

# Use of Drones Policy



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. With the safety of riders, staff, volunteers and spectators in mind and privacy issues, AusCycling prohibits the operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) or drones by the general public – including recreation users and hobbyists during any level of approved AusCycling event without prior written authorisation.
- 1.2. Drones are expressly prohibited for all events in an indoor venue.
- 1.3. The operation of drones is governed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), via the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101.
- 1.4. AusCycling will issue an approval for drone use by accredited and experienced operators based on proof of holding the relevant CASA Remote Pilot Licence (RePL), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operator's Certificate (ReOC) and appropriate insurance coverage and indemnification requirements with particular use for approved promotional opportunities.
- 1.5. Users of RPA/drones are responsible for acting within the parameters of the governing legislation.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. **Commercial Use of Drones** - CASA defines the commercial use of a drone as any activity undertaken that is deemed a business or income generating operation.

Before using a drone for commercial use, CASA requires pilots undergo a certification process and obtain a Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) for a drone larger than 2kg. In addition, before undertaking any flights, commercial operators must have a registered drone and require approval from CASA in relation to the operation of the drone.

If a commercial operation is found to be operating a drone without the appropriate approval from CASA, they may be subject to receiving an infringement notice or criminal charges if the offence is deemed serious enough.

Operators can be fined if they fly a drone for business or as part of your job without a valid RPA operator accreditation or RePL.

- 2.2. **Civil/Hobby Use of Drones** - Hobby/Recreational users of drones do not need prior approval from CASA before flying their craft but must follow the drone safety rules, also known as the [standard operating conditions](#)



### 3. Liability

- 3.1. Failure to comply with the CASA legislated safety rules, or 'standard operating conditions' could result in penalties including heavy fines, Commonwealth prosecution and even jail time:

The RPA/drone must be operated:

- by visual line of sight (VLOS) only - close enough to see, maintain orientation and achieve accurate flight and tracking (not by using binoculars or watching a video screen);
- no higher than 400 ft (120 m) above ground level (referenced to a point on the ground immediately below the RPA at all times during the flight);
- during daytime only – effectively, not before sunrise or after sunset.

The RPA/drone must not be operated:

- any closer than 30 m from people not associated with the flight (not over or above people at any time or height);
- in a prohibited area or restricted area;
- over populous areas (an area [that] has a sufficient density of population for some aspect of the operation, or some event that might happen during the operation (in particular, a fault in, or failure of, the aircraft...) to pose an unreasonable risk to the life, safety or property of somebody who is in the area but is not connected with the operation);
- within 5.5 km of the movement area of a controlled aerodrome – one with an operating control tower;
- in the area of a public safety operation without the approval of a person in charge of the operation. (includes a fire brigade, rural fire service, police or other public safety or emergency operation (e.g. bush fires, traffic accidents))

**Only 1 RPA/drone** may be flown per pilot at any one time.

Further restrictions can apply including:

- Open Road environments where there are vehicles or other dangers.
- Events where there are minors participating.

Additional flight permissions to fly outside of the drone safety rules are available for recreational drone and remotely piloted aircraft operator's certificate (ReOC) holders via application to CASA.



#### 4. Approval of Drone for Commercial Purposes

- 4.1. In the event of a commercial operator wanting to use a drone within the event footprint where an AusCycling sanctioned event is being held, appropriate documentation must be provided to, and approved by, AusCycling. To ensure certificates provided are legitimate, AusCycling may perform a check on the CASA website via the Remote Operator's Certificate (ReOC) holders directory.
- 4.2. In the event of a recreational user wanting to use a drone within the village/course where an AusCycling sanctioned event is being held, permission must be sought in writing to AusCycling and approved two weeks prior to the event, otherwise no filming will be allowed.

#### 5. Operational Arrangements

- 5.1. Any AusCycling approved commercial or hobby use of an RPA/drone during any part of an event, including non- competitions areas, must, before commencing, provide notification of the proposed flight:
- 5.2. **Violation and Breach of Conditions** - In addition to any applicable penalties under applicable legislation and regulations (including, but not limited to, CASA Regulations), the AusCycling Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy applies to any Alleged Breach (as defined in the National Integrity Framework);  
The President of the Commissaire Panel (PCP) or Event Organiser may direct the Drone operator to alter or cease operations at anytime during the event if they are breaching the terms of this policy.
- 5.3. Confirm with the Event Organiser and Principal of the Commissaire Panel of their intended areas of operation;
- 5.4. Any vision taken at an event by a commercial or recreational user will be made available for use by AusCycling;
- 5.5. The operator must also inform the relevant parties upon the grounding of the RPA/drone.

#### 6. Related Documents Application Form

[Application Form](#)

[Civil Aviation Safety Authority \(CASA\)](#)

[\(CASA\) Privacy Policy](#)