



## BEND THE AIR RIGGING STANDARDS

Bend the Air is proud to offer a safe environment for aerial artists to compete. Aerial performance can be dangerous and therefore requires careful attention to safety. Our in-house rigging standards and safety protocols are designed around the use of high-quality circus equipment and are critical for preventing accidents and injuries. The following standards and guidelines apply for rigging aerial apparatuses at Bend the Air.

### RIGGING STANDARDS

Bend The Air has implemented rigging standards to ensure the safety of all competitors at our competition. By entering Bend The Air all competitors agree to abide by these standards.

Competitors should;

- Use equipment that is designed specifically for aerial use. Aerial silks, hoops, trapeze, and other apparatuses are engineered to handle the weight and forces associated with aerial performances.
- Use appropriate hardware, such as carabiners, swivels, and quick links that are rated for the load and forces involved in aerial performance.
- Ensure that all hardware is inspected regularly for signs of wear and damage and replace any worn or damaged equipment immediately. Worn or damaged equipment should not be brought to any Bend the Air event for use.
- Purchase equipment from reputable suppliers and be able to show purchase and certification information for any aerial equipment brought to a Bend The Air competition.

A qualified rigger is employed at all Bend The Air events to oversee all rigging equipment. The rigger has the final say in all rigging decisions.

### SILKS RIGGING REQUIREMENTS



All performance silks in Bend the Air are required to be rigged with a rescue 8 or stainless steel ring. The following video provides a demonstration from a leading supplier on how to rig an aerial silk to a rescue 8 or stainless steel ring, which adheres to Bend The Air's rigging standards. You can use the video provided as a guide for Bend the Air's standard requirement for Aerial Silks. It's important to note that rigging aerial silks does require proper training and certification. Always rig aerial silks with supervision from a qualified instructor or rigger.

[▶ Rigging your Aerial Silks with a Rescue-8](#)

### LYRA RIGGING REQUIREMENTS

All tabless lyras that use a spanset to attach to the rigging hardware, should adhere to the standards below. Bend the Air requires all competitors to have certified spansets when performing at any of our events. Certified spansets are those that have been tested and certified to meet specific Australian safety standards. They should have the certification tag attached, in-tact and available for inspection. Why we require certified spansets:

- **Strength:** Certified spansets are designed and tested to withstand the loads generated by aerial movements. They are rated for specific weight limits and are designed to provide a high level of strength and durability.
- **Safety:** Using certified spansets reduces the risk of equipment failure or accidents during aerial performances. They have been tested to meet strict safety standards, ensuring that they are reliable and safe to use.
- **Compliance:** Using certified spansets ensures that you are complying with industry standards and regulations.
- **Liability:** Using uncertified spansets may expose performers and organizations to liability in case of accidents or injuries. Using certified equipment helps reduce the risk of accidents and provides added protection in case of liability claims.



Overall, using certified spansets for aerial arts is an important safety measure that can help ensure the safety of performers and crew. Always make sure to use equipment that is rated for aerial rigging and follow manufacturer instructions and industry standards.

## RIGGING INSPECTION

Before any aerial equipment can be used on the Bend The Air stage, it will undergo a visual inspection by a qualified rigger. This helps ensure that the equipment is safe to use and can withstand the stresses and loads that occur during aerial performances.

During a visual inspection, the rigger will look for any signs of wear, such as frayed or worn-out fabric, or any signs of damage, such as tears or holes in the equipment. They will also check the stitching and any metal hardware, such as carabiners or spansets, to ensure that they are not damaged or deformed.

A visual inspection is important because it can help identify potential safety hazards before they become a problem. For example, a frayed or worn-out fabric on an aerial silk could eventually lead to a tear, which could cause harm, to a performer.

## UNSUCCESSFUL RIGGERS INSPECTIONS

There are a number of reasons why circus gear can fail inspection, and it's important to understand the specific issues that were identified during the inspection in order to address them properly. Here are some common reasons why circus gear may fail inspection:

- **Wear and tear:** Over time, circus gear can become worn and damaged from use. This can include frayed or torn fabric, bent or broken hardware, or loose or damaged stitching. If these issues are identified during an inspection, the gear may fail because it is no longer considered safe or reliable.
- **Age:** Even if circus gear is well-maintained, it may eventually fail inspection due to its age. Over time, materials can break down or become less reliable, making the gear less safe to use.
- **Improper use:** Circus gear may fail inspection if it has been used improperly, such as exceeding its weight limit or using it in a way that it was not designed for. This can compromise the safety and effectiveness of the gear, and may lead to failure during use.
- **Modifications:** If circus gear has been modified or altered in any way, it may fail inspection. Modifications can compromise the structural integrity of the gear and may make it unsafe to use.
- **Design flaws:** In some cases, circus gear may fail inspection due to inherent design flaws. This can include issues with the hardware, fabric, or other components of the gear that make it less safe or less reliable.

If your circus gear **does not pass inspection**, unfortunately it won't be allowed on stage for your performance. You'll have the option to use Bend the Air **in-house equipment**, where applicable. In house equipment includes;




- 7.5 m drop length Silks rigged with rescue 8 (Red, White & Grey)
- Tabless lyras (85cm hollow, 90cm hollow, 90cm solid)
- 2m black lyra spansets
- 3m single hammock (Navy)

If you have a speciality apparatus such as a dance trapeze, rope, cube etc that fails, Bend the Air is unable to supply a replacement and unfortunately you will be unable to perform. Please check your gear carefully and identify issues prior to attending any Bend the Air event.

### FREE STANDING RIG

The Alta Rig is used in venues where there is no hard rigging point available. The Alta comes tested, tagged and CERTIFIED. This certification allows Bend the Air to set up the rig seamlessly, in any venue. The Alta also has the highest safety ratings of any free standing rig in Australia. It provides participants with a safe and standardised set up across all competitions, allowing them to do what they do best – excel at aerial arts. The Bend The Air crew have been trained and signed off to construct and use the Alta Rig.

#### Alta Rig: Load Considerations for the Alta Rig

			
<b>SIZE</b>	<b>STRONG*</b>	<b>COMPONENTS</b>	<b>RESCUE</b>
Total Height: 7m Total Weight: 175kg Footprint: 6m x 6m	SWL: 900kg BS: 2700 kg <small>*Engineer calculations are based upon installation on level ground.</small>	Pole Length: 1.925m Pole Diameter: 7.62cm Crane Bar Length: 1.7m	Built-in rescue-pin descent system

### CONTACT US

At Bend The Air, our competitors safety and confidence is our number one priority. If you have any queries regarding the rigging standards outlined in this document, please feel free to get in touch with our team to discuss.

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