demonstrate the following to the satisfaction of the Region Coordinator (Flying Fox) and/or Region Commissioner (Activities):

- a) have fulfilled the requirements of Flying Fox Instructor
- b) the ability to assess participants and training in Flying Fox activities
- c) must hold Certificate 4 Workplace Training and Assessment

6. NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Where appointment at Instructor or Assessor levels are for the purpose of delivery of National Training Courses, criteria for National appointment will also apply.

7. CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES

- 7.1** A Flying Fox Leader or Instructor must be present and continually supervise any Flying Fox activity.
- 7.2** Where youth members are participating in the activity, an Adult Leader (both appointed and holding a certificate of adult leadership) must be present. Where more than six youth members are present, at least one additional adult must be present.
- 7.3** Parent permission requirements of the Activity Notification Procedures must be adhered to.
- 7.4** Where 'non-Scouts' or members of the public are likely to participate, the activity must be under the direct control of a Flying Fox Instructor, and parent permission obtained for all youth participants. This requirement may only be varied upon the authorisation of the Region Coordinator (Flying Fox).
- 7.5** All conditions and requirements of this Policy and current Schedules to the Policy must be adhered to.
- 7.6** The qualified Leader conducting the activity must ensure that a qualified First Aider and relevant safety and first aid equipment are present at the activity site.
- 7.7** The wearing of a correctly fitting, four point attachment, safety helmet (eg climbing helmet, bicycle helmet) is required for participants in Flying Fox activities. Industrial type helmets may be worn in situations where the participant is not at risk of falling (eg during Flying Fox construction).

8. SCHEDULES TO POLICY

The following Schedules are part of this Policy but may be issued separately: -

SCHEDULE A

A MANUAL FOR FLYING FOX CONSTRUCTION AND USE

This document/handbook is issued and updated by the SAC (Flying Fox) and distributed by Region Coordinators as original, numbered editions, to qualified persons only. It is a technical resource and handbook for Flying Fox Leaders and Instructors, and a guide of requirements for construction and management of Flying Fox activities.

SCHEDULE B

TRAINING FOR FLYING FOX LEADERSHIP

This document/handbook is issued and updated by the SAC (Flying Fox) for use by Flying Fox Instructors and Assessors. It is a progressive training program for Flying Fox Leadership to be used in training and assessing competencies of Flying Fox Leaders at Basic and Advanced levels of qualification.