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PART I

Acts, Ordinances, President's Orders and Regulations

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN

LAW & PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT

(Gilgit-Baltistan Secretariat)

Gilgit, the 24th November, 2025

THE GILGIT-BALTISTAN ADVENTURE TOURISM (MANAGEMENT) ACT, 2025

(ACT NO. XXI OF 2025)

AN

ACT

To provide for regulation of adventure tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and to make provisions ensuring environmental friendly sustainable adventure tourism and to make operational and safety standards for outdoor challenging tourism activities and to ensure risk and emergency management;

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for regulatory oversight on adventure tourism operators to ensure standard operating procedures while engaging adventure tour seekers and groups to ensure regulatory compliance and safety standards;

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It is hereby enacted as follows:

CHAPTER-I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT:

a) This Act shall be called the Gilgit-Baltistan Adventure Tourism (Management) Act,2025
b) It shall extend to the whole of Gilgit-Baltistan.
c) It shall come into force at once.

2. DEFINITIONS: In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-

a) **'Act'** means the Gilgit-Baltistan Adventure Tourism Act, 2025.
b) **'Government'** means the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan.
c) **'Department'** means Tourism, Sports, Culture Archaeology and Museums Department Gilgit-Baltistan, as provided under list of Departments in Gilgit Baltistan Rules of Business.
d) **'Directorate of Tourism** 'means the attached department of Tourism and Culture Gilgit-Baltistan, as defined as attached department in Gilgit Baltistan Rules of Business.
e) **Directorate of Tourist Services** 'means Directorate of Tourism and Culture Gilgit Baltistan authorized by the Government to function, as Directorate of Tourist Services Gilgit-Baltistan.
f) **Adventure Tourism'** means challenging outdoor tourism activities, with a certain degree of risk, including but not limited to, mountaineering, climbing trekking, bungee jumping, mountain biking, paragliding, cycling, canoeing, scuba diving, rafting, kayaking, zip-lining, hiking or such activities as may be notified by the department.
g) **'Mountaineering'** means the climbing of mountains over 6500 meters height.
h) **'Trekking'** means the travelling on foot to a maximum height of 6500 meters for the purpose of sightseeing and recreation at various natural and cultural sites in places where

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means of modern transport are not available or not intended to be used.

i) **'Permit'** means the written permission or license issued to carry any adventure activity, as defined in section-2(f) of this Act.

j) **'Controller** 'head of the Directorate of Tourists Services Gilgit Baltistan.

k) **'Pakistani'** means a person who possesses citizenship of Pakistan and having valid CNIC or Passport issued by the government of Pakistan.

l) **'Liaison Officer'** means the guide appointed as the Liaison Officer, where there is only one guide he shall be the Liaison Officer.

m) **'Porters'** include low altitude and high altitude porters

n) **"Prescribed** "means prescribed by rules, regulations, SOPs and guidelines of the department.

3. **Powers to regulate:-**

1) The "Department" shall have such powers and authority to regulate and control the "Adventure Tourism" in Gilgit-Baltistan, through rules and regulations, as may be prescribed.

2) Notwithstanding the generality of provision in sub-section (1), rules to be prescribed may provide for, but not limited to;

a) Registration and NOCs to undertake the activities and Business.
b) Insurance of adventurists and staff, safety and security.
c) Compliance to environmental, forest and national park laws.
d) Classification of area into closed, restricted and open zones as per notified by Ministry of Interior.
e) The hiring of guides, porters, low and high-altitude porters.
f) The payment to guides, porters, cooking staff on prescribed rates.
g) Registration of low and High Altitude Porters and their Association.
h) The equipment to be carried.
i) Evacuation and medical assistance.
j) Briefings and debriefing to Tourism Department.
k) Payment of prescribed fees.
l) Protection and cleanliness of the environment.
m) Photography and filming.
n) Fine and penalties for violations.

4. Powers to make rules: The Government may make rules, to carry out the purpose of this Act

CHAPTER-II

REGULATION & ADMINISTRATION

5. The provisions of this Act, the adventure tourism policy, and any rules made thereunder shall aim to the general principals of prudent, efficient and reasonable management, principle of safety, conservation and sustainability.

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6. Save as otherwise prohibited by any law or rules, the department shall provide equal opportunities for everyone to participate in adventure activity ensuring that the participants skills levels and physical abilities allow him to participate in such activities provided that the participant fulfills the prescribed safety and security requirements.

7. Notwithstanding with anything contained in this Act or any other law, rules and regulations, the Department shall have the authority to appoint "Liaison Officer (s)" as per rules and or regulations as may be prescribed.

8. While engaging in any adventure activity, the 'Department" shall ensure minimal impact on environmental and ecosystem, safety, honors the local culture, traditions, and customs of local community and responsible tourism.

9. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, foreigners desirous of undertaking any adventure activity shall submit the detailed plans to the Tourism Department in which the activity is to be carried out.

10. Save as otherwise provided in this Act or any law or rule, foreigners may carry any adventure activity or expedition in restricted areas, only after obtaining permission from the Tourism Department Gilgit Baltistan, in the manner, as may be prescribed.

11. (1) A permission, so issued by the department, is liable to be cancelled any time, under circumstances as may be prescribed in the rules.
(2) A cancellation shall take effect from the date of its intimation.
(3) Where permission has been cancelled, the trekker or trekking party shall immediately leave the restricted area.

12. The Trekking party shall be accompanied by a trained first aid paramedic who shall attend to the medical needs of the party.

13. The expedition party shall make payments to the porters and other staff, on such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

14. The expedition team shall brief the department prior to start of the expedition and debrief accordingly, on return and before prior to leaving the country, in the manner as may be prescribed.

15. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other Law or rules, for the time being in force, the "Government" may establish such institutions for training of the mountaineers, porters, guides or any other specialty connected thereto or to the adventure sports, for provision of trained and qualified human resource for "adventure tourism".

CHAPTER-III

RESPONSIBILITIES, MEASURES AND OTHER PROVISIONS

16. For mountaineering, the expedition team shall engage a licensed liaison officer/mountain guide for each expedition from the starting place of the expedition till its return to a district headquarters.

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The liaison officer or mountain guide, as the case may be, shall perform such duties and responsibilities as may be prescribed.

17. A mountaineering team may engage low altitude porter(s) who shall accompany the party upto the base camp. A low altitude porter shall not accompany the expedition, above the height of 5,500 meters, unless he is provided the required kit/equipment and ration, as prescribed for high altitude porters.

18. An expedition team may hire a certified High Altitude Porter(s), above the height of 5,500 meters. The High Altitude Porter(s) shall be provided the prescribed kit/equipment and ration or pay the sum in lieu of, by the expedition team.

19. The expedition team shall follow the rules, regulations, SOPs and guidelines for expeditions, as may be prescribed.

20. The High and Low Altitude Porters may be paid remuneration, in the manner and rates, as may be prescribed.

21. Each mountaineering expedition shall arrange such communication equipment and means in the manner as may be prescribed.

22. Each expedition team is liable to ensure provision of proper mountaineering kit, equipment and gear, for its team members and porters, of quality and standard, as may be prescribed.

23. Each expedition team is liable to ensure insurance cover for its team members and porters, in the manner and rates, as may be prescribed.

24. The expedition team shall follow the specified route, except in cases of emergency and with the permission of a Liaison Officer, and shall follow the prescribed SOPs to summit a peak.

CHAPTER-IV

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Guides shall be provided the same lodging as the rest of the Party while in a district headquarter or in camp. There shall be no discrimination. Food shall also be the same unless the Guide chooses to be paid for food and wants to arrange for his own.

26. Save as otherwise provided in any other law and rules, except in the closed zone, adventure sports teams may take aerial and still photography, as well as videography, subject to such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

27. Import of expedition equipment and re-exported shall be subject to compliance the relevant laws.

28. Equipment provided to the Trekking Guide/Liaison Officer or the porters for use during the expedition shall be returned to expedition party, unless agreed otherwise by the Party.

29. Foreign expedition's team members are bound to abide by the laws of the land during expedition and while their stay in Pakistan.

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30. A party shall not indulge in any activity that might offend the religious sentiments and social or moral usages and customs of the local people.

31. Where an adventure expedition also includes scientific research, party shall intimate the department in their plan and submit to the Government the interim results of the scientific expedition including details of any specimens obtained/films made. Such scientific research and/or export of any specimens is subject to fulfillment of the relevant laws.

32. While on expedition, the party shall ensure environmental protection in accordance with the relevant standards and laws. The department may prescribe such guidelines and SOPs for environmental protection, during adventure activities.

NAZIR AHMAD,
Speaker
Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

SYED MEHDI SHAH,
Governor
Gilgit-Baltistan.

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