

# HSS FLYING FIELD RULES

8.1.2023

**1.0 Field Rules** The intent of these rules is to promote flying safety, financial responsibility, and environmental protection. By maintaining order, controlling frequency usage, educate, and train fliers to act as good neighbors in the community. Rules are based upon the AMA Safety Code, the AMA field recommendations, FAA Advisory Circular 91-57B, and local requirements as established by the City of Costa Mesa and Harbor Soaring Society (HSS). **All** pilots must be members of HSS and follow the aforementioned rules to fly at Fairview Park.

**2.0 Permit Requirements** All pilots are required to have City issued a permit to fly Radio Controlled model aircraft at Fairview Park, obtainable from the City of Costa Mesa Parks Department. All pilots must wear their permit clearly visible above the waist while flying.

**3.0 Environmental Protection** Vernal pools are large, shallow depressions in the ground that acquire several inches of water during rainy seasons. These pools contain Fairy Shrimp which are an endangered species and are protected by Fairview Park ordinances. Everyone is restricted from walking in the vernal pool areas, whether wet or dry. Pilots should fly over the vernal pools only at an altitude that ensures they will not land in the pool area. In the event of an unavoidable landing in the vernal pool area, the pilot shall call the park ranger and wait for their arrival prior to recovering the model. Launching or landing aircraft equipped with floats is not permitted in the pools. No harassment of animals and birds in the park is allowed. Do not disturb native plants.

**4.0 Safety** All pilots must follow the Official AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code, in addition to the following local requirements. All aircraft flown at the park may be subject to a safety inspection by Costa Mesa Park Rangers and Police Officers, or City appointed delegates. Any aircraft considered to be in un-flyable condition by the Safety Officer shall be grounded. Any aircraft surviving a crash should be re-inspected and range checked before being allowed to fly again. Initial "Maiden Flight's" must be done by experienced pilots only, and/or, at other locations. Before turning on his transmitter, each pilot must first check the frequency control board to ensure no other user is on his frequency. He must then place his identification clip on that frequency on the board. Identification clips are to have the channel number and the pilots first and last name. Only then may he turn on his transmitter and fly his aircraft. When finished flying, the flyer must remove his clip from the control board. Only one frequency channel may be used by a flyer at a time. When other flyers are using his frequency (have their clip on the frequency number), a pilot must make every reasonable attempt to locate those flyers. Check all cars in the parking lot and also flyers on the slope soaring area. Once any pilot using his frequency is identified, after personal discussion to decide shared usage, flights should be limited to 15 minutes. Radios using 2.4 GHz technology are excluded from frequency board requirements.

## 5.0 General Field Rules

**Approved types of RC Aircraft** - Include non electric powered radio controlled gliders, hand/discus launched gliders, and free flight models. Models that may not be flown at Fairview Park include aircraft powered by an electric motor, internal combustion engine, gas turbine powered aircraft, rockets, and aircraft weighing more than 10 pounds.

**Rules applicable to all model aircraft.** Every pilot shall perform a pre-flight inspection prior to each launching his aircraft, to ensure that the aircraft is safe to fly and no unobserved damage was sustained from the previous flight. All pilots must have completed the FAA required "TRUST" test and register with the FAA to obtain the required FAA registration number which must be visible on the outside of aircraft.

**Excluded Flying Areas** - All aircraft are to avoid flying over the Waldorf School property, the parking lot, and any pedestrians on or off paths. The approved flying area is shown on the maps near the flightline and frequency kiosk.

**Altitude Limitations** – No flying of any model aircraft at an altitude greater than 400 ft. above ground level.

**Pedestrian Traffic:** - Pedestrians, skaters and bicyclists use the park. Pilots MUST NOT fly close to these visitors. Maintain a safe distance between your aircraft and other park users.

**Flying Methods** - No High speed passes at low altitude over the runway or near people allowed. No flying behind the flight line is allowed.

**Hours/Days of Use** - The field may be used from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

## 6.0 Specific Flying Areas and Rules. Consult Flying Field Map

Gliders - Gliders shall be launched from the designated area marked on the map, using electric winches, electric motors or bungee hi-starts. The hi-start lines are to be set sufficiently out of the way to avoid fouling the winch lines. Both launch mechanisms are to be positioned to provide a 100' buffer zone from the southwest end of the runway. During normal wind conditions, gliders will launch towards the southwest. Launch mechanisms may be turned around 180 degrees when prevailing winds come from the northeast. The glider landing area is as shown on the map, north of the paved foot path. Gliders should use the area north of the runway with care. Gliders in flight have right of way over gliders being launched.

Do not fly behind the flight line, (over the paved pedestrian path) or anywhere south east of the runway.

Hand launched gliders - Hand launched gliders are to be flown from the area designated on the map. Once airborne, they follow the same rules as other gliders, except landing may be done at the pilot's discretion.

Free flight model aircraft - Free flight models are currently being flown on a grassy area within the developed part of the park.

**7.0 Large Events.** HSS is authorized to hold model aviation events that are scheduled by HSS and where a Special Event Permit has been issued by the City. All persons who participate in these events must have current AMA membership. During these 1-day events, the field will be closed to general public flying for part of each day, hours to be announced and posted at least 2 weeks in advance.

**8.0 Regulations Enforcement.** Members of the Harbor Soaring Society may request an offender cease inappropriate behavior. If the offender refuses to change his behavior, the HSS member will contact a Park Ranger/Officer who will cite the offender and secure his/her permit. Furthermore... **All** model aircraft pilots must obey the aforementioned regulations, and cooperate with the Park Rangers, Police Officers, or City appointed enforcement delegates.

**9.0 Emergencies.** Who to contact.

Medical emergency or injury, crimes, rules violations and unauthorized activates:

Call 911 or Costa Mesa Police Communications 714-754-5252

Request Park Ranger. They will page the park ranger.

Harbor Soaring Society: Address: P.O. Box 1673, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

[harborsoaringsociety@gmail.com](mailto:harborsoaringsociety@gmail.com)

**(Pilots who cause damage to another's aircraft through rules violation must pay for the damage.)**