

BEFORE USING DRONES AT AN EVENT

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

Video material captured by Drones provide us with a completely different perspective of our sport and is so much more interactive and exciting. Unlike traditional video, it is easier for Drones to follow the participants and to film them from different angles and to keep up with the action. Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as Drones, are used more frequently in film production and live events.

Drones offer unique opportunities when it comes to branding and marketing so you could offer them to potential sponsors or for your own branding purposes. The best parts of the Drone footage could be used after the event for an action recap or for promoting of the next event.

However, there are many factors and precautions to be considered. Some of the most significant ones are as follows:

- Although there are currently some general guidelines from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), **many countries have different regulations** on the use of Drones. It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with these rules.
- You, as an event organiser, are legally responsible for the safe conduct of each flight. Take time to understand the rules. Failure to comply could lead to a criminal prosecution. Please note that this is not the duty of the Chief Judge (CJ) but the CJ (and athletes) should be properly briefed by the event organiser. The competition Safety Director, with the agreement of the Chief Judge, shall have the authority to request all flights be stopped if it is determined that it poses a safety hazard to competitors or spectators.
- Obtain CAA permission if required by the law (as is the case in many countries and varies depending on the weight of the Drones). If you intend to use an unmanned aircraft for any kind of commercial activity, you must get a specific permission from the Civil Aviation Authority or you could face prosecution.
- Verify that the venue permits the use of Drones and where exactly it is safe and allowed for Drones to fly: Some sites may allow the use of Drones only at certain areas yet others may completely forbid it. Also make sure that the flying path of your Drone does not pass through high-security areas which is illegal and might cause you lots of problems (or interference with electronic equipment).
- Hire a qualified and insured pilot: You need an expert who also has the appropriate insurance. The safety of people on site comes first. You can't risk an incident like a Drone going out of control or hitting someone at the event. We strongly recommend that you use a professional Drone pilot and not a hobbyist.
- The pilot must keep the Drone within sight at all times and fly below specified regulated heights (400 ft. in many countries).
- It is illegal to fly a Drone over some congested areas (streets, towns and cities), some restricted areas and in close proximity of airports. It is also illegal to fly within close proximity of a person (30 to 50m. in many places), vehicle, building or structure, or above groups of people at any height. Once again, check the specific rules in your country.
- Choose the right times for using Drones at your events: Understand that Drones can be disruptive and could be quite distracting for both participants and spectators. It is recommended that Drones should be flown behind and no closer than 50m from a competitor. Visual and auditory distraction could be detrimental to a competitor's performance and result in an unfair situation and causing a potential re-ride.

BE SAFE – BE LAWFUL – BE DRONE AWARE

