

# Winch Operator Training Record Card

V3/Nov2017

**Name:**

I have read the sections relating to winch operations in the following documents (sign):-

Winch Operators / Skylaunch Manuals		Club Order Book	
BGA Laws & Rules (24-30, 35, 36). Managing flying risk (Sect 9)		BGA Safe Winch Launching (booklets and website videos)	

	Date	Remarks (Cable repairs, S/C/B Procedures etc)	Trainee	Trainer
DI (Winch)				
DI (Winch Tractor)				
Refuelling and Gas Safety				
Towing Winch (including reversing)				
Setting Up ( Cross Wind & Variable Wind )				
DI (Dyneema Cable & Parachutes)				
Radio and Light Signals				
Cable Retrieve				
<b>Launch Procedures :-</b>				
Normal Launch				
Acceleration Rates / Hazards				
Winch Assist				
Coping with Cross Winds and Tail Winds				
Strong Headwinds and Light Gliders				
<b>Crop / Electric Fence</b>				
Importance of Feedback				
Lookout and When Not to Launch				
<b>Emergency Procedures :-</b>				
Described in more detail on reverse				
Ultra-Low Level Cable Break (by discussion or experience)				
Low level Cable Break				
Mid height cable break				
Gradual Loss of Winch Power				
Too Fast Signal				
Cable Repair				
Toolkit Contents & Discussion on Guillotine Resetting				
First Aid Box Contents				
Closedown Procedure				
Recent Issues				
<b>Refresher Training (including recent changes to equipment and procedures)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Trainee</b>	<b>Instr.</b>

## Launch Emergency - Actual Situations:

## CABLE BREAK IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

1. **Ultra-low level cable break.**
2. **Low level cable break.**
3. **Mid height cable break.**
4. **Gradual loss of winch power.**
5. **Too fast signal and abandon launch.**
6. **Cable hang-up.**

**Power – Off**  
**Drive - Neutral**  
**Brake – Hard on**

- The vital reaction to all these situations is as follows: Immediately the glider detaches pull the drive lever to neutral and apply the brake hard allowing the cable to drop and hit the ground should the glider land ahead. Monitor the glider and if it turns take the opportunity to recover some cable ensuring that the cable is on the ground as the glider turns final.
- If the winch involuntarily starts to lose power without any mechanical distress open the throttle further to try and maintain the climb as high as possible. If power still fades keep a close eye on the glider to spot the point at which it releases then immediately pull the drive lever to neutral and apply the brake.
- If the power fails with obvious mechanical trauma stop the launch and winch immediately to avoid any further damage.
- If the glider signals ‘too fast’ reduce the throttle slightly and continue the launch. If the signal is repeated reduce the throttle again. The glider may choose to abandon the launch in which case treat it as a cable break.
- If the cable becomes hung up on the glider immediately operate the guillotine to cut the cable.

## Launch Training Simulations:

### 1. **Ultra-low level cable break.**

A normal start to the launch but cut the power after 4.5 secs (3 secs to open the throttle then 1.5 sec power). Immediately apply brake hard and pull drive lever to neutral.

### 2. **Low level cable break.**

A normal launch until the glider reaches about 150 – 300ft at which point either the instructor pulls the release or the winch power is chopped as described above by prior arrangement. Immediately apply brake hard and pull drive lever to neutral.

### 3. **Mid height cable break.**

A normal launch until the glider reaches the requested height usually about 500ft at which point either the instructor pulls the release or the winch power is chopped as described above by prior arrangement. Immediately apply brake hard and pull drive lever to neutral. The glider may land ahead or turn.

### 4. **Gradual loss of winch power.**

The instructor will request a gradual loss of power from an approximate height. Close the throttle completely over about 5 seconds; too slow and momentum in the drum will negate the effect. Keep a close eye on the glider so that as soon as the cable is release pull the drive lever to neutral and apply the brake hard as above.

### 5. **Too fast signal and abandon launch.**

The instructor will request a ‘too fast’ winch launch. Carry out a normal launch and use the Winch Assist meter to achieve a climbing speed of 65kt for a Puchacz. **NB. Respond to any too fast signals from the glider only if prebriefed to do so before the launch, otherwise carry on over speeding to make the glider release.**