

# Australian FPV Drone Racing Code of Ethics and Conduct

Version 1.0 - 23/08/2025

All pilots, event staff, and participants in FPV drone racing are expected to uphold high standards of **fairness, safety, respect, and integrity**. This code exists to protect the spirit of competition and the reputation of our sport.

## 1. Fair Sporting Behaviour

### 1.1 Respect Competitive Integrity

- a. Do not interfere with another pilot's ability to fly by disrupting their video or radio signals (this includes deliberate use of signal-interrupting devices, blocking signals with your body, or similar tactics).
- b. Do not tamper with, alter, or damage track elements to gain an advantage. Accidental crashes are understandable, but intentional damage is unacceptable.
- c. Only fly the course at the times scheduled unless you have permission from race officials.

### 1.2 Conduct During and After Races

- a. Upon finishing a race/heat, pilots must proceed to the designated landing zone as soon as possible and not impede other pilots still flying.
- b. Intentionally causing mid-air collisions is a violation.
- c. Do not tamper with or damage another pilot's craft/equipment in any way.
- d. Once a pilot has finished their race (i.e. completed laps or crashed out), they are not to physically disrupt other pilots seated with them who are still in the air.

### e. 1.3 Individual vs. Team Conduct

- a. In individual competitions, any form of teamwork or collusion that disadvantages other pilots is unethical and not permitted.
  - *Note: In larger competitions where individual placements contribute to club points or rankings, questions of teamwork may arise. Such situations should be carefully evaluated in consultation with race organisers to ensure fairness and transparency. For example, in a competition where each pilot's final placement points also contribute to their club's overall leaderboard, clubmates who find themselves together in a Chase the Ace final must compete fairly. Once one teammate has already secured two wins, it would be unacceptable for them to alter their performance to*

*manipulate the remaining placement outcomes, such as running in the 3rd and final heat in case of a tie and purposely placing second.*

#### **1.4 Race Integrity**

- a. Intentionally causing a race to be re-run is a violation.
- b. Stalling or delaying tactics used to unsettle competitors or manipulate race conditions are also violations.

## **2. Safety and Welfare of Pilots and Spectators**

### **2.1 Respecting Physical Safety**

- a. Pilots must not fly their drones directly at or dangerously close to other individuals, whether competitors, staff, or spectators, unless it is within the safe flight paths communicated by officials.
- b. Logical takeoff and landing zones must be respected at all times, as designated or agreed upon by race directors and participants.
- c. Do not intentionally crash into safety nets (including as a form of celebration).

## **3. Honesty and Integrity in All Dealings**

### **3.1 Compliance with Technical Regulations**

- a. All pilots must use their allocated video frequency/channel allocations.
- b. All pilots must adhere to the event-defined VTX and TX power requirements.
- c. The VTX and TX power must be set up correctly, not exceeding any limits, meaning it should not be variable mid-flight (such as power levels on a switch), and a pilot should not interfere with race officials' fair power testing.
- d. Battery voltage limits must be respected as outlined by the event to ensure safety and fairness.
- e. Firmware and hardware must comply with competition regulations (such as spec equipment firmware and hardware).

### **3.2 Course Honesty and Accountability**

- a. Pilots are expected to self-report if they knowingly miss a gate or deviate from the course in any other way.
- b. All pilots are individually responsible for following the rules, regardless of group behaviour or ranking.

### **3.3 Accountability and Attitude**

- a. Blaming officials, race rules, or event structure for poor performance is considered unsportsmanlike.
- b. Constructive feedback, complaints, protests and appeals should be shared respectfully through appropriate channels and in accordance with the event rules.

## **4. Protecting the Reputation of the Sport**

### **4.1 Professional Conduct**

- a. All participants must maintain honest, respectful, and sportsmanlike conduct at all times on and around the competition venue.
- b. The cleanliness and safety of the competition grounds must be maintained; all participants are responsible for leaving the pits and other shared spaces in a tidy state.
- c. Be courteous to fellow pilots in matters concerning space and organisation. For example, in areas with limited space, once you've finished your group/races, please move your bag/gear aside so that others can find room to place their gear.

### **4.2 Social Media and Public Communication**

- a. Do not knowingly make false and damaging claims about fellow pilots, competitions, organisations, or race officials, especially on social media or public platforms.

## **5. Doping and Substances**

### **5.1 Substance use**

- a. Any substance taken to gain a competitive advantage is a violation.
- b. Refer to the MAAA MOP55 for behaviour around banned or restricted substances.

## **6. Compliance with Broader Policies**

### **6.1 Compliance with broader policies**

- a. All participants must refer to and comply with the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA) Member Protection Policy (MOP041) and any other relevant club or event-specific guidelines.

## **7. Consequences of Violations**

### **7.1 Consequences of violations**

- a. Consequences are determined by the event and at the discretion of officials.
- b. Penalties may include: heat disqualifications or bans, disqualification or banning from the event itself and/or suspension from other Australian FPV events run under AUFPV or partner organisations.

