



## USL Drone Usage Request Form

The United Soccer League (USL) is committed to ensuring the safe and effective use of drones in compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. The League recognizes the potential of drones to enhance broadcasts, provide innovative perspectives, and improve fan experience. This policy governs the use of drones by USL clubs and the League for broadcast and related operational purposes.

Teams who wish to use a drone in venue must sign and submit the Drone Usage Request Form to the League office for approval. This form must be signed and submitted to the League before a drone can be used in any venue.

Before any drone is used, all users, club employees, stadium employees, security, and fans must understand the following:

### General Compliance Requirements

All drone operations conducted by USL clubs or the League must:

1. Adhere to FAA regulations, including but not limited to:
  - [Part 107 of the FAA regulations](#) for commercial drone use, including requirements for remote pilot certification, operational limits, and aircraft registration.
  - [Temporary Flight Restrictions](#) (TFRs), particularly over stadiums during official matches and events.
  - Any waivers or exemptions required by the FAA for operations outside standard Part 107 limits.
2. Respect all local, state, or municipal laws governing drone usage.
3. Operate under any additional safety guidelines issued by the United Soccer League or venue operators.

### Permitted Uses

Drones may only be used for the following purposes:

1. Broadcast:
  - Official USL match broadcasts. Licensing and credentialing to be the responsibility of the broadcast and/or production partner.
2. Club Usage:
  - Filming for promotional, training, or analytical purposes by USL Clubs.
  - Pre-approved operational activities such as crowd monitoring or venue inspections, subject to compliance with FAA rules.

All drone operations must be approved by the USL and coordinated with stadium operators prior to deployment and must comply with FAA regulations set forth in "[Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) Regulations \(Part 107\)](#)".

### Operational Restrictions

Drones must not be operated:

- Within one (1) hour of a scheduled match kickoff time and until one (1) hour of final whistle of a concluded match.
- Over crowds of people, unless specific FAA waivers have been granted.
- Inside venues without express permission from stadium operators and confirmation of FAA compliance.
- During times or in locations that interfere with emergency operations, security protocols, or other restricted activities.
- Drones must remain within the line of sight of the operator unless FAA-authorized for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations.
- Drones must be flown in daylight hours unless an FAA waiver for nighttime operation is obtained and approved by the League.

### Licensing and Insurance Requirements



1. All operators must hold a valid FAA Remote Pilot Certificate.
2. Drone equipment must be registered with the FAA and properly marked with registration numbers.
3. USL clubs and the League must maintain adequate insurance coverage for all drone operations, as specified by League guidelines.

#### **Reporting and Accountability**

- Clubs must share the following with the League Office Prior to approval for drone usage:
  - Provide the [Part 107 Certificate](#) to the League Office to retain on file
  - Submit a “Drone Usage Request Form” to the league office 72hrs prior to usage.
- Clubs must maintain a record of all drone flights, including operator details, flight dates, locations, and purposes.
- Any incidents, accidents, or violations of FAA or USL League policies must be reported immediately to the USL office and relevant authorities.
- Clubs found in violation of FAA regulations or this policy will face disciplinary actions, including fines, suspension of drone operation privileges, or other measures as determined by the League.

#### **Fan Awareness and Privacy**

- USL clubs must take reasonable steps to notify fans about the use of drones during matches or events.
- Drone operations must respect the privacy of players, fans, and staff. Unauthorized filming of individuals is strictly prohibited.

#### **Drone Usage Cancellation Protocol**

At any time, Club Operations staff and/or the United Soccer League Operations Staff reserves the right to suspend any and all drone usage during permitted usage times without prior notice or explanation.

Example reasons for drone usage cancellation:

- Weather
  - Rain
  - Dense humidity, fog, or poor air quality index
- Improper usage

#### **Questions, Concerns and Clarification**

All drone usage must follow this policy:

- Any recognized user NOT adhering to this policy risk indefinite suspension of drone usage privileges, and possible sanctions of improper usage.

Please direct any questions to [Kevin.Minkovitz@uslsoccer.com](mailto:Kevin.Minkovitz@uslsoccer.com) (Eastern Conference) or [Kyle.Morrow@uslsoccer.com](mailto:Kyle.Morrow@uslsoccer.com) (Western Conference) for USL Championship.

Please direct any questions to [Casey.Mills@uslsoccer.com](mailto:Casey.Mills@uslsoccer.com) for USL League One.



United Soccer League

**Policy Receipt Acknowledgement:**

In effect: (Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025) until further notice:

I have read and been informed about the requirements and expectations of the drone policy. I have received a copy of the policy and agree to abide by the policy guidelines as a condition of approval to use drones.

I hereby release the Tampa Bay Rowdies and United Soccer Leagues LLC, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event and any other agent thereof, from all liability for any injury or illness incurred by myself.

I understand that if I have questions, at any time, regarding drone usage, I will consult with USL League Operations staff before acting.

Drone User Signature:

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Drone User Name Printed:

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Date:

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Club Representative Signature:

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Club Representative Name Printed:

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Date:

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