



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

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

**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 8, 2024**

---

As Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (*UAVs*), or commonly known as “*drones*”, continue to advance it is important that our association’s position on the matter adapts with these changes. In 2014, the Louisiana Legislature did take a stance and passed *HB1029*, which is now applicable state statute *LSA-R.S. 14.337*. Since then, the state has taken further action with the addition of *LSA-R.S. 2:2* in 2021 which states that the state has exclusive jurisdiction to regulate all unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aerial systems.

The F.A.A. has developed its guidelines in relation to athletic events in recent years by addressing professional sports and some collegiate venues. In October of 2021, the FAA issued an updated ban on flights over open-air college and professional stadiums with seating capacities of 30,000 or more. The F.A.A.’s guidelines now ban unmanned or remote-controlled aircraft “where either a regular or postseason MLB, NFL or NCAA Division I football game is occurring.” The FAA update also banned flights at NASCAR and Indy Car races.

The FAA guidelines, though, don’t address drones showing up at smaller events, including those at the college and high school levels, and some are dealing with the proliferation of drones in different ways.

This said, and once again attempting to err on the side of safety for participants and spectators alike, 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 sanctioned regular and/or post season athletic event(s) will continue to be prohibited until further notice.

---

*LHSAA... Beyond the Game*

12720 OLD HAMMOND HIGHWAY • BATON ROUGE, LA 70816  
PHONE 225.296.5882 • WWW.LHSAA.ORG • BEYONDTHEGAME@LHSAA.ORG



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

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

However, if this office receives a prior request through the *drone approval form* on the LHSAA website, explicitly stating that the individual(s) accept full liability for any incidents or accidents causing bodily injury or property damage and confirming that the drone operator meets all necessary requirements and holds the required certifications, authorization may be granted. This authorization will be in accordance with state statute, ensuring compliance with established procedures and state law. Additionally, this notification will involve local law enforcement, with penalties enforced as prescribed by law. It is important to note that it is at the host site's discretion to allow drone usage by its opponents. Both parties' signatures must be obtained and submitted with the *drone approval form* when an away team is operating a drone. School administration, game officials, and designated personnel will have the authority to enforce stoppage of play until the air space is cleared.

By completing the drone approval form the respective member school agrees to:

- Accept full liability for any/all incidents and/or accidents causing bodily injury and property damage.
- Restrict drone flight from entering over the playing surface, players box, or any other persons.
- Comply with all state statutes regarding the use of drones. (*LSA-R.S. 14.337 & of LSA-R.S. 2:2*)
- Keep drone 30-150 feet in the air once launched.
- Keep drone behind endzones (no closer than ten yards) and not along the sidelines.
- Restrict all commercial use of the drone during LHSAA events.
- Have the drone approval form signed and approved by opposing school principal or athletic director and the LHSAA Executive Director before a contest begins.

For any questions, comments, or concerns please contact, LHSAA Director of Communications, Ethan Anderson at [banderson@lhsaa.org](mailto:banderson@lhsaa.org). Your participation and continued cooperation is always greatly appreciated.

*LHSAA... Beyond the Game*

---

12720 OLD HAMMOND HIGHWAY • BATON ROUGE, LA 70816  
PHONE 225.296.5882 • WWW.LHSAA.ORG • BEYONDTHEGAME@LHSAA.ORG



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

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

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Bonine". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Eddie Bonine  
Executive Director  
LHSAA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ethan W. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ethan W. Anderson  
Director of Communications  
LHSAA

*LHSAA... Beyond the Game*

---

12720 OLD HAMMOND HIGHWAY • BATON ROUGE, LA 70816  
PHONE 225.296.5882 • WWW.LHSAA.ORG • BEYONDTHEGAME@LHSAA.ORG