



## FAI ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT



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Fédération Aéronautique Internationale  
The World Air Sports Federation

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### 1 FAI ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

Air sports are closely bound to nature and the air sport community therefore has an interest in maintaining and protecting the environment.

The FAI is committed to protecting the natural environment and to encouraging its members to take sustainability measures into account when practising air sports.

The air sport community accepts its environmental responsibilities and will encourage its members to adopt reasonable, efficient and generally affordable methods of environmental-impact reduction.

### 2 FAI ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

The aim of the FAI Environmental Code is:

1. to demonstrate that environmental protection and sustainability is a highly important matter for the FAI
2. to raise awareness about sustainability among air sport practitioners and stakeholders
3. to further sustainability measures and green operations among air sport practitioners

In order to support these statements, FAI publishes air sport specific codes of conduct and the Green AirSport Event Certification Standard has been launched and is available. FAI is committed to regularly updating this Environmental Code and ensuring the continuous improvement of the environmental performance of air sports. This Environmental Code seeks to give broad recommendations for FAI members on how to practise air sports in a sustainable way.

The voluntary achievement of environmental objectives, instead of legislative restrictions, should be promoted.

#### 1. OPERATION OF AIRFIELDS, AEROCLUBS

Air sport practitioners are aware of the need to maintain a balanced environment. All air sport participants have an influence on the environment and affect the basic resources of life - land, air and water.

Air sport enthusiasts and their clubs must therefore commit themselves to the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

Flying sites should be laid out and operated in an environmentally sustainable fashion by:

##### *Efficient use of resources, efficient operation*

Energy and water saving measures, sustainable consumption, "eco-fly", introduction of appropriate new technologies

*Waste management* (hazardous waste, selective waste collection, no littering)

Appropriate storing, handling and disposal of environmentally threatening substances (oil, petrol, paraffin, paints, chemicals and kitchen, campsite and toilet waste and other damaging substances).

*Nature conservation* (maintaining habitat and living conditions of flora and fauna of the airfield especially by planning construction works):

- Restoring temporary flying sites to a suitable environmental state when flying activities are terminated;
- Blending permanent flying sites with the surrounding landscape (for example by using site-specific local bushes, shrubs and trees, and by sensitive placing of buildings, engine run-up areas, etc.);
- Allowing grass and wild flowers to grow in a predominantly undisturbed fashion on unused parts of the airfield.

Flying site infrastructure (airfield, parking areas, buildings) must be landscaped and maintained with provision for wild life where possible and appropriate.

Care must be taken in the use of natural resources, and open countryside must be treated with respect.

Air sport participants should help to maintain and improve areas surrounding flying sites. Individual natural features which are worthy of protection should be preserved, and people encouraged to support environmental protection schemes.

*Noise protection* - including compliance with international and local rules and regulations; recommendation for ecodesign of planes, airspace planning, new airfield design

Aircraft should be improved when economically feasible to keep pace with advances in energy and noise reduction.

*Green events* (organizing events with the smallest possible environmental footprint for the recognition of airsports)

The development of facilities and the carrying out of air sport activities should be conducted in a manner that harmonises the interaction between the air sport activities and the environment.

## **2. AWARENESS RAISING, RESPONSIBILITY, EDUCATION**

The FAI wishes to ensure the provision of adequate access to the air for all those who wish to exercise their right to fly and practice air sports, whilst emphasizing their duty of care towards nature and the environment. The responsibility for environmental awareness in air sports lies primarily with the individual air sport enthusiast.

Responsibility for impact on the environment also extends to club managements, federations, National Airsport Controls, and organizers of air sports. FAI aims to improve awareness and understanding of sustainability in air sports amongst all these groups, as well as in the general public and regulatory authorities especially by recommending the following.

*Sustainability programs for all NACs* (to highlight the actions they are taking at the national level in order to harmonize flying activity with the environment)

Each individual club is recommended to appoint a nature conservation and environmental representative.

## *Informing all stakeholders about actions/programs for sustainability*

The FAI is active in the promotion of environmental protection and nature conservation, in order to:

- Promote awareness and responsible attitudes among air sports enthusiasts about environmental matters.
- Support environmental projects associated with air sport.
- Demonstrate how air sports and their infrastructure make a positive contribution to the environment.

## *Community Service "Eyes in the Sky" is also recommended:*

Protected, endangered and threatened areas should be watched for possible damage (for example, forests threatened by fire or acid rain, rabid animals, polluted water sources), and assistance should be given to surveys for Nature Conservation, agriculture and forestry etc.

## *Education for all air sport practitioners about flying and the environment*

Each individual is responsible for the state of their environment, but help, advice and leadership should be given to them e.g. courses organized by clubs, NACs etc. on the local level) Air sport participants should improve their knowledge about how natural phenomena inter-relate and about the effects of aviation activities on the natural environment.

### **3. AIR SPORT SPECIFIC MEASURES**

All air sports interact with parts of the environment, considering air, land, sea, water, scenic views, wildlife, vegetation. Each air sport discipline has specific interactions with these parts of the environment.

FAI publishes and periodically updates detailed environmental codes of conduct for air sport disciplines, and ensure that these are implemented by its member organizations.

*Nothing in the above policies should be allowed to erode aviation safety. For flight safety reasons, FAI seeks to ensure that environmental requirements imposed on aviation should be agreed by aviation regulatory bodies.*

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