

# BIG WATER AIRPORT - GLIDING

## The Karoo Gliding Experience

Season 2026 / 2027 — Pilot Information Booklet

Big Water Airport (BWA) at the Gariep Dam offers one of the most reliable and rewarding soaring environments in the Southern Hemisphere. The 2026/27 Gliding Camp provides pilots with a professionally managed operation, reliable tug availability, premium infrastructure, and an extended flying season under world-class African skies. This booklet contains all the key information you need to plan and book your participation in the 2026/27 season.

### 1. Camp Details

**Location:** Big Water Airport (Gariep Dam Airport), Gariep Dam, Free State, South Africa

**Camp Period:** 1 November 2026 – 31 January 2027

Season Classification	Start Date	End Date
Early Season	1 November 2026	30 November 2026
Core Season	1 December 2026	15 January 2027
Late Season	16 January 2027	31 January 2027

### 2. Tug Aircraft

For the 2026/27 season, BWA has entered into a formal agreement with **Jonker Sailplanes** to provide dedicated tug aircraft services for the full duration of the camp. This is the first season in several years in which two tug aircraft will be available at Big Water Airport.

#### 2.1 Aircraft Availability

**Primary Tug Aircraft:** One dedicated primary tug aircraft will be available for operations throughout the season.

**Standby Tug Aircraft:** A second standby tug aircraft with full towing capability. In the event of any primary tug breakdown or unserviceability.

#### 2.2 Tug Breakdown Protocol

In the event of a primary tug breakdown, the dedicated standby aircraft will be mobilized

#### 2.3 Force Majeure and Liability Limitations

Whilst BWA has taken every reasonable measure to secure tug aircraft availability for the full season, pilots should be aware of the following:

*BWA's tug service commitment is backed by a binding services agreement with Jonker Sailplanes. However, certain events fall outside the reasonable control of either party, including aircraft breakdowns arising from unforeseeable technical faults, regulatory groundings imposed by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), natural events, and other genuine force majeure circumstances. If tug services are temporarily unavailable due to circumstances beyond BWA's reasonable control, BWA will use all reasonable endeavours to source an alternative aircraft as quickly as possible. Neither BWA nor Jonker Sailplanes shall be liable for costs or*

losses arising from events outside their reasonable control, including but not limited to weather events, regulatory changes, or the actions of third parties.

### Tug Availability Summary

**Primary Tug:** Available from 1 November 2026

**Standby Tug:** Mobilised within 48 hours of any primary breakdown

**Tug Provider:** Jonker Sailplanes (Pty) Ltd – contracted for the full season

## 3. Available Camp Capacity

Capacity is strictly limited and allocated on a first-confirmed, first-served basis. Early booking is strongly recommended.

### 3.1 Aircraft Bookings

Aircraft Category	Maximum Capacity
Motorised Gliders	18
Non-Motorised Gliders	10

### 3.2 Hangarage and Parking

Storage Type	Capacity
Closed Hangar	4 – 6 aircraft*
Open Hangar	4 aircraft*
Shaded Parking	8 aircraft
General Parking	10 aircraft

\* Hangarage capacity is dependent on the size and wingspan of gliders stored. Hangar space for aircraft with disassembled wings is permitted by the camp manager approval only and will incur long term storage fee at 40% of the standard hangarage fee

## 4. Booking Terms and Conditions

### 4.1 Booking Structure

- All bookings are on a full-week basis. No per-day or per-flight booking rates apply.
- Reservations are provisionally held upon receipt of a 30% non-refundable deposit. Full confirmation is allocated on a first-paid, first-confirmed basis — your place is only guaranteed once the remaining balance has been paid in full, no later than 30 days prior to the start of the Camp. No cash or foreign currency payments will be accepted on site.
- Gliders left inside hangars must remain actively flying. Long-term unused storage is not permitted without prior written approval from BWA. Storage will be prioritised for actively flying pilots.

### 4.2 Early Bird Discounts

Early bird discounts applicable to all bookings made and paid within the allocated period.

Booking & Payment Period	Discount Applied
1 April – 31 May 2026	10% discount on balance

Booking & Payment Period	Discount Applied
1 June – 31 July 2026	5% discount on balance
1 August 2026 onwards	Standard rates apply

*Early bird discounts apply to the balance payable after the deposit, provided both the deposit and full balance are paid within the qualifying period. Bookings that fall outside the relevant period will be charged at the standard rate. Please see terms and conditions.*

#### 4.3 Currency and Invoicing

- All pricing is denominated in Euro.
- Invoices will be issued in South African Rand (ZAR), converted at the prevailing spot rate at the time of invoicing.
- For invoices issued on or after 1 November 2026, the ZAR/EUR spot rate will be fixed as at 1 November 2026 and applied for the full duration of the camp, plus a 5% card processing fee.

## 5. Pricing Schedule

### 5.1 Membership

*Membership fees include: Club membership, use of all airport facilities, Wi-Fi, solar and battery power, runway usage, and if available, vehicle towing between the runway and hangars*

Product	Early / Late Season (€)	Core Season (€)
Single Seater – Per Week	€ 315	€ 430
Double Seater – Per Week	€ 475	€ 590

### 5.2 Hangarage and Parking

Storage Type	Early / Late Season (€)	Core Season (€)
Closed Hangar – Wingspan > 18m	€ 80	€ 90
Closed Hangar – Wingspan ≤ 18m	€ 70	€ 80
Open Hangar – Wingspan > 18m	€ 70	€ 80
Open Hangar – Wingspan ≤ 18m	€ 60	€ 70
Shaded Parking	€ 55	€ 55
General Parking	€ 40	€ 40

### 5.3 Services

Services	Rate (€)
Aerotow Per Tow To 600m AGL	€ 75 *
Oxygen Refill – 3L Bottle @ 75%	€ 21 **
Oxygen Refill – 4L Bottle @ 75%	€ 26 **
Basic Retrieval Fee	€ 63

Services	Rate (€)
Retrieval – Road Rate per km	€ 0.75
Foreign Licence Validation	€ 75
Soaring Society Affiliation (Once-off)	€ 60

\* Aerotow rate may increase or decrease depending on fuel prices prevailing at the time of use.

\*\* Oxygen cylinders must be at least 50% full before refilling will be performed.

## 5.4 Products and Merchandise

Item	Pricing
Aeronautical Charts (1:1 000 000)	€ 10
Game Braai Packs	Seasonal – pricing to be confirmed
Branded Bucket Hats	Available on pre-order
Branded Golf Shirts	Available on pre-order
Branded Flasks	Available on pre-order

## 6. Glider Hire

In Partnership with Jonkers Sail Planes, BWA will make up to six (6) sailplanes available for hire during the season, comprising both motorised and non-motorised aircraft.

These will be bookable **directly with BWA** or on **the direct booking site** – [www.jslidercharter.com/booking/](http://www.jslidercharter.com/booking/)

## 7. Bookings

**How to make a Camp booking:**

1. Complete the online application form on <https://bigwater.aero/gliders/>
2. Await Booking confirmation and Invoice
3. Settle full payment to secure your slot

## 8. Terms & Conditions

All bookings are subject to the Big Water Gliding Camp Terms & Conditions (2026/27). By confirming a booking and making payment, the participant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agreed to these Terms & Conditions.

## 9. Contact

For camp bookings, enquiries, or further information:

**Airport:** Big Water Airport (FAGA), R701 Bethulie Road, Gariiep Dam, 9922, Free State

**Email:** [e.loubser@capewineland.aero](mailto:e.loubser@capewineland.aero) or [manager@bigwater.aero](mailto:manager@bigwater.aero)

**Website:** [www.bigwater.aero](http://www.bigwater.aero)

*We look forward to welcoming you to Big Water for an exceptional season of soaring.*