



This document contains information and suggestions that while not mandatory are nevertheless important advice for all MAAC members. To ensure you have the latest version always check the MAAC [Web Site](#).

1.0 Title. MAP 4 – Duties of a Spotter.

2.0 Purpose. To explain the many possible duties that a pilot might delegate to a spotter.

3.0 Definitions [Glossary of Terms](#).

4.0 Discussion / Background.

4.1 The conditions under which a spotter is mandatory are covered in the MAAC Safety Code reference [MSD 7](#) – Need for and duties of Spotters and Helpers.

4.2 There are additional situations where the designation of a spotter though not mandatory may still be a good idea.

4.3 This advisory covers some of the usual duties that a pilot might designate to his/her spotter.

4.4 There are additional uses for Spotters during the operation of special interest categories such as Pylon Racing, MAAC Sanctioned events, Thermal Detection during soaring, and First Person View flying (FPV).

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations.

5.1 Pilots should make sure that a Spotter is properly briefed on the pilot's expectations during all phases of the flight.

5.2 It is recommended that the Spotter be qualified to fly the type of model being flown by the pilot so that he/she can take over from the pilot in case of an emergency, (note, not required for FPV Racing).

5.3 The Spotter should remain close to the pilot during the entire flight and avoid all distractions.

5.4 The Spotter should avoid distracting the pilot unnecessarily.

5.5 The Spotter should perform the duties for which they have been briefed by the pilot. Such tasks would normally include things like advising the pilot of the position of other aircraft

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and any potential for collision or communicating the pilot's intentions to other pilots flying at the same time, taking off or landing.

- 5.6** A Spotter might also provide the pilot with useful assistance during a maiden flight by adjusting trim settings as instructed by the pilot.
- 5.7** During approach and landing it is usually helpful for the Spotter to advise the pilot of any obstacles on the approach.
- 5.8** A Spotter should also assist the pilot during any emergency such as a forced landing, pilot incapacitation or loss of visual contact with the model.
- 5.9** All spotters must maintain direct unaided (except for corrective lenses and sunglasses) visual line of sight (VLOS) with their pilot's model at all times during the flight.
- 5.10** A spotter must monitor the overall flying area and warn the pilot of any dangers, such as a person on the flying field or entering the flight zone.

6.0 History of Revisions

- a. Version 1, Approved by (24/03/2013)
- b. Version 2, Revised by BOD (16/01/2014)
- c. Version 3, Revised format to MAP standards (12/05/2015)
- d. Version 4, Revised by Safety Committee for FPV considerations (14 Aug 2017)