

# 2025-26 DRONE POLICY

All 'drone' (UAV, RPAS or any unmanned aircraft) operations at MotorSport New Zealand permitted events must be conducted in accordance with CAA Part 101 rules as required by law. This INCLUDES 'FPV' drones.

1. Drones can only be operated by operators who have completed and passed a CAA recognised Part 101 competency course within the last five years. Evidence of this must be submitted at part of your application.
- 1.1 Any parties with a CAA Part 102 Certification must disclose this and provide the certification to MotorSport New Zealand on their media accreditation application or 5 days prior to use at an event.
2. Drones can only be operated if approved the by the event organiser or the Clerk of the Course. If you intend on operating a drone at an event, you must disclose this on the media sign-on form and seek permission from the event organiser. The Clerk of the Course must be aware that you intend to operate a drone.
3. Priority air space is given exclusively to any official broadcast rights holder of an event. It is prohibited to operate a drone within the entirety of the air space above a permanent venue (Race) or within 3km of a broadcast position at a temporary venue (ClubSport / Rally).
4. Drone operators should be able to present a flight plan upon request which clearly shows where their Landing Zone(s) (LZ) are and the areas of the venue they intend to operate in. The plan should indicate secondary/emergency Landing Zones in case they are unable to land at their primary LZ. Venue maps can be downloaded at: [www.motorsport.org.nz/media/accreditation/](http://www.motorsport.org.nz/media/accreditation/)
5. All drones must have an identifier (operator's/company's name) clearly written on the drone along with the operator's mobile phone number in case of emergency.
6. As well as following all applicable New Zealand laws and regulations, by applying for media accreditation you agree to follow MotorSport New Zealand's drone policy:
  - (a) You **MUST** log a flight with *AirShare* prior to commencing any drone operation
  - (b) Alert the Event Director or Clerk of the Course that you plan to fly a drone at the event in line with CAA and the MotorSport New Zealand policy.
  - (c) Register your intentions to operate a drone on the Media Sign-on form, including the operator's mobile phone number
  - (d) All drone operators **MUST** have an observer. The observer **MUST**, at all times, have unaided sight of the drone and remain in constant verbal communication with the drone operator. **This is a LEGAL REQUIREMENT under NZ Law.**
  - (e) Minimum flying altitude:
    - (i) Above track/driving surface - 25ft AGL
    - (ii) All other areas (e.g. pitlane, spectator areas, pit paddock) - 15ft AGL

- (f) Minimum flying altitude and following distances where spectators, officials and/or other persons are not within 25m of the edge of the track/driving surface:
- (i) Altitude above track/driving surface for single-car\* competition:
    - a. rearwards – no min.
    - b. forwards – 15ft AGL
  - (ii) Altitude above track/driving surface for multi-car\*\* competition:
    - a. 25ft AGL
  - (iii) Following distance for single-car competition:
    - a. rearwards - 1m
    - b. forwards - 5m
  - (iv) Following distance for multi-car competition – no min following distance as altitude must be min. 25ft AGL.

*\*Single-car = Where one car is competing at once AND drifting*

*\*\*Multi-car = Where more than one car is competing at once (Race)*

- (g) Drones, at all times, must remain outside of any competitors line of sight
- (h) Remain 15m from any recovery, fire, rescue or official vehicle, flag/recovery point or person/people at ALL times and must not present any distraction or danger to volunteer officials.
- (i) Ensure the drone is set to 'Return to Home' in the case of a loss of signal or low battery.
- (j) Drones must never fly over top of spectator areas or present any risk to any persons
- (k) Ensure launch/landing and 'Return to Home' location will not impede any recovery, fire, rescue or official vehicles or operations at ALL times. Recommended 'Return to Home' altitude: 120ft AGL
- (l) Ensure launch/landing and 'Return to Home' location will not impede any aspect of the event.
- (m) Cease all drone operations immediately after a major incident in which aerial assistance (rescue aircraft or firefighting aircraft) may be required.
- (n) Footage of any incident, whether intentionally or unintentionally, recorded must be made available to MotorSport New Zealand, appointed event Clerk of the Course or Steward or the New Zealand Police upon request.
- (8) Part 102 Certification **does not** excuse drone operators from following MotorSport New Zealand's drone guidelines.

**Review of this policy:**

This policy will be reviewed yearly with the accreditation terms.

## For all questions and inquiries:

### Media Accreditation Manager:

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For more information and resources: <https://motorsport.org.nz/media/accreditation/>