



Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

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MEMORANDUM

To: All School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Game Officials, and Spectators

From: David L. Baylor
Executive Director

Date: August 23, 2024

Subject: Ban on the Use of Drones and Similar Flying Devices at DIAA Athletic Contests and Events

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform all relevant personnel and attendees of the implementation of a ban on the use of drones and similar types of flying devices at all interscholastic athletic contests and events. This action is taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, game officials, and spectators.

The increasing prevalence of drones and other remote-controlled flying devices has raised significant safety concerns. While these devices can be used for a variety of purposes, their presence at athletic events poses risks that cannot be overlooked. These risks include potential collisions, interference with play, distractions, and possible injury to student-athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Effective immediately, the use of drones or any similar flying devices is strictly prohibited over the premises of any interscholastic athletic contest or event. This ban applies to all individuals, including but not limited to spectators, parents, media personnel, and school representatives.

Enforcement:

1. Event Monitoring: School officials and event security are responsible for monitoring the event premises to ensure compliance with this policy. Any individual found operating a drone or similar device will be asked to cease operation immediately and may be required to leave the event.
2. Sanctions: Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension from future events, involvement of law enforcement, or other penalties as deemed appropriate by school administration and/or the DIAA.

The only exception to this policy is the use of drones by authorized law enforcement organizations. Such operations must be coordinated with school officials in advance to ensure that all safety protocols are followed.

The safety of our student-athletes, coaches, game officials, and spectators is of paramount importance. This ban on drones and similar flying devices is a necessary measure to ensure that our athletic events remain safe and enjoyable for everyone involved.

Please ensure that this policy is communicated effectively to all relevant parties and enforced at all interscholastic athletic contests and events.