

## REFEREE GUIDELINES REGARDING DRONES

The AIA By-Law regarding the usage of drones (unmanned aerial systems) and where they can physically fly pertains only to AIA sanctioned events. That by-law does not allow drones to fly within the confines of the stadium. The AIA has no by-law regarding where drones can and cannot fly during regular season games. That decision rests with the home school.

However, the game officials have jurisdiction over the game and the playing field. Regarding their enforcement of safety rules and liability concerns, officials are to utilize the following guidelines concerning drones:

Officials jurisdiction and authority is in effect when they are on the playing field for pre-game and during the contest.

Rule 1.1.6 gives the referee authority to rule on any situation specifically not covered in the rules.

For the purposes of the drone enforcement during regular season games, the playing field is defined as the area inside the track. It will include the area of the track if the team is utilizing that area for players. On a field without a track, the area will be defined by the officials.

Drones are not permitted on the playing field areas (defined above). If a drone breaches the playing field area, the game will be stopped until the situation is corrected. Understanding that officials are focused on the game and not on drone placement and because drones can fly at a high altitude, officials may also rule if in their mind the drone has wandered over the playing field.

However, in all safety related concerns relating to the game, the referee, by rule has sole authority to make decisions that are in the best interest in the players. (Rule 1.6)