

PARACHUTE DOWNSIZING

As a guide to canopy downsizing, APF has produced the following chart and an overview of downsizing criteria. For more detailed explanatory notes, as well as descriptions of essential in-flight manoeuvres, see the APF Canopy Pilot Guide. The parachute sizes pertain to the **smallest parachute** of the dual parachute system (main or reserve).

Canopy Downsizing Chart*

- The chart is based on Total Exit Weight = Jumper + all equipment (exit weights shown in kilograms across the top).
- The number of jumps already achieved are shown down the left column, with the corresponding canopy minimum square-footage shown for each weight. Jumpers are welcome to use a larger canopy than specified in the chart.
- Recommendations are for the average jumper who does less than 200 jumps per year.

DOWNSIZING CHART 2017		EXIT WEIGHT (kg) = Parachutist plus all equipment														
		50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120
NUMBER OF JUMPS	1	190	190	210	210	220	220	220	230	230	240	250	260	260	260	260
	20	170	170	190	190	190	190	200	210	210	220	230	240	240	240	240
	50	170	170	170	170	170	170	190	190	190	200	210	220	220	220	220
	100	150	150	160	160	170	170	190	190	190	200	210	210	220	220	220
	200	150	150	150	150	150	150	170	170	170	190	190	190	210	210	210
	300	135	135	150	150	150	150	170	170	170	180	190	190	190	190	190
	400	135	135	135	135	150	150	160	170	170	170	180	190	190	190	190
	500	120	120	135	135	135	135	150	150	150	170	170	170	190	190	190

- Size must be **increased** as necessary to reflect relevant variables – see explanation and additional details in the APF Canopy Pilot Guide.

* This chart supersedes the chart by Brian Germaine, previously shown in the Canopy Pilot Guide.

Downsizing Criteria

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU WANT TO DOWNSIZE

- Competence, not jump numbers
- Currency and time in the sport
- Long term goals in the sport
- Change one size at a time or
- If changing planform (square to elliptical or to crossbraced) then same or similar size

DOWNSIZING CHECKLIST

The following in-air and landing exercises should be done to the satisfaction of the DZSO on your current canopy before considering changing size or type of canopy.

IN-AIR EXERCISES (TO BE PRACTICED ABOVE 2000ft)

- Slow flight
- Stall and stall recovery using brakes
- Rear riser turns
- Flat turns
- Flare turns
- Harness turns
- Hook turn recovery

LANDING EXERCISES

- Land in nil wind
- Land in light crosswind
- Land on a slope (uphill and downhill)
- Full glide landing approach
- Demonstrate consistent accuracy in different wind conditions
- Are you confident to land off DZ?

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE DOWNSIZING

Have a plan for canopy progression (short term and long term)

Attend a canopy course

CI or DZSO approval

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