

SPORT PILOT TRAINING RESOURCES

Required and Recommended Materials for Sport Pilot Certification

This document provides links and information for all FAA publications, regulations, and training materials referenced in the Sport Pilot Training Syllabus. All FAA materials are available for free download.

1. FAA HANDBOOKS (Required)

Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (PHAK)

Document: FAA-H-8083-25B

Description: Comprehensive introduction to aviation knowledge covering aerodynamics, weather, navigation, regulations, and more.

Download: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/phak

Used in: All flights, particularly Flights 1-6, 13-16 for aerodynamics and navigation

Airplane Flying Handbook (AFH)

Document: FAA-H-8083-3C

Description: Comprehensive guide to flight maneuvers, procedures, and techniques for airplane pilots.

Download: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/airplane_handbook

Used in: All flights, especially Flights 1-12 for maneuver descriptions and standards

Aviation Weather Handbook

Document: FAA-H-8083-28

Description: Comprehensive weather information for pilots including weather theory, forecasting, and aviation weather products.

Download: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/aviation_weather_handbook

Used in: Flights 6, 16, 19, 21, 22 for weather planning and decision making

2. FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS (Required)

14 CFR Part 61 - Certification: Pilots and Instructors

Description: Contains all pilot certification requirements including Sport Pilot privileges and limitations (Subpart J).

Online Access: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-61>

Key Sections: §61.3, §61.23, §61.31, §61.51, §61.56, §61.87, §61.93, §61.309-313 (Sport Pilot specific)

14 CFR Part 91 - General Operating and Flight Rules

Description: Rules governing all aircraft operations in the United States.

Online Access: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-I/subchapter-F/part-91>

Key Sections: §91.3, §91.7, §91.103, §91.113, §91.119, §91.126-127, §91.151, §91.155, §91.203, §91.405-417

49 CFR Part 830 - NTSB Accident/Incident Reporting

Description: Rules for reporting aircraft accidents and incidents to the NTSB.

Online Access: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-VIII/part-830>

Used in: Pre-solo written test, checkride preparation

FAR/AIM Combined Book (Recommended Purchase)

Description: Combined Federal Aviation Regulations and Aeronautical Information Manual - updated annually.

Publisher: ASA (Aviation Supplies & Academics) or other aviation publishers

Note: Available for purchase at aviation retailers or free online at eCFR and FAA.gov

3. AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION MANUAL (AIM)

Description: Official FAA guide to basic flight information and ATC procedures.

Online Access: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/atpubs/aim_html/

Key Chapters: Chapter 1 (Air Navigation), Chapter 3 (Airspace), Chapter 4 (Airport Operations), Chapter 5 (Preflight), Chapter 7 (Weather)

4. SPORT PILOT PRACTICAL TEST STANDARDS

Sport Pilot and Flight Instructor Practical Test Standards

Document: FAA-S-8081-29

Description: Standards for the Sport Pilot practical test (checkride). This is the document the examiner will use.

Download: https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/test_standards

Used in: All flights - referenced throughout syllabus for task standards

5. AIRCRAFT-SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS (Required)

Pilot's Operating Handbook (POH)

Description: Aircraft-specific operating manual containing limitations, procedures, and performance data.

Availability: Must be kept in the aircraft at all times. Obtain from aircraft owner/operator.

Used in: All flights - required for preflight planning, weight & balance, performance calculations

6. CHARTS AND NAVIGATION MATERIALS

VFR Sectional Charts

Description: 1:500,000 scale aeronautical charts for VFR navigation.

Coverage: Obtain sectional chart(s) covering your local training area and cross-country destinations.

Digital Access: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/digital_products/vfr/

Purchase: Available from aviation retailers or ForeFlight/Garmin Pilot apps

Chart Supplement (formerly Airport/Facility Directory)

Description: Contains detailed information about airports, NAVAIDs, and other facilities.

Download: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/digital_products/dafd/

Used in: Flights 15-20 for navigation and cross-country planning

7. KNOWLEDGE TEST PREPARATION

Sport Pilot Test Prep Books (Recommended Purchase)

Publishers: ASA (Aviation Supplies & Academics), Gleim, King Schools, Sporty's

Description: Contains actual FAA knowledge test questions with explanations and study materials.

Used in: Self-study throughout training, intensive review before Flight 17-18

Online Practice Tests

Providers: Sporty's, King Schools, Gold Seal, ASA Prepware

Description: Interactive online practice tests and study materials.

Recommendation: Take multiple practice tests scoring 90%+ before scheduling the actual knowledge test.

8. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Risk Management Handbook

Document: FAA-H-8083-2

Download: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/risk_management_handbook

Description: Guidance on identifying, assessing, and mitigating risk in aviation operations.

Aviation Instructor's Handbook

Document: FAA-H-8083-9B

Download: https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/aviation_instructors_handbook

Note: Helpful for understanding learning principles and effective study techniques.

FAA Safety Briefings and Publications

Website: https://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing

Description: Free monthly magazine with safety articles, tips, and current aviation topics.

FAA Wings Program

Website: https://www.faasafety.gov/wings/pub/learn_more.aspx

Description: Pilot proficiency program with free online courses and training materials.

9. USEFUL WEBSITES AND ONLINE TOOLS

FAA Main Website

URL: <https://www.faa.gov>

Description: Central hub for all FAA information, regulations, and publications.

Aviation Weather Center

URL: <https://www.aviationweather.gov>

Description: Official weather briefing source for pilots. Contains METARs, TAFs, charts, and forecasts.

1800wxbrief.com (Leidos Flight Service)

URL: <https://www.1800wxbrief.com>

Description: Official FAA flight service briefing portal. Free account required.

SkyVector.com

URL: <https://skyvector.com>

Description: Free online aeronautical charts and flight planning tool.

AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association)

URL: <https://www.aopa.org>

Description: Pilot advocacy organization with extensive training resources, articles, and webinars.

10. QUICK REFERENCE CHECKLIST

Essential Materials - Obtain Before Flight 1:

- ☐ Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (PHAK)
- ☐ Airplane Flying Handbook (AFH)
- ☐ FAR/AIM (current edition)
- ☐ Sport Pilot Practical Test Standards (FAA-S-8081-29)
- ☐ Aeronca Champion POH (from aircraft owner)
- ☐ Local VFR Sectional Chart
- ☐ Chart Supplement for your region
- ☐ Logbook
- ☐ E6B Flight Computer or electronic equivalent

Knowledge Test Prep - Obtain Before Flight 15:

- ☐ Sport Pilot Test Prep book (ASA, Gleim, or equivalent)
- ☐ Online practice test subscription (optional but recommended)

Important Notes:

- **Free Downloads:** All FAA handbooks, regulations, and charts are available for free download from FAA.gov
- **Current Editions:** Always use the most current edition of all publications. Check FAA.gov for updates.
- **Electronic vs. Paper:** Digital versions are acceptable and free. Paper copies can be purchased if preferred.
- **Apps:** ForeFlight, Garmin Pilot, and similar apps contain many of these resources digitally.
- **Cost:** Except for test prep materials and charts (if purchased in paper), all required FAA materials are free.

Questions? Contact your CFI for recommendations on specific editions and suppliers.