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To: LHSAA Executive Committee Members
LHSAA Member Schools / Principals
LHSAA Member Schools / Superintendents
LHSAA Director of Officials / Lee Sanders

From: LHSAA Executive Director / Eddie Bonine
LHSAA Director of Communications / Ethan Anderson

Re: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / Administrative Guidance

Date: July 28, 2025

As Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as “drones,” continue to evolve, it is important that our association’s position adapts accordingly. In 2014, the Louisiana Legislature passed HB1029, which is now state statute LSA-R.S. 14.337. Additional legislation followed in 2021 with LSA-R.S. 2:2, giving the state exclusive jurisdiction to regulate all unmanned aircraft systems.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has developed specific guidelines related to athletic events. As of October 2021, the FAA prohibits drone flights over open-air stadiums with a seating capacity of 30,000 or more during professional or collegiate events (including MLB, NFL, and NCAA Division I football games), as well as NASCAR and IndyCar races.

However, these FAA restrictions do not explicitly cover smaller venues like high school or small college events. As such, approaches to drone use at these events vary across institutions.

That said, and in an effort to prioritize the safety of participants and spectators, the LHSAA maintains that drones are **prohibited** within the confines of stadiums, fields, and arenas for video or still photography **before, during, and after** LHSAA-sanctioned regular and/or postseason events—**unless prior authorization is granted**.

LHSAA... Beyond the Game

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Authorization may be granted **only if**:

- The LHSAA office receives **written communication** via email to the Director of Communications,
- That communication **explicitly states** the individual or organization:
 - Accepts full liability for any incidents or accidents causing bodily injury or property damage,
 - Confirms that the drone operator meets all required certifications and legal standards.

This authorization will be subject to state statutes, and local law enforcement will be notified. Penalties will be enforced as prescribed by law. It is also important to note that **the host site retains the discretion** to allow or deny drone usage by opponents. Game officials, school administrators, and designated personnel will have the authority to stop play until the airspace is cleared if necessary.

By sending communication to the LHSAA office, the member school agrees to the following terms:

- Accept full liability for any/all incidents or accidents causing bodily injury or property damage.
- Restrict drone flight from flying over the playing surface, players' box, or any persons.
- Comply with all state statutes regarding drone use (LSA-R.S. 14.337 and LSA-R.S. 2:2).
- Maintain drone altitude between 30–150 feet once airborne.
- Keep the drone positioned behind end zones (no closer than ten yards), not along sidelines.
- Restrict all commercial use of drones during LHSAA events.

For any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact LHSAA Director of Communications, Ethan Anderson, at eanderson@lhsaa.org. Your participation and continued cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Eddie Bonine

Executive Director

LHSAA

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