



## Federal Aviation Administration Guidelines for Recreational / Educational Use

### Fly for Fun under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft

You don't need permission from the FAA to fly your UAS (aka drone) under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, but you must always fly safely. You may elect to [register your UAS](#) to help in the recovery of lost equipment.

#### FAA Safety Guidelines

- Fly at or below 400 feet
- Be aware of [airspace requirements and restrictions](#)
- Stay away from surrounding obstacles
- Keep your UAS within sight
- Never fly near other aircraft, especially near airports
- Never fly over groups of people
- Never fly over stadiums or sports events
- Never fly near emergency response efforts such as fires
- Never fly under the influence of drugs or alcohol

#### Flying under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft

The Special Rule for Model Aircraft ([P.L. 112-95, Section 336](#)) (PDF) provides the definition and operating rules for flying a model aircraft.

**Note:** Model aircraft operators that comply with **all** of these operational requirements during flight do not have to register their UAS with the FAA.

Model aircraft operators must follow these rules to fly under this Rule:

- the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use
- the aircraft is operated in accordance with a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization
- the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization
- the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft
- when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually-agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower [when an air traffic facility is located at the airport])

A model aircraft is defined as an unmanned aircraft that:

- capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere
- flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft
- flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

Exerts from the FAA Safety Guidelines ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/fly\\_for\\_fun/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_fun/))