

# ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) AND DRONE OPERATIONS

Effective: 2026-27 School Year

## PURPOSE

The LHSAA permits limited use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly called drones, at LHSAA-sanctioned events when the operation can be conducted safely and lawfully. This guidance establishes LHSAA's event-specific requirements. It does not replace or waive any Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Louisiana, or host-site requirement.

## 1. FAA REQUIREMENTS

All UAS or drone operations must comply with applicable FAA requirements, including 14 CFR Part 107 when applicable. This requirement applies whether or not the operator is being paid. The operator is responsible for determining and maintaining compliance with applicable FAA requirements, including, when applicable:

- Remote pilot certification;
- UAS registration and Remote ID;
- Airspace authorization;
- Night operations; and
- Operations over people.

**LHSAA approval does not constitute FAA approval or authorization.**

## 2. LOUISIANA LAW

All UAS operations must also comply with applicable Louisiana law. The requesting school and operator are responsible for determining whether additional state or local requirements apply.

### 3. LHSAA APPROVAL

A UAS may not be operated at an LHSAA-sanctioned event without prior LHSAA approval.

The approval process is as follows:

Each school's Principal or Athletic Director must complete the [LHSAA UAS \(Drone\) Authorization Request Form](#) available on the [Forms & Resources page](#) of the LHSAA website.

Once the request is approved, the school will receive an email confirming authorization to operate a UAS at its home LHSAA-sanctioned events during the 2026-27 school year, subject to all requirements contained in this guidance and the approved application.

For an away event, the visiting school must receive approval from the host school before operating a UAS. The host school has the authority to permit or prohibit UAS operations at its event. If the host school permits UAS operations, the same authorization must be made available to both participating schools. A host school may not permit UAS operations for one participating school while prohibiting the other from operating a UAS, provided both schools have received prior LHSAA approval and comply with all applicable requirements.

Any UAS operation at an away event must comply with all applicable FAA requirements, Louisiana law, LHSAA policies, and host-site restrictions.

**LHSAA approval does not make LHSAA the operator of the UAS or assume responsibility for the operation. The school and UAS operator remain responsible for ensuring that the operation is conducted safely and in compliance with all applicable requirements.**

### 4. WHERE DRONES MAY OPERATE

Unless specifically approved otherwise by LHSAA, for the sport of football:

- The UAS must remain behind the end zones;
- The UAS must remain at least 10 yards from the end-zone boundary;
- Operation along the sidelines is prohibited; and
- The UAS must remain between 30 and 150 feet above ground level, subject to all applicable FAA altitude requirements.

These are additional LHSAA event-safety restrictions and do not replace FAA requirements.

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## 5. OPERATIONS OVER PEOPLE AND AT NIGHT

The operator is responsible for determining whether the proposed operation is permitted under current FAA requirements for operations over people and nighttime operations.

LHSAA may impose additional restrictions for event safety.

## 6. EVENT-DAY AUTHORITY

LHSAA officials, game officials, school administrators, venue personnel, or other designated event personnel may require the UAS to land or operations to stop immediately when there is a safety, security, competition, or compliance concern.

The operator must immediately comply with any such direction.

## 7. OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The operator must:

- Operate only within the approved area and conditions;
- Comply with all FAA requirements and Louisiana law;
- Comply with LHSAA and host-site restrictions;
- Maintain control of the UAS at all times;
- Have required documentation available; and
- Immediately stop operations when directed by authorized event personnel.

## 8. VIOLATIONS

LHSAA may deny, suspend, or revoke approval when an operation does not comply with FAA requirements, Louisiana law, LHSAA rules, the approved application, or host-site requirements.

## 9. APPLICATION

Schools must complete the [LHSAA UAS \(Drone\) Authorization Request Form](#) before operating a UAS at an LHSAA-sanctioned event.

The application identifies the school, administrator, operator, UAS, proposed flight, FAA compliance information, and liability.



EDDIE BONINE, M.Ed., CAA  
*Executive Director*

LEE SANDERS  
KAREN HOYT  
ADAM MACDOWELL  
MICHAEL FEDERICO  
*Assistant Executive Directors*

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

**FAA compliance comes first. LHSAA approval is an additional event requirement.**

LHSAA approval does not provide FAA authorization, certification, registration, airspace approval, or a waiver of any federal or state requirement.

UAS operators should review current FAA requirements before each event because federal rules and airspace restrictions may change.

**Questions regarding LHSAA approval:**

LHSAA Director of Communications, Ethan Anderson  
[eanderson@lhsaa.org](mailto:eanderson@lhsaa.org) | (225) 300-4201

**Questions regarding FAA requirements:**

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
UAS Support Center: 844-FLY-MY-UA (844-359-6982)

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12720 OLD HAMMOND HIGHWAY • BATON ROUGE, LA 70816  
PHONE 225.296.5882 • [WWW.LHSAA.ORG](http://WWW.LHSAA.ORG) • [BEYONDTHEGAME@LHSAA.ORG](mailto:BEYONDTHEGAME@LHSAA.ORG)