

I am into drone racing and/or flying drones with goggles (FPV) 'open' category

As a drone racer, which category and subcategory of operation do I fall under?

Answer

Normally drone races are organised by clubs and associations. In such cases, they may have received operational authorisations from their National Aviation Authorities in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2019/947, which also covers the organisation of such events.

If, instead, you want to conduct a race that is not within a club or association and with no spectators (in this context meaning uninvolved persons, see the definition above) present, you will fall under the **'open' category** and you can operate under subcategory A3.

Last updated:

14/10/2020

Link:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116510>

Is flying with goggles (first person view) authorised in the 'open' category?

Answer

The Regulation allows you to fly without keeping direct eye contact with the drone, provided you have a person next to you, a UA observer, keeping direct visual contact with the drone, scanning the airspace to make sure that you do not endanger other parties (e.g. aircraft or buildings or persons). **The UA observer must be located alongside you so they can immediately communicate with you** in case they see an obstacle, and give you instructions, such as to immediately land the drone.

Regulatory reference: Article 4(d) of EU regulation 2019/947.

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<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116511>

Are spectators allowed in the 'open' category?

Answer

When operating in the 'open' category, **flying over uninvolved people is not allowed**, so there must not be any spectators. See also the explanation on uninvolved persons under '[understanding EU Regulations 2019/947 and 2019/945](#)'.

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<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116512>