



September 3, 2015

To: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Game Officials
From: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: Restrictions on Unmanned Aerial Systems

Given the concerns related to the use of unmanned aerial systems (e.g. drones) and the popularity and availability of these types of devices, the OSAA Executive Board adopted the following board policy effective, September 3, 2015.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AT OSAA SANCTIONED EVENTS

The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all OSAA-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

Question and Answer Interpretations:

1. Q: When does the prohibition on unmanned aerial systems begin and end?
A: Unmanned aerial systems are prohibited from one hour prior to the contest through one hour after the contest is completed at any OSAA-sanctioned event.
2. Q: What is the procedure if an unmanned aerial system appears near the playing area of an OSAA-sanctioned event?
A: If the game officials observe an unmanned aerial device flying directly over the playing area, feel that a device may have the potential to harm any individual, or if the device actually lands on the playing area, the game officials have the authority to suspend play and may direct the teams to their respective sideline or locker room until such time that game management deems the situation safe. Under no circumstances should any member of a team or the game officials approach an unmanned aerial system.
3. Q: Can an individual use one of the devices to film their own school's practice session?
A: Yes, but individuals should refer to their local school district policies related to unmanned aerial systems and, if allowed, should exercise a high degree of care in the operation of such devices to avoid common law tort liability for injuries to players, coaches, spectators or other third parties that might result from a device crashing into a crowd. Operators should have completed "flight training" courses offered by unmanned aerial system sellers, should be required to practice extensively to ensure proficiency in using the technology, and should avoid flying any device directly over or close to crowds at any time.