

DRONE POLICY

Introduction

This protocol serves to regulate radio controlled (RC) aircraft activity within Black Rock City, provide for safety, while also respecting the privacy rights of participants.

All RC operators must register their craft before use and follow all policies, rules, restrictions, and conditions stated in this document and communicated at the event in RC Operator briefings. Failure to comply can lead to confiscation of the aircraft, federal fines, and/or removal from the event.

Rules of Operation

1. Maximum altitude allowed per FAA is 400 feet above ground.
2. Only visual line of sight flying per FAA; no long distance flying.
3. No First Person View flying (flying based upon video stream not direct sight).
4. Secure a safe place to take off, land, and emergency land.
5. When possible, fly with a spotter to help control on-lookers.
6. 100-feet horizontal separation away from all perimeter fences/trash fence.
7. 100-feet horizontal separation away from EMS, Police, Fire Department vehicles, and their camp locations.
8. 100-feet horizontal separation away from all heavy equipment and work crews.
9. 100-feet horizontal separation away from all ground vehicles, artwork, sculptures, guidewires, kites, tethered aviation, etc.
10. Avoid flying over or close to people; AMA recommendations are horizontal separation of at least 25-feet.
11. Immediately land if skydivers are seen overhead. You may resume flight after they have landed.
12. No operating RC aircraft while intoxicated. If you are deemed intoxicated to the point that you are “illegal to drive,” you may not fly.
13. No use of ham bands including 433, 600, 900 MHz and 1.3 GHz unless a current Technician, General, or Amateur Extra License is shown.
14. No amplified systems, for example, Dragonlink.
15. If a pilot is acting in an unsafe manner, either law enforcement or the Black Rock Rangers have the authority to confiscate the controller/transmitter and transfer it to the Safety Officer.
16. If a crashed craft is found it will be transferred to the Safety Officer.
17. Aircraft confiscated for flying unsafely, recklessly or in violation of rules will be held by the Safety Officer.

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18. Unclaimed aircraft will be subject to the lost-and-found procedures of Black Rock City via Playa Info. BRC is not responsible for unclaimed aircraft.

Flying Prohibited During The Following Conditions

1. If your drone is unable to maintain position due to strong winds
2. During dust storms;
3. From a moving vehicle;
4. Flights at night unless equipped with adequate navigation lights per AMA rules.
5. If the FAA has issued a TFR (Temporary Flight Restriction) over Black Rock City.

Flying Prohibited At The Following Locations and Times

1. Entry and exit roads leading into BRC
2. Center Camp
3. Esplanade
4. Inside The Man safety ring
5. Within 100 yards of The Man Base after it closes for pyrotechnical setup (7am Saturday)
6. Large Burns, Temple Burn and Man Burns. Flight will be prohibited within 25 yards of the perimeter established for the burn.
7. Airport restrictions
8. Incident Command (Law Enforcement & Emergency Services Area)
9. Flying/hovering over any populated portion of the city (2:00 10:00/EsplanadeLast street)
10. Inside of or from the top/side of any architecture/structures/art pieces

No Flying At Or Near BRC Municipal Airport (88NV)

- No flying at 88NV, including the 88NV camping area, terminal, ramp/tie-down, and runways unless direct face-to-face permission is given by the Airport Manager, Airport Safety Officer, or Deputy Airport Manager during airport operation hours (dawn-twilight).
- No flying from the last named street that surrounds BRC over walk-in campground to the trash fence/perimeter from the radials of 2:00 to 6:00 (dependent upon location of airport being at 5:00 or 5:30) during airport operation hours (dawn-twilight) unless direct face-to-face permission is given by the Airport Manager, Airport Safety Officer, or Deputy Airport Manager.

Other Conditions

Note

1. Using an RC aircraft to photograph or videotape someone without their permission or for commercial purposes is not authorized under BRC's Ticket Terms and Conditions.

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2. Intentionally or negligently injuring persons or property with an RC aircraft could lead to criminal assault and or battery charges.
3. Interfering with airport operations is a federal crime.

Registration

- All pilots are required to have an FAA 107 certification.
- Registration is mandatory and registration will be limited.
- Pre-playa briefing, On-playa briefing, completed pre-registration form, and craft registration is required before any flight is permitted
- Registration constitutes a participant's agreement to abide by all BRC policies and rules and to be financially responsible for any harm or damage a pilot or RC aircraft/drone may cause during the Burning Man Event.
- Burning Man has the right to confiscate RC aircraft/drone found to be in violation of any BRC, FAA, or AMA policy, rules or guidelines.
- Registration is located at Media Mecca and is available from 12:00 - 4:00 PM 8/24/25 - 8/28/25.

The return of drones that have been confiscated during the event will take place at Media Mecca from 12:00 - 4:00 PM, on 8/31/25 and 9/1/25. All drones not returned on playa can be retrieved through Lost & Found.

BRC's Drone Policy will be referenced in the 88NV NOTAM