

Hang Glider Pilot Aerotow Checklist

1. Check that the glider has been pre-flighted.
2. Check cart integrity; adequate air pressure in tires, keel support at proper height, glider hold down mechanism adjusted properly and wheels are straight.
3. Check that glider is properly seated in cart saddles with wheels on the outside (if applicable) and keel is centered on the support.
4. Perform a hang check.
 - a. Check that harness is connected to the glider main and backup hang loops and the carabiner is locked. If using a direct connect harness, check that harness is hooked in to direct connect system inside the sail.
 - b. Check proper height above bar.
 - c. Check that harness lines are straight, leg loops are connected, chest buckle is connected and parachute pins are in place.
 - d. Check that lines are fully retracted especially the pod harness line at the harness boot.
 - e. Check that helmet is buckled.
5. Check that the bridle is free of all restrictions and is routed above the basetube.
 - a. Check bridle connection to release closure mechanism.
 - b. Check bridle line for knots.
 - c. Check weak link(s) and replace if necessary.
6. Check glider VG line is set for anticipated tow speed and desired bar pressure and is properly stowed.
7. Check instruments are properly attached to base/downtubes and turned on.
8. Check that all electronics (radio, phone, camera) are on and working properly.
9. Connect tow rope to bridle. Check tow rope clip for proper closure.
10. Signal for "take up slack".
11. Check final line tight configuration of release, bridle, tow rope and clip for routing, knots and assembly/closure.
12. Check tow rope is clear and no knots are visible.
13. Check that wind conditions are suitable for launch.
14. Check for air traffic.
15. Mentally prepare for tow and emergency actions.
16. Say "Go go go!" to start the launch.

REMEMBER, as the pilot of a Hang Glider, YOU are responsible for checking everything! A crew person is only an assistant, and a second pair of eyes. Attention to detail is paramount. Should there be any problem that you did not catch, you must take responsibility for your own safety! Releasing is the only way to abort a tow!

Pilot Checklist Short Version

1. Glider pre-flight complete
2. Cart pre-flight complete
 - a. Wheels straight, tires pressurized and rotating freely
 - b. Saddles centered and hold down hose connected
 - c. Keel support adjusted properly
3. Glider seated on saddles and keel support
4. Harness Check complete
 - a. Main and backup loops connected
 - b. Leg loops and chest buckles connected
 - c. Parachute pins in place
 - d. Harness lines straight and retracted (check boot)
 - e. Helmet buckled
5. Bridle and weak link check complete
6. Instrument on and radio check complete
7. VG cord set and stowed
8. Tow line connection and "line tight" check complete
9. Launch conditions check complete