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

Re: *Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / Position Statement*

Date: August 28, 2018

Once again, we have received a report of a situation at one of our football venues which involved an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, commonly known as a “Drone.” The situation / incident initiated conversation again within the office, which led to discussion on how we (LHSAA) should once again be pro-active with this topic. In 2014, the Louisiana Legislature did take a stance and passed *HB1029*, which is now applicable state statute *LSA-R.S. 14.337*.

Also, a 2014 October edition of the NFHS *High School Today* magazine’s cover story titled “Legal Issues Related to Use of Drones in High School Sports,” stated “the U.S Congress has given direction to the *F.A.A.* to clarify the rules governing Drones by September 2015 recommending the safest course of action is for school districts to delay the acquisitions for use by athletic departments until the new guidelines become available.” This said, and once again attempting to err on the side of safety for participants and spectators alike, *and* until this office has received in-depth research and/or direction from the Congressional aforementioned, it is the opinion of this office *THAT* the use of Drones within the confines of stadiums, fields and arenas for video and/or still photography, before, during, and/or after an LHSAA

LHSAA... Beyond the Game

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sanctioned regular and/or post season athletic event(s) will continue to be prohibited until further notice.

However, as in the past, if this office receives a prior written request for utilization of a drone *and* within the request it clearly states the individual (s) accepting full liability for any/all incidents *and/or* accidents causing bodily injury, property damage *and* the individual operating the drone is certified to do so *and* if the submitted request is satisfactory per our office and the LHSAA Legal Counsel; then and only then authorization may be received as prescribed in *state statute*. Failure to comply with stated procedures, state law, and this notification *will* result in jurisdictional local law enforcement involvement accompanied by those penalties prescribed therein. School administration, game officials, and designated personnel will have the authority to enforce stoppage of play until the air space is cleared. Additional sanctions per LHSAA Rules and Regulations could be applied for disruptive incidents.

Your participation and continued cooperation with is always greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,



Eddie Bonine
Executive Director
LHSAA



Lee Sanders
Assistant Executive Director
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