

## Guidance for NCSA tow ropes

This is adapted from the ASG tow plot manual. Please don't be disturbed if you notice different ropes at other gliderports. There are lots of ways to do this, the object is to instill enough practical standardization at NCSA so that everyone knows what to expect.

NCSA uses ¼" Dacron rope with a manufacturer's rated breaking strength of 2,000 Lbs and Tost rings. We buy from Wings and Wheels. We start with a length of ~ 215'. Ropes wear at the glider end. When worn, tow ropes can be "rejuvenated" by cutting off the worn trailing end and re-tying the glider end rings. This allows several rejuvenations before the rope is retired at 200'.

The whiffle ball helps the tow pilot locate the end of the rope when taxiing. Sometimes folks manage to cut or modify the whiffle ball so as to protect the Tost rings and the knot from dragging damage. This is OK, but a better practice is to construct an optional Tost shield from a plastic bottle wrapped with tape.

Please see the illustrations for the rope construction and knot(s)

