



## Safety Topic of the Month September 2023

### Safe Winch Launching

If you haven't looked at it for a while, please read the BGA's Safe Winch Launching booklet again at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/safe-winch-launching-booklet/>

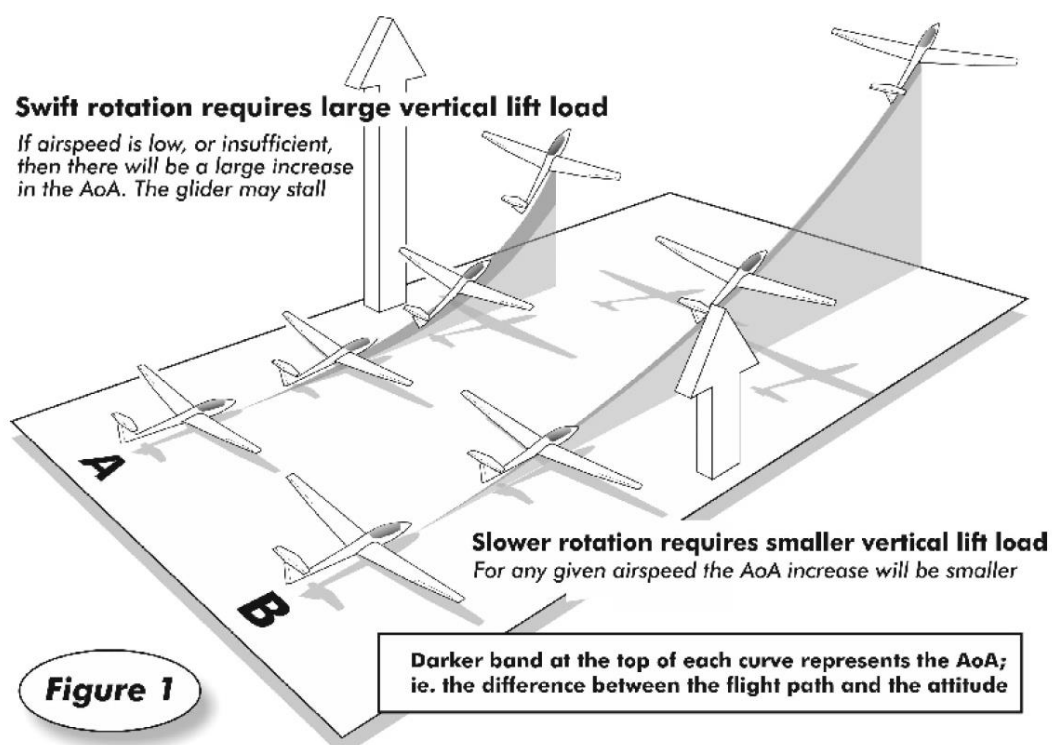
#### As the Pilot in Command

- Start the launch with your hand on the release
- If you cannot keep the wings level, release IMMEDIATELY
- "Release IMMEDIATELY" means BEFORE the wing touches the ground.

An instructor can show you on the ground what the picture looks like before the wing touches the ground and when it has touched the ground.

After take-off, maintain a shallow climb until adequate speed is seen with continued acceleration. Then allow the glider to rotate at a controlled pace (the rotation should take at least 5 seconds).

Do not worry if you exceed the maximum winch launch speed at this stage. The speed will decrease as you climb. The maximum winch launch speed is placarded in order to reduce forces on the glider and protect it near the top of the launch.



## In case of a launch failure

After any launch failure the objective is to land safely.

- recover to the appropriate recovery attitude
- wait until you regain the approach speed
- assess the situation
- release the wire
- land ahead if you can
- If you are too high to land ahead, fly the abbreviated circuit you planned during your pre-flight check

In your pre-flight checks (E) think about which way to turn in case of a high launch failure. If there is a cross wind component turn downwind to reduce the required amount of turning to land in to wind.

## As the wing runner

- Ensure that you have been trained before taking on the task
- Stop the launch if you are resisting an up or down force at the tip and tell the pilot.
- Run with the tip while holding the wings level

## A few bullet points to remember

- **Start the launch with your hand on the release**
- **If you cannot keep the wings level, release IMMEDIATELY**
- **After take-off maintain a shallow climb until adequate speed is seen with continued acceleration**
- **Rotate at a controlled pace over a period of at least 5 seconds**
- **In case of a launch failure, recover to the appropriate recovery attitude**
- **Wait until you regain the approach speed**
- **Land ahead if you can**

Thanks to the BGA for the Instructors' Manual figures!

Safe flying and keep the older "TotM"s in mind.

Cheers,  
Wolf