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**This form must be completed and mailed to sheryl@uptvector.com before jumping HandCam with first time tandem students.**

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Initial Sigma Tandem Hand Camera (HandCam) Safety Checklist

- I have made 200 post-probation Sigma tandem jumps.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have read and will comply with the Minimum Recommendations for performing HandCam tandem jumps (page 2).  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a current Sigma tandem instructor. (If NO, get recurrent on Sigma tandem FIRST)  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have made at least 2 sport (solo) skydives with the HandCam set up that I am using.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have successfully demonstrated emergency procedures on the ground (or in a hanging harness) wearing the HandCam set up that I am using while attached to a student.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have taken an experienced skydiver on at least 1 tandem skydive as Pilot In Command with the HandCam set up that I am using.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am aware that conducting systems handles checks is **REQUIRED** on every tandem skydive that I make, including any tandem skydiving wearing a HandCam set up.
  - The system check consists of:
    - ▶ Visually Inspect Drogue inflation after drogue set over right shoulder.
    - ▶ Physically touch the left main drogue release.
    - ▶ Physically touch the right main drogue release.
    - ▶ Physically touch the cutaway handle.
    - ▶ Physically touch the reserve handle.
    - ▶ Physically touch the RSL.Init. \_\_\_\_\_
  - I am aware that failure to conduct system handles checks in this order, on Sigma tandem jumps is grounds for immediate tandem rating suspension and/or revocation.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will avoid placing my HandCam arm in any position that the student may have access to grab my arm.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will not use any extendable pole mechanism on my hand camera set up.  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will complete my emergency procedures, to include activation of the reserve handle on every EP scenario, regardless of whether or not I am wearing a HandCam assembly.
  - (The attempt to film emergency procedures with left arm extended, instead of using left arm to perform emergency procedures, has led to multiple out of sequence EP scenarios.)Init. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Minimum Recommendations of Performing Handcam Tandem Jumps

Due to the potential for distraction and the added complexity during hookup and exit, the minimum recommendations for Sigma instructors who wish to use a handcam setup are:

- An absolute minimum of 200 tandem skydives.
- Sigma Tandem currency (the first jump back after a seasonal layoff should NOT be a HandCam jump.
- The TI should demonstrate emergency procedures with the HandCam with a student attached and full gear on the ground, or in a hanging harness.
- Before taking a student using HandCam, the instructor should make 2 solo jumps on sport gear with the camera set up to feel how it affects flying and to be comfortable with the operation of the camera.
- Make at least 1 tandem jump with an experienced (C licensed) skydiver, tandem instructor or examiner in the student position.
- Complete the Initial (or Annual) Sigma HandCam Safety Checklist

**These recommendations are the absolute minimum, the instructor should make as many practice jumps as needed to build a comfort factor.**

## The necessary mindset for performing Handcam tandems:

Any instructor performing handcam video on a tandem should realize that they are a tandem instructor first, and a videographer a “distant” second. The video should be the very last priority on the tandem skydive.

***“A bad video of a good skydive is preferable to a good video of a bad skydive.”***

From in-aircraft hookup procedures, through the exit, the freefall and the parachute ride, full attention should be given to the tandem skydive and the video should only be interwoven into established procedures.

The instructor should also remember that it is the student’s video, they want to see themselves in it, not the instructor goofing around and grandstanding for the whole freefall.