SOARING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE du VOL à VOILE FLIGHT TRAINING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE



Safety Alert

Sideslipping Modern Gliders

Modern gliders have very powerful dive brakes that are effective enough that loosing height by sideslipping (on final approach) is not normally needed.

It is recommended that this manoeuvre be carried out at altitude when training and checking pilots, and that the manoeuvre be used mainly for correction of drift caused by a crosswind on approach.

Cautions should include:

- Closing the clear-vision panels or side windows in the canopy, and
- Double checking the canopy latch/latches is/are properly locked
- Positive canopy checks by lifting on the frame before takeoff
- Reconfirm canopy latched before aggressive air exercises are commenced such as side slips
- Caution when slipping aggressively to the canopy opening side and avoid use of full spoilers simultaneously
- Ensure serviceability and tightness of canopy latching hardware

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