Skydive Arizona Policy: Tracking Jumps, Including Angle Flying and other Jumps with Significant Horizontal Movement

Jumps that have a horizontal movement planned into them present a number of safety issues and need to be carefully planned. As the sport evolves, new activities bring new risks. Recently skydives with a significant horizontal component have become popular. As reports come in about real-world accidents, and incidents that could have had serious consequences become more frequent, Skydive Arizona finds it necessary to implement some safety policies for this type of skydive.

Please study this briefing sheet and if you have any questions ask the Dropzone Safety Officer (DZSO).

☐ A ___Tracking Dive___ is defined as one in which the majority of the time is spent in a track, with a fairly normal freefall descent rate and a substantial amount of horizontal movement. The flight path typically covers up to a kilometer (.6 mile) or more of horizontal distance and is often in a straight line or has only slight course changes.

☐ An ___Angle Flying Dive___ is defined as one in which there is a horizontal component, but the angle is much steeper than a conventional tracking dive, resulting in a faster fall rate and less horizontal movement. The horizontal component may involve several direction changes. Some people call these atmonauti or tracing dives.

Experience Requirements:

☐ *< 100 jumps:* you may not go on Tracking or Angle Flying dives except with an instructor or organizer approved by the DZSO of the day. Maximum dive size is two, including the instructor. Solos are the exception, but solos must clear their flight path with an organizer, instructor, or the DZSO.

☐ *100 – 200 jumps:* you can only go on dives led by an approved organizer or instructor.

☐ *Over 200 jumps:* your first ten tracking or angle flying jumps must be with an organizer or instructor.

☐ *To lead a tracking jump or to coach tracking:* you must have a minimum of 500 jumps, including at least 25 tracking dives as a follower. You must ensure everyone on the dive is familiar with the following concepts:
- extremely high risk of forceful freefall collisions, and how to minimize risks
- importance of getting clear of the regular jump run
- how to design a flight plan that guarantees everyone will make it back to the landing areas
- how to determine where other groups are before flying back towards the jump run
- what to do if a jumper is left behind the group

☐ *Leaders may not be on their back unless they have an experienced flyer as their mirror image face to earth, in order to ensure accurate directional control.* Leaders must screen all participants for skill and experience appropriate for the size of the dive. Dives in which anyone can sign up are not allowed.

☐ *No one may lead or coach angle flying unless approved by the DZSO of the day.*

General Policies

☐ *Always tell manifest if you are tracking so they can note it on the load sheet*. This allows other skydivers to know what is going on, especially if there is more than one tracking dive on the load. If there are

multiple tracking dives it is up to you to determine how to divide the airspace up safely. Obviously, you must also work out the airspace with any wing suits. In most circumstances we will limit dives with a horizontal component to two per load.

☐ *Every day there will be a direction, east or west, that we will assign for wing suits and tracking dives.* The Manifest Office or the DZSO can provide you with this information. It is absolutely imperative that you know this because in the other direction there may be high canopies, such as Canopy Formations or military parachutes. Never make a tracking jump at Skydive Arizona without information about other unusual skydiving activity!

☐ *There is no fixed exit order for tracking dives, however, exiting first is not allowed without direct approval from the DZSO.* Exit order will vary with the other groups on the load. Use common sense and pick an exit order that will keep you away from the regular jump run and still allow you to make it back to the landing area.

☐ *Angle Flying is not tracking!* Angle flyers should leave in the same exit order as freeflyers and must design the skydive to fly perpendicular to the jump run, taking tracking and wing suits into account.

☐ *If your pattern is to the west, do not fly so far away that you cannot make it across the runway safely.* The general aviation traffic pattern is to the west of the runway and it is a violation of Federal Aviation Regulations to be in it. You must be a minimum of 3,000' above the ground west of the runway and cross the runway high enough to pass safely over the obstacles between the runway and the landing area.

☐ *Never assume that our staff will see you if you land out or have a malfunction.* Because tracking dives open away from the normal jump run there is a very good chance we *will not* see you! If you are going to land out, use your safest technique and do not expect a ride. For the same reason, if you have a cutaway take careful note of where you got open under your reserve. We rarely lose canopies if we know where to look.

☐ *Be careful who you jump with.* Tracking dives have a high rate of injuries from freefall collisions, from exit to opening - as high as all other freefall activities combined. This is to be expected since tracking dives involve both horizontal and vertical movement and there may be a lot of people in your blind spot. Many tracking dives are also poorly planned and/or involve a variety of experience levels. If you are new to tracking dives, you must jump with an experienced organizer or coach until you understand the complexities involved.

☐ **It is <u>your responsibility</u> to make a flight plan that guarantees you will not fly into someone else's airspace AND makes it possible to land on the DZ.**

☐ **If you exit first and have a slow falling group exiting behind you, be careful not to fly back to the jump run line under canopy until you are sure the airspace is clear.**

☐ **Any trackers or angle flyers landing off due to poor planning will be barred from further jumps with a horizontal component until the DZSO determines that the problem has been properly addressed.**