



# Learn to Skydive Info Pack

## Accelerated Free Fall (AFF)

The AFF program is the most popular way to learn solo skydiving worldwide. This course guides you from novice to solo skydiver through 8 levels.

While the initial learning curve can be steep, it's a thrilling experience tailored to ensure your success with the support of your dedicated instructor.



## AFF Course Structure

The AFF program begins with a day of theory training on the ground (Ground School), followed by 8 levels of in-air training. Each level includes one jump and focuses on new skills to master.

To advance to the next level, you must meet specific pass requirements. If you don't demonstrate the necessary skills, you'll need to repeat that level until you can. This ensures a strong foundation in your flying ability, making it easier to progress through the subsequent levels.

We run a 3-day student course to kickstart your learning. Day One is dedicated to Ground School, covering all the essential theory. On Days Two and Three, you'll begin jumping—starting with a tandem skydive on Saturday morning, followed by additional jumps throughout the weekend (weather permitting). We encourage students to stay on to try and complete the course.

## Ground School

Kick off your skydiving adventure with a full day of theory training designed to equip you with the knowledge needed to tackle your first level of the AFF course confidently.

During this session, you'll learn about skydiving equipment, aircraft safety, freefall body positions, altitude awareness, parachute flying and landing, as well as emergency procedures and how to handle them.



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While Ground School may feel like an information overload, it's essential for laying a solid foundation. The concepts you learn will be reinforced throughout your practical training in the AFF course.

Ground School generally is scheduled once per month on a Friday, starting at 8:30 AM. It's a full-day training session (6–8 hours) designed to give you plenty of time to learn and practice all the essential skills before you start jumping the following day.

Alternate date Ground Schools are available on a different date (midweek only) by arrangement for an additional fee.

Ground Schools proceed regardless of the weather.

Once you've completed Ground School, we aim to get you jumping on Saturday and Sunday to kickstart your progression. You're welcome to stay on through the week to continue training. After that, you can coordinate with us to continue your jumps, depending on availability, weather, and your budget.

## **Tandem AFF (TAFF) – Level 1**

TAFF is a tandem-assisted orientation jump conducted with an AFF-qualified Tandem Instructor. This introductory jump allows you to practise the new skills you learned in Ground School without the pressure of landing your parachute on your own for the first time.

It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the sensation of freefall while benefiting from your instructor's guidance in locating the drop zone and making a safe approach for landing.

## **AFF Levels 2 – 3**

These levels are completed using your own parachute system, with two instructors positioned on either side of you in what we call a harness hold. Think of them as your training wheels as you work on finding your balance.



Your instructors will guide you during the freefall portion of the jump, helping you achieve a solid 'neutral' body position and maintain your heading. Once you deploy your parachute, it's all you! Though you'll still receive radio assistance for your canopy flight and landing.



## AFF Levels 4-8

You've graduated from needing two instructors and now only require one for your jumps!



The skills you'll develop in freefall will become more advanced:

- **Level 4:** Heading control
- **Levels 5 & 6:** Controlled 90° and 360° turns
- **Levels 7 & 8:** Instability recovery and forward movement

Once you demonstrate these skills, along with strong awareness and safe canopy control, you'll be cleared to jump solo!

## AFF Level 9+

After successfully completing AFF Level 8, you're cleared for solo jumps. Exciting, right? 😎

Don't worry, by this point, you'll feel confident checking your own equipment, flying in freefall, and navigating your landings.

Although you'll be a solo skydiver, you'll still hold student status, meaning you'll remain under the direct supervision of an NZPIA qualified instructor. You just won't need them with you in freefall as much anymore.

AFF Levels 9+ solo jumps are fantastic jumps to consolidate the skills you learned during AFF and to build your comfort and confidence in freefall. Jumping out of a plane will start to feel completely natural—trust us, the more you jump, the easier it gets!

## NZPIA A Endorsement

What an incredible achievement to complete AFF and be cleared to skydive solo, but why stop there? Jumping with friends is a blast!

To jump with other licensed skydivers, you'll need to work towards your NZPIA A Endorsement. The New Zealand Parachute Industry Association (NZPIA) is the official licensing body for our instructors here at Taupō Sport Skydivers, allowing them to issue NZPIA skydiving licences.



For more information about the NZPIA, visit their website: [www.nzpia.co.nz](http://www.nzpia.co.nz)

NZPIA endorsements are generally recognized worldwide at drop zones that accept foreign licences. If you visit an overseas drop zone that requires a licence from their own skydiving association (like the Australian Parachute Federation - APF), converting your licence should be straightforward.

If you've started or completed your AFF in another country and want to jump with us, we can help you pick up where you left off as you work towards obtaining your NZPIA A Endorsement.

## Pathway to your NZPIA A Endorsement

Below are the requirements that you will need to complete to receive your NZPIA A Endorsement.

### 25 Jumps Total

You must have completed at least 25 jumps to get an A endorsement. These jumps can include any amount of tandems that you have done, your AFF jumps, AFF 9+ solo jumps, and coaching jumps.

### Coaching Jumps

In these jumps, you'll learn how to safely fly with other skydivers.

You'll develop skills to:

- **Track:** Move away from others to ensure you have clear airspace for deploying your parachute.
  - **Take grips:** Safely fly in formation with fellow jumpers.
- **Adjust levels:** Learn to control your fall rate, allowing you to fall faster or slower as needed.
- **Approach formations:** Master the ability to cover distance toward another skydiver, stop, and take a grip safely.



These skills can often be learned within 6 jumps, but it's perfectly normal if it takes a bit longer to feel confident. Everyone progresses at their own pace!

## Canopy Flight Drills

You'll work with your instructor on 13 canopy flight drills (both theoretical and practical) starting around the midpoint of your AFF training, which should be completed by the time you apply for your A Endorsement.

Here are some examples of what you'll learn:

- Alternative steering techniques for your canopy
  - Collision avoidance strategies
  - Turns that help conserve altitude
- Techniques for returning from a long spot
- Low turn avoidance and emergency responses

## Packing Course

Spend time with one of our experienced packers to learn how to pack your own parachute. This course aims to help you become familiar with your equipment while gaining the skills to pack it yourself. It typically takes most of the day, making it a great option for a rainy day!



## NZPIA A Endorsement Exam

Once your training is fully approved and you've completed at least 25 skydives, you can take your exam. This multiple-choice test will assess everything you've learned during your training. After passing, you'll have everything you need to apply for your NZPIA A Endorsement!

## To Infinity and Beyond

Once you've completed your A Endorsement, you'll join an exclusive group of skydivers worldwide. Taupō has a fantastic sports scene, and our Taupō Sport Skydivers hangar is a great place to connect with fellow jumpers, even on rainy weekends.

With your A Endorsement, you can skydive with other licensed jumpers, allowing you to enhance your skills and log more jumps as you work toward your B, C, and D Endorsements. Each level introduces new skills and expands your opportunities in the sport, including the path to becoming a professional skydiver. The potential for growth in this sport is limitless!

## How long does this all take to complete?

We can't guarantee how long your training will take, as several factors can affect the timeline. Skydiving is weather-dependent, so training may take longer than expected. With ideal conditions and quick learning, you could complete your AFF training in about a week, with an additional two weeks to achieve your A Endorsement. However, it's common for the entire process to take a month or more, depending on weather and your availability.

While you're in training, it's essential to complete at least one skydive each month to stay current.



We highly recommend finishing the AFF Training Levels as quickly as possible. Below is a table outlining the currency requirements needed to continue jumping without needing a refresher.

## Skydive Currency Schedule

Category	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	Over 6 Months	2 to 5 Years
Student			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• AFF Exam</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• AFF level 8 skydive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeat Ground Training</li> <li>• AFF Exam</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• AFF level 8 skydive</li> </ul>	
A Cert	OK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• Basics Questionnaire</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• AFF level 8 skydive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• AFF Exam</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• AFF level 8 skydive</li> <li>• Visiting jumper registration</li> </ul>	
B Cert	OK	OK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• Basics Questionnaire</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• Solo supervised skydive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• Basics Questionnaire</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• AFF level 8 skydive</li> <li>• Visiting jumper registration</li> </ul>	
C & D Cert	OK	OK	OK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basics Questionnaire</li> <li>• Visiting jumper registration</li> <li>• Solo supervised skydive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Ground Training</li> <li>• Basics Questionnaire</li> <li>• Demonstrate emergency procedures in harness</li> <li>• Solo supervised skydive</li> <li>• Visiting jumper registration</li> </ul>

*NOTE: Licensed jumper over 5 years classed as A Cert*

## Pricing

To kick start your skydiving journey we require a commitment of the full 'Learn to Skydive' course fees. After that it is pay as you go.

For a full breakdown of prices, visit our website at  
[www.tauposportskydivers.co.nz](http://www.tauposportskydivers.co.nz).

We hope to see you in the sky soon! If you have any questions or want to book, please reach out to us at [tauposportskydivers@gmail.com](mailto:tauposportskydivers@gmail.com).

