

AFRICAN HILLS FPV DRONE FLYING CLUB – SAFETY PLAN & FIELD MANUAL

1. Objective

To ensure the African Hills FPV Drone Flying Club remains a safe and responsible flying environment for pilots, visitors, families, and the surrounding property, including neighbouring farms.

2. General Safety Guidelines

- All pilots must be active SAMAA members and carry their membership cards while at the field.
- A pilots' briefing is held before any flying begins. Attendance is mandatory.
- All persons present are considered part of the safety team. If you see unsafe behaviour, address it.
- No children are allowed beyond the bench line towards the flight line.
- No motors may be run in the pit area.
- Flying under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Always dispose of waste properly. Take cigarette butts and broken parts with you when leaving.

3. FPV Operations

- FPV flying is restricted to designated FPV zones only.
- Pilots must use spotters during all FPV flights.
- Spotters must monitor the area for pedestrians, vehicles, or any hazards and alert the pilot accordingly.
- Power on only when you have your assigned frequency peg.
- Always perform a hover test before flight to ensure system integrity.
- All crafts must use failsafe systems and include audible battery alarms for low voltage and location tracking.
- Take-offs and landings must happen in the designated area, safely away from pilot seating and spectators.
- Do not fly over pilot pits or spectator zones.
- Acrobatic or high-risk manoeuvres must be performed well away from people and structures.

4. Fire Safety & Equipment

- Fire extinguishers must be checked for readiness before each flying day and placed near the flight line.
- At all times:
 - A minimum of 2 x 2.5kg CO2 fire extinguishers must be at the flight line.
 - A support vehicle with additional extinguishers should be on standby at the pits.
- During special events:
 - A fire-response vehicle with a 1000L trailer, beaters, and additional CO2 cylinders will be stationed within 100m of the flight zone.
- The Safety Officer, Event Director, and one pilot are responsible for immediate fire response.
- Approach fires from the upwind side if safe to do so.
- Contact emergency services if the fire escalates.

5. Battery and Charging Protocol

- All Lipo batteries must be charged in a safe, designated area.
- Always follow standard Lipo safety protocols.
- Pilots making field repairs or adjustments must remove propellers before powering up.
- Never leave charging batteries unattended.

6. After Flight Procedure

- Wait until it is safe to enter the flight area before retrieving your drone.
- Remove all debris, damaged props, or battery waste from the field.
- Return frequency pegs and power down correctly.

7. Incident Management

- In case of a crash, prioritise safety. Only retrieve your craft when it is safe to do so.
- If the aircraft is out of control or heading towards a sensitive area, disarm or force it to ground immediately.
- All incidents must be reported to the Safety Officer.

8. Notes

- Respect the surrounding farms and private property at all times.
- Participation in Club activities implies agreement with these rules.
- These safety protocols are reviewed periodically and updated as needed.