General Rules for safe flying of drones in areas outside of the No Fly Zones in Sint Maarten

Flying your drone safe and responsible in Sint Maarten, Operators shall comply with all internationally recognized rules and best practices.

**Drone operators shall fly their drone:**

1. Not over security sensitive areas, airport or critical infrastructure;
2. Within your sight at all times, when utilizing the "First Person View (FPV) technology, a second person shall act as an observer;
3. Within 500 meters of yourself or closer;
4. Not higher than 120 meters above ground;
5. Not near manned aircraft;
6. Not over large groups of people, including concerts, festivals, sporting events and shows.

**Drone operators shall ensure that:**

1. A safe distance is maintained from other drones and people;
2. The drone is adequately insured;
3. The drone is clearly marked with their contact information, name, address and telephone number;
4. The drone is not operated while under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
5. The drone is not operated at night;
6. The drone is only operated in good weather (not in clouds, fog);
7. The drone is operated within its performance limitation and is not altered from original manufactured specifications;
8. No photographs, videos or sound recordings of people and their properties are made, without their permission;
9. When flying over other people’s property, not to fly less than 20 meters above the property without the owner’s consent;
10. Minors are accompanied by adults at all times, when operating a drone;
11. Approval from the Section Civil Aviation (SMCAA) is provided for commercial operations in the NO FLY ZONES.

The above rules are general rules for drone operations that are adopted in many countries where drones are widely used. The drone pilot is ultimately responsible for ensuring that drone operations are carried out in a responsible manner, and that the drone is operated in a safe and responsible manner so to avoid collision/hindrance/danger to other drones, people, properties and manned aircraft. The drone pilot must also ensure that the privacy of the public is respected.
These rules will be updated as the current Sint Maarten regulations evolve over time and new drone regulations are published and enter into force.