

## Winch Pre-Departure Ground Operations

**Wing runner is in charge of the launch. PIC is responsible for a safe launch. The parachute is not connected to the cable until everyone is clear of in front of the glider, including the wing runner.**

### Glider end launch sequence:

- Pilots enter cockpit, fasten seat belts, prepare cockpit (headsets, radio, altimeter, rudder pedals, computers, loose objects, seat cushions, etc.)
- When they are ready to hook up the cable:
  - Wing runner approaches with strop/parachute section of launch equipment. THE STROP/PARACHUTE IS NOT CONNECTED TO THE WINCH CABLE AT THIS TIME.
  - Wing runner shows the weak link to the PIC for weak link color identification. The pilot verifies.
  - Wing runner shows the glider end cable ring (Tost/Schweizer) to the PIC for identification. The pilot verifies.
  - Wing runner connects the ring to the cg hook of the glider.
  - Wing runner stands next to glider and waits for pilot(s) to close and lock canopies.
  - The wing runner points at the canopy lock and asks the pilot to verify the canopy is locked.
  - Wing runner points at the spoiler handle and asks the pilot to verify the spoilers are closed and locked.
  - Pilot(s) must demonstrate the canopies and spoilers are locked.
  - Wing runner moves to the side, away from in front of the wing and connects the winch cable to the strop/parachute. The wing runner then moves to the outer wingtip, which should be on the ground.
  - PIC runs the before takeoff checklist (if not all ready complete) and WINCH checklist.
  - The first item on the WINCH checklist is wings level/balanced. It is important to stress that the wing should be balanced not necessarily level. Wind effects can cause an immediate wing drop if the wing is merely held level.
  - When the PIC gives the wing runner the thumb up/wing balanced signal, the wing runner will complete a 360 degree scan of the area, stressing the area in front, above and behind the glider. When verified clear, the wing is balanced.
  - The PIC continues the WINCH checklist and the launch starts.

Everyone in the vicinity of the launch area is responsible for ensuring proper conduct from all participants. The wing runner is in charge of everyone in the launch area.

Communication is essential to a safe operation:

Between winch and glider

Between winch and retrieve vehicle

Between wing runner, glider and winch

Between glider and surrounding area (traffic), *especially during launch failure training.* (I.e. advise the local area traffic, air and ground, that you will be returning for an immediate landing or landing straight ahead after failure.)

The wing runner must have a radio. He/she must be able to call "STOP, STOP, STOP" at any time. Anyone in the launch area may call "STOP, STOP, STOP". The wing runner will comply.