

# Playbook Module

## Flight Safety & Regulatory Rules

**Level:** All

**Objectives:**

- Learn about national, regional, and local laws and regulations.
- Learn about ethical consideration of flying a drone.

**Pre-requisites:** None

This is a duplicate of the information in the Flight Planning Module to help people have a stand-alone copy for Alpha & maybe Beta

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# Safety, Ethical, and Other Rules and Considerations

This is a comprehensive list of the United States regulation for flying recreational drones, ethical drone flying guidelines. This includes FAA regulations, the [U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration's \(NTIA\) recommended voluntary best practices](#), and the BSA Safety Guidelines.

## Where to fly

- Fly no higher than 400 feet and remain below any surrounding obstacles when possible.
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations, and you must see and avoid other aircraft and obstacles at all times.
- Do not intentionally fly over unprotected persons or moving vehicles, and remain at least 25 feet away from individuals and vulnerable property.
- Contact the airport and control tower before flying within five miles of an airport or heliport. (Read about best practices [here](#))
- Ensure the flight area is safe and that the pilot is competent and proficient in the operation of the drone.
- Do not fly near or over sensitive infrastructure or property such as power stations, water treatment facilities, correctional facilities, heavily traveled roadways, government facilities, etc.
- Don't fly over other people's private property without permission.
- Check and follow all local laws and ordinances before flying over private property.
- Drones may not be operated over any people not directly participating in the flight who are not under a covered structure or not inside a covered stationary vehicle.
- Drones must operate in daylight or may operate in civil twilight (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, local time) with appropriate anti-collision lighting.
- Drone pilots must yield right of way to other aircraft.
- Minimum weather visibility of 3 miles from control station with 500 feet of visibility below the clouds and above the aircraft and 2000 feet horizontally between the clouds and the aircraft.
- Operations in Class B, C, D and E airspace are allowed with the required Air Traffic Control (ATC) permission.
- Operations in Class G airspace are allowed without ATC permission.

## When to Fly

- Do not fly in adverse weather conditions such as in high winds or reduced visibility.
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- First-person view (FPV) goggles can be used by the pilot only when a VO is also present and in close proximity to the pilot.
- No person may act as a remote pilot in command or spotter for more than one drone at a time.
- No operations from a moving aircraft.
- No operations from a moving vehicle unless the operation is over a sparsely populated area.
- No careless or reckless operations.
- Pilots must follow the preflight checklist and inspection steps for all flights.
- A person may not operate a drone if he or she knows or has reason to know of any physical or mental condition that would interfere with the safe operation of the drone.
- External load operations are allowed if the object being carried by the unmanned aircraft is securely attached and does not adversely affect the flight characteristics or controllability of the aircraft. However, hazardous materials may never be carried.
- Unmanned aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs. (25 kg).

## Controlling your flight

- Keep your drone in your and/or your spotter's view at all times.
- Tell other people you'll be taking pictures or video of them before you do so and make sure they agree to being photographed.
- If you think someone has a reasonable expectation of privacy, don't violate that privacy by taking pictures, video, or otherwise gathering sensitive data.
- If anyone raises privacy, security, or safety concerns with you, listen to what they have to say, and respect their concerns. A scout is courteous.
- Don't harass people with your drone.