

# Sport Pilot Requirements

**To apply for a sport pilot certificate you must receive and log ground training from an authorized instructor or complete a home-study course on the following aeronautical knowledge areas (FAR 61.309):**

- (a) Applicable regulations of this chapter that relate to sport pilot privileges, limits, and flight operations.
- (b) Accident reporting requirements of the National Transportation Safety Board.
- (c) Use of the applicable portions of the aeronautical information manual and FAA advisory circulars.
- (d) Use of aeronautical charts for VFR navigation using pilotage, dead reckoning, and navigation systems, as appropriate.
- (e) Recognition of critical weather situations from the ground and in flight, windshear avoidance, and the procurement and use of aeronautical weather reports and forecasts.
- (f) Safe and efficient operation of aircraft, including collision avoidance, and recognition and avoidance of wake turbulence.
- (g) Effects of density altitude on takeoff and climb performance.
- (h) Weight and balance computations.
- (i) Principles of aerodynamics, powerplants, and aircraft systems.
- (j) Stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery techniques, as applicable.
- (k) Aeronautical decision making and risk management.
- (l) Preflight actions that include—
  - (1) How to get information on runway lengths at airports of intended use, data on takeoff and landing distances, weather reports and forecasts, and fuel requirements; and
  - (2) How to plan for alternatives if the planned flight cannot be completed or if you encounter delays.

**To apply for a sport pilot certificate you must receive and log ground and flight training from an authorized instructor on the following areas of operation, as appropriate, for airplane single-engine land or sea, glider, gyroplane, airship, balloon, powered parachute land or sea, and weight-shift-control aircraft land or sea privileges (FAR 61.311):**

- (a) Preflight preparation.
- (b) Preflight procedures.
- (c) Airport, seaplane base, and gliderport operations, as applicable.
- (d) Takeoffs (or launches), landings, and go-arounds.
- (e) Performance maneuvers, and for gliders, performance speeds.
- (f) Ground reference maneuvers (not applicable to gliders and balloons).
- (g) Soaring techniques (applicable only to gliders).
- (h) Navigation.
- (i) Slow flight (not applicable to lighter-than-air aircraft and powered parachutes).
- (j) Stalls (not applicable to lighter-than-air aircraft, gyroplanes, and powered parachutes).
- (k) Emergency operations.
- (l) Post-flight procedures.

**For Airplane category and single-engine land or sea class privileges, you must log (FAR 61.313):**

20 hours of flight time, including at least 15 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor in a single-engine airplane and at least 5 hours of solo flight training in the areas of operation listed.

2 hours of cross-country flight training, 10 takeoffs and landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport, one solo cross-country flight of at least 75 nautical miles total distance, with a full-stop landing at a minimum of two points and one segment of the flight consisting of a straight-line distance of at least 25 nautical miles between the takeoff and landing locations, and 2 hours of flight training with an authorized instructor on those areas of operation specified in FAR [§ 61.311](#) in preparation for the practical test within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test.

**Privileges and limits of sport pilot certificate (FAR.61.315):**

(a) If you hold a sport pilot certificate you may act as pilot in command of an aircraft that meets the provisions of § 61.316, except as specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) You may share the operating expenses of a flight with a passenger, provided the expenses involve only fuel, oil, airport expenses, or aircraft rental fees. You must pay at least half the operating expenses of the flight.

(c) *You may not act as pilot in command of an aircraft:*

(1) That is carrying a passenger or property for compensation or hire.

(2) For compensation or hire.

(3) In furtherance of a business.

(4) While carrying more than one passenger.

(5) At night, except as provided by FAR 61.329.

(6) In Class A airspace.

(7) In Class B, C, and D airspace, at an airport located in Class B, C, or D airspace, and to, from, through, or at an airport having an operational control tower unless you have met the requirements specified in [§ 61.325](#).

(8) Outside the United States, unless you have prior authorization from the country in which you seek to operate. Your sport pilot certificate carries the limit “Holder does not meet ICAO requirements.”

(9) To demonstrate the aircraft in flight to a prospective buyer if you are an aircraft salesperson.

(10) In a passenger-carrying airlift sponsored by a charitable organization.

(11) At an altitude of more than 10,000 feet MSL or 2,000 feet AGL, whichever is higher.

(12) When the flight or surface visibility is less than 3 statute miles.

(13) Without visual reference to the surface.

(14) If the aircraft:

(i) Has a  $V_H$  greater than 87 knots CAS, unless you have met the requirements of [§ 61.327\(b\)](#).

(ii) Has a  $V_H$  less than or equal to 87 knots CAS, unless you have met the requirements of [§ 61.327\(a\)](#) or have logged flight time as pilot in command of an airplane with a  $V_H$  less than or equal to 87 knots CAS before April 2, 2010.

(15) Contrary to any operating limitation placed on the airworthiness certificate of the aircraft being flown.

(16) Contrary to any limit on your pilot certificate or airman medical certificate, or any other limit or endorsement from an authorized instructor.

(17) Contrary to any restriction or limitation on your U.S. driver's license or any restriction or limitation imposed by judicial or administrative order when using your driver's license to satisfy a requirement of this part.

(18) While towing any object.

(19) As a pilot flight crewmember on any aircraft for which more than one pilot is required by the type certificate of the aircraft or the regulations under which the flight is conducted.