

Constitution for
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at UCI
University of California, Irvine

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at UCI

February 2024

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0.1 Name of the Organization

This organization shall be named “Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at UCI”, hereinafter referred to as “UAVs@UCI.”

0.2 Purpose of the Organization

The Organization serves to provide resources for drone and model aircraft enthusiasts.

By “resource”, the organization may provide space for building and/or flying, information sessions, showcases, tutorials, and contests.

By “enthusiasts”, the organization welcome modellers that are interested in all kinds of airborne models (UAVs) including but not limited to: fixed wing aircraft, helicopter, multi-axis flyer, eVTOL, multicopters, etc. although the actual resources and attention to each category might vary.

The organization actively encourages newcomers and beginners to embark on their UAV-related projects. Basic information required for registration and essential knowledge about flying and safety practices will be shared to help novices kick-start their journey into the world of UAVs.

In addition to the resources mentioned above, the club is dedicated to enhancing the practical aspect of UAV enthusiasts’ experience. The organization provides access to a designated flying field where members can safely operate their UAVs. Furthermore, the club will offer guidance on adhering to UCI, AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) and FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) flight rules and regulations. This guidance is essential to ensure the safe and responsible operation of UAVs within the confines of university policies and national aviation regulations.

0.3 Membership Practice

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at UCI club is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members. Membership and participation in the club shall not be biased or discriminatory on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, color, disability, national origin, age, or marital status, in accordance with the UCI Principles of Community Agreement.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at UCI club shall not engage in any practices that discriminate against individuals or groups based on the aforementioned characteristics. All members and participants, regardless of their background, are entitled to equal opportunities and treatment within the club.

0.3.1 Membership Rules

1. Membership in AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) is required unless otherwise approved by an officer or advisor.

2. Any student, faculty, or staff member (UCI affiliates) can join the club.
3. The members and guests are expected to follow all AMA safety rules and FAA regulations at all times.

0.3.2 Flight protocols (General):

1. Leave some space for a safety area (usually behind the operator if 3rd position view aircrafts are operated) where people can safely stand on and operate. Do not take off or land on the safety area.
2. Announce your taking off and landing if other people are at the field.
3. When multiple aircrafts are airborne, either negotiate with other pilots beforehand for your flight space and maneuvers, or follow the traditional fixed wing path (flying a horizontal circle path, plane facing the wind on the near side), be aware that the flying envelopes of different aircrafts vary.
4. Demonstration flights can be announced at events. On normal flight days, if the maneuvers of some flyers influence others regular take-offs, then unless negotiated, the maneuvers should give way to regular take-offs.
5. This expectation includes (but is not limited to): Respect for other members' propensity and aesthetic pursuit of their models. Respect of other members' flying style when it does not affect safety.
6. Members should not use their aircraft to or display any signs or letters on their aircraft that could be construed to harass or be of a discriminatory nature.
7. Members should have the appropriate FAA and AMA registrations and follow the rules and policies of the FAA and AMA.
 - (a) Members should display all required markings on their aircraft.
 - (b) Members should also complete and acquire any necessary training and certifications prior to flight.
 - (c) It is the member's responsibility to make sure the necessary registrations are valid, and to renew all items in a timely manner before expiration.
8. Only non-combustion aircraft and gliders (e.g. electric or rubber powered) are allowed to fly at the ARC (Anteater Recreation Center). Gasoline or nitro or rocket powered airborne equipment are forbidden. The size of the aircraft should comply with the current FAA rules and the regulations for ARC. Builds and designs of models and the maneuvers they perform should consider the factor of the size of the available airspace.

9. In case of emergency, file all necessary reports to the relevant organizations which include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Reports to the AMA when insurance usage is required.
 - (b) Reports to the FAA, when an incident occurs that falls in their policies for reporting.

0.3.3 Rights as a member

1. Members can fly at the designated field following the AMA, FAA, and club rules and policies. Members may fly at fields during times at which UAVs@UCI is designated to fly.
2. Members can access the tutorials for the club.

0.4 Officers

0.4.1 General responsibilities and duties of officers

The president or one or more officer(s) designated by the president should inform members about flight sessions and the necessary rules, policies, and procedures and regularly register for a field to fly at and provide the necessary information for running the club when possible.

The treasurer shall manage the club account and make quarterly reports. As of this document's writing, there are no dues and no expenses. Members bring their own UAVs to fly.

The flight instructors perform pre-flight checks of the planes operated by other people. They offer training using trainer binds or training wires.

The safety officer observes operations, and if unsafe flight or other unsafe procedures are observed, will warn the pilot. After a warning, if the pilot does not change the behavior, the safety officer can impose sanctions (up to and including a ban) on the pilot from flying at the safety officer's sole discretion.

0.4.2 Qualifications for becoming an officer:

Student at UCI.

0.4.3 Terms of office

Annual.

0.4.4 Process of filling vacated officers

Annual election for president. The president appoints the other officers.

0.4.5 Removing ineligible officers

Removal of an officer who conduct one of the following or violating other policies above shall be discussed by other RCOs:

1. Violating AMA or FAA rules intentionally.
2. Forcing the purchase or sale of equipment within the club.
3. Intentionally chasing and running into other people's aircraft without their compliance.
4. Performing unsafe procedures or maneuvers.

0.5 Nominations and Elections

Make certain to explain the following:

1. Time of the elections
 - (a) Annually at the first meeting of the year.
2. Nominations
 - (a) Any club member can nominate.
3. Election procedures
 - (a) Each candidate submit a resume along with any comments the candidate wish to include.
 - (b) This resume and comments will be available to members during the election period.
 - (c) Members will nominate a President.

0.6 Committees

None.

0.7 Meetings

Ad hoc.

For flying, the president or his/her designate will reserve a place on campus through the UCI EHS and ARC. Typically these will be Saturday afternoons. Then the president will inform the members.

0.8 Financial Records

None, no dues.

0.9 Amendments

1. Amendments should follow laws, and do not conflict with FAA or AMA regulations.
2. When proposing amendments, all amendments must agree with University regulations and policies.
3. All club officers can vote on an amendment.

0.10 Signature

Signature of presiding officer: Jason Ho

Officer name: Jason Ho

Date approved by organization: February 7th, 2024