



## REQUIREMENTS FOR GLIDER PILOT LICENSING

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) oversees U.S. aircraft licensing, including sailplanes. This is done according to a system of license certificates (student through instructor) and ratings (Airplane, Free Balloon, etc.). Ratings relevant to sailplane flying are: Glider, Glider Aero-tow only and Glider Ground-tow only, according to the type of launch demonstrated on the practical test.

Certificate requirements are based on criteria of knowledge, experience, proficiency, and physical fitness.

### General Requirements

Pilots must be able to read, speak and understand the English language. You must certify that you have no medical defects that make you unable to pilot a glider.

### Solo Pilot

1. Minimum age of 14.
2. Demonstrated proficiency in all flight operations.
3. Oral test (the club substitutes a written one).
4. Student Certificate endorsed for solo flight.

### Private Pilot

1. Minimum age 16.
2. Demonstrated proficiency in all flight operations.
3. Successful completion of ground instruction or a home study course.
4. Successful completion of the FAA written test.
5. If the applicant for a private pilot certificate with a glider category rating has not logged at least 40 hours of flight time as a pilot in a heavier-than-air aircraft, the applicant must log at least 10 hours of flight time in a glider in the areas of operation listed in FAR Sec. 61.107(b)(6), and that flight time must include at least—

(i) 20 flights in a glider in the areas of operations listed in Sec. 61.107(b)(6) of this part, including at least 3 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test that must have been performed within the 60-day period preceding the date of the test; and

(ii) 2 hours of solo flight time in a glider in the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.107(b)(6) of this part, with not less than 10 launches and landings being performed.

If the applicant has logged at least 40 hours of flight time in a heavier-than-air aircraft, the applicant must log at least 3 hours of flight time in a glider in the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.107(b)(6) of this part, and that flight time must include at least—

(i) 10 solo flights in a glider in the areas of operation listed in FAR Sec. 61.107(b)(6); and

(ii) 3 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test that must have been performed within the 60-day period preceding the date of the test.

6. Successful completion of the FAA flight and oral test administered by a FAA examiner.

### **Private pilot rear seat flying review and signoff**

In addition to meeting all of the FAA private glider pilot requirements, Soaring Tigers also requires all glider private pilots who want to fly from the rear seat to take passengers for rides to also have all of the following before they can fly our club ships this way.

1. experience flying (5-10 flights) from the front seat taking passengers for rides,
2. a Soaring Tigers CFGF administered briefing to include a review of flying safely with a passenger (briefings, traffic awareness, etc.) plus methods of flying safely from the rear seat with additional safety briefings for a front seat passenger,
3. a Soaring Tigers CFGF administered flight test operating a two-place glider from the rear seat to take non-pilot passengers for rides, and
4. a written pilot logbook signoff from a Soaring Tigers CFGF.

### **Commercial Pilot**

1. Minimum age 18.
2. Demonstrated proficiency in all flight operations.
3. Successful completion of ground instruction or a home study course.
4. Successful completion of the FAA Commercial Glider Pilot written test.
5. Minimum of 25 hours pilot in command (minimum of 20 in gliders) and 100 glider flights as pilot in command, including 25 flights during which 360 degree turns were made, - *or* - 200 hours pilot in command in heavier than air aircraft including 20 flights in which 360 degree turn we made.
6. A person who applies for a commercial pilot certificate with a glider category rating must log at least--
  - (1) 25 hours of flight time as a pilot in a glider and that flight time must include at least 100 flights in a glider as pilot in command, including at least--
    - (i) 3 hours of flight training in a glider or 10 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(6) of this part, including at least 3 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test

within the 60-day period preceding the date of the test; and

(ii) 2 hours of solo flight that include not less than 10 solo flights in a glider on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(6) of this part; or (2) 200 hours of flight time as a pilot in heavier-than-air aircraft and at least 20 flights in a glider as pilot in command, including at least--

(i) 3 hours of flight training in a glider or 10 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(6) of this part including at least 3 training flights in a glider with an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test within the 60-day period preceding the date of the test; and

(ii) 5 solo flights in a glider on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(6) of this part.

7. Successful completion of the FAA flight and oral test administered by a FAA examiner.

### **Flight Instructor**

1. Minimum age 18.
2. Holds a current Glider Commercial Rating.
3. Successful completion of the FAA CFI Glider (CFIG) Pilot and Fundamental of Instruction written tests.
4. Successful completion of the FAA flight and oral test administered by a FAA examiner.