

## *First Draft of UK RS Tera UK Class Association policy for aerial photography from unmanned aerial vehicles (drones)*

The UK RS Tera Class Association supports the use of drones for aerial photography as long as this policy is followed. This policy is primarily in place to ensure the safety of sailors is not compromised.

- 1) The decision to allow aerial photography at an event should be made in advance of an event by applying to the UK RS Tera Class Association at least 4 weeks before the event who will liaise with the organising club, their PRO and safety officer. It should always be made in advance of an event taking place and permission cannot be granted on the day of an event. Only CAA qualified persons in control of the drone or operators with prior UK Tera Class Association approval may be given permission.
- 2) The PRO and Safety Officer are able to revoke permission at any time if they believe safety is being compromised.
- 3) Article 95 of the Air Navigation order must be observed. In particular, the aircraft must not be flown within 50 metres of any vessel which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft. This means that (a) drone operators must be aware of other vessels that are not part of the RS Tera event. (b) The drone operator must be part of the briefings for safety team and competitors to ensure that they are they are under the same control of the event. During those briefings they should inform the safety team, competitors and their parents/guardians of their intentions. There should also be an opportunity for the safety team, competitors and their parents/guardians to ask questions about what is taking place
- 4) The UK RS Tera Class Association does not permit overflying of any vessels including competitors, support boats, safety boats, the committee boat and mark-laying boats. This is to increase the level of safety to all concerned and should be regarded as similar to wearing a kill cord whilst driving a RIB. Drones should remain outside a line drawn at 45° from the vertical above any vessel
- 5) Failsafe and return-to-home functions should not be set to fly the drone through any area at an altitude that may conflict with competitors.
- 6) Failure to comply with these regulations will amount to outside interference. Any sailor associated with a drone operator failing to comply will be disqualified from the competition in accordance with RRS 3. (see Support Persons Racing Rules Guidance)