

# **The Rockford Park District Radio Controlled Flying Field**

## **Rules and Regulations**

**Effective June 3, 2017**

The Rules and Regulations have been established to ensure all Flyers have a fair and equitable opportunity to utilize the Rockford Park District Flying Field Facility and to promote safety. The Rules and Regulations are in conjunction with the National Model Aircraft Safety Code as listed by the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics).

The Rockford Park District has authorized **The Rock Valley R/C Flyers Club** to set and enforce the Rules and Regulations. It is incumbent upon **ALL** the Members of the club to insure that all Rules and Regulations are observed. Failure to adhere to the Rules and Regulations may result in suspension or termination of Membership.

### **I. HOURS OF OPERATION**

1. Fuel powered aircraft – 8:00 a.m. to Dusk
2. Electric powered aircraft – Sunrise to Dusk
3. The field will be closed during scheduled Events and/or when posted on the Flying Field Bulletin Board and/or on the website. In the event of a special closure of the field, every effort will be made to notify the members by email and/or on the website in as timely a manner as possible.
4. In all cases, the field closes at sunset unless special arrangements have previously been made with the Rockford Park District and approved by the executive committee.

### **II. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Flyers must obtain a Photo ID/Membership Card from The Rock Valley R/C Flyers Club before using the Field. Exceptions are “Guests” and “Non-Members” attending a scheduled Event as referenced in Rules 2 and 3.

To obtain a Membership to the Rock Valley R/C Flyers Club, see the Membership page on our website at [www.rockvalleyrcflyers.com](http://www.rockvalleyrcflyers.com).

2. Guests may fly at the Field if accompanied by a Member. If the Guest is to fly solo (without a buddy box), the Guest must have in their possession a current AMA Membership Card. A Guest, flying solo, is restricted to two flying sessions in a calendar year. A guest flying on a buddy box is limited to 5 flying sessions in a calendar year.
3. Non-Members attending a club scheduled event must have in their possession a current AMA Membership Card.
4. Before solo flying at the Field, all Beginner/Novice Flyers must be assisted by an experienced Club Member.
5. Use of the Radio Frequency Control Board is mandatory regardless of technology, including 2.4 GHz, no exceptions. The only accepted method for securing a "channel" is with the Member's Photo ID/Membership Card. The only exceptions are Guests flying solo or Non-Members attending a club scheduled event, in which case a current AMA Membership Card will be posted.
6. Other than flyers utilizing 2.4GHz, no transmitter is to be turned on prior to securing a "channel" on the Radio Frequency Control Board.
7. Flyers are not permitted to secure more than one channel at a time. In the event that more than one Flyer will be utilizing same channel, each Flyer will be limited to (15) fifteen minutes duration so others may fly. The fifteen minute time shall begin when the flyers card is posted on the Frequency Control Board.
8. Mufflers must be used on all engines greater than .051 displacement.
9. The use of propellers or mufflers designed to make excessive or unusual noise is discouraged.
10. No vehicles, other than maintenance vehicles or vehicles to move contest equipment, are allowed on the Flying Field at any time.
11. No flying is permitted during Field Maintenance or event set-up or take-down.
12. Dogs must be leashed at all time. Dog owners must clean up after their dogs immediately.
13. All cigar/cigarette butts must be disposed of properly. There is NO smoking under the sun shades, in the Hanger Building, in pit area or on the field at any time.

14. All trash must be placed in appropriate trash receptacles. Emptying the trash receptacles into the dumpster is the responsibility of all members.

### **III. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

Spectators are not allowed on the Flying Field. Spectators are only allowed in the Pit Area if invited by a Member. Non-flying children will only be allowed in the Pit Area if accompanied by, and at the sole risk, of a Guardian and accompanied by a club member. Children under six (6) years of age are only allowed on the Flight Line Stations as a flyer or while under instruction.

The Safety Line, as required by the AMA Safety Code, shall be the line of 35 feet in front of the sunshades and starting/arming area.

1. All pilots are encouraged to remain in the area in front of and within 15 feet of the spectator fence, and between the two starting areas. Pilots are also allowed to fly from at least 10 feet in front of the sunshades. In the case of a fixed wing pilot flying "high-alpha" or hovering maneuvers, the pilot may move across the safety line at their own risk. Simple inverted or knife edge flying shall be deemed not to be subject to this requirement.
2. Take off for fixed wing aircraft shall be initiated from in front of the starting areas or flight area by the white fence.
3. All aircraft engines are to be started ONLY in the designated starting areas. Engines may be shut down anywhere on the field, but an effort should be made to carefully bring the aircraft to a position near the designated starting areas to prevent unnecessary time spent on the field. In any event, all aircraft engines shall be stopped before the aircraft is returned to the pit area. Aircraft with battery powered motors may be armed in the designated starting areas OR in the pit area only if properly restrained mechanically or by an assistant. In all cases battery powered aircraft shall be disarmed prior to being brought back to the pit area.
5. All aircraft shall be started only while properly restrained and facing out towards the field.
4. Ground tuning or extended ground running for break-in or testing purposes of aircraft engines is to be done outside of the sunshades at the south end of the N/S sunshade or the west end of the E/W sunshade.

5. Aircraft requiring “high start” or “winch tow” launches outside of the designated starting area are allowed if an assistant is available to remove the tow line immediately after launch. The launch device is to be positioned to cause the least amount of interference with other aircraft and shall not launch the aircraft towards the sunshades or spectator area.
6. Prior to take-off the flyer is responsible to announce “take-off” and wait until other aircraft in flight are in a position to allow a safe entrance to the pattern.
7. Aircraft on final approach have priority over other aircraft except for aircraft making a “dead stick” landing. In the event of engine failure, it is the responsibility of the flyer to announce “dead stick, and that aircraft shall have priority over all aircraft. Prior to entering final approach, the flyer is responsible to announce their intention of “landing.”
8. Engine restarts are not allowed on the Flying Field unless no other aircraft is in flight or ready for take-off, and can be accomplished in a timely manner.
9. Prior to retrieving an aircraft stranded on the field, the Flyer is responsible to announce “on the field”, then proceed with caution.
10. Kite flying, R/C Cars, and Rockets are not allowed.
11. Contest directors (CDs) of official club scheduled events shall have the authority to alter the flight positions of the flyers to accommodate the type of event, with the safety of all persons present remaining as the top priority.

#### **IV. COURTESIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Any flyer causing another aircraft to crash due to turning on a transmitter on a frequency currently in use by another flyer and designated as such by the use of the radio frequency control board or a flyer who, intentionally or accidentally, crashes his aircraft into another's property or person is liable for the cost of the damaged property or injuries and can be held to sanctions as per these rules. Mid Air collisions shall be deemed “no fault”.

2. Except for scheduled Events, there shall be no more than five aircraft flying at any time.
3. All aircraft are to be readied and serviced in the Pit Area only.
4. To expedite flying during crowded conditions, Flyers are to have their aircraft ready for flight prior to securing a radio channel.