



**AERO DRONE ACADEMY**

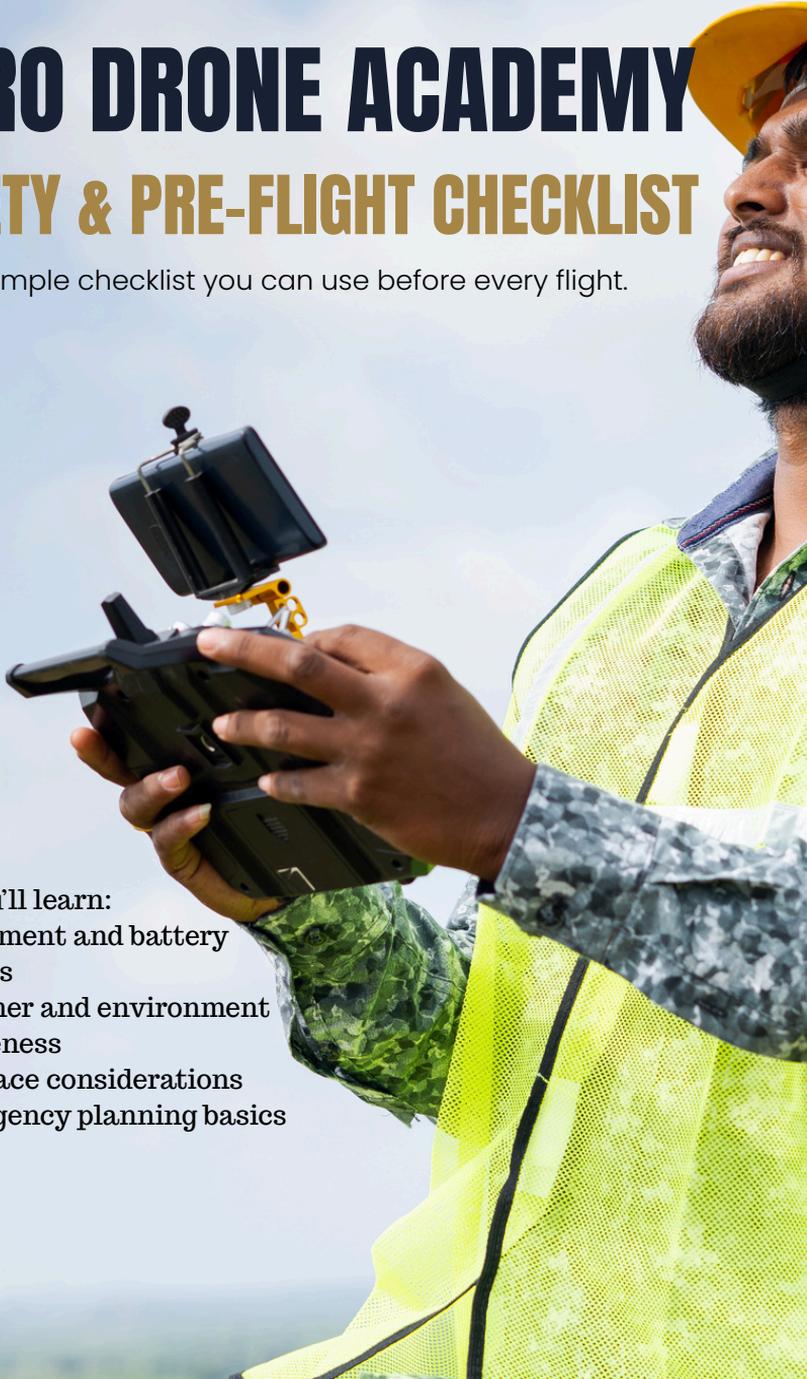
# **AERO DRONE ACADEMY**

## **SAFETY & PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST**

A simple checklist you can use before every flight.

What you'll learn:

- Equipment and battery checks
- Weather and environment awareness
- Airspace considerations
- Emergency planning basics



# Drone Safety & Pre-Flight Checklist

Compliance and safety for the modern remote pilot.

## Regulatory & Airspace Check (The UK "Drone Code")

Before you even pack your gear, ensure your flight is legal.

- Operator & Flyer IDs: Ensure your Operator ID is clearly displayed on the drone and your Flyer ID is valid.
- Check Drone Assist / Altitude Angel: Use a verified UK airspace app to check for No Fly Zones (NFZs), Temporary Danger Areas (TDAs), or restricted areas around airports and prisons.
- The 50m/150m Rule: Depending on your drone's weight (sub-250g vs. larger), ensure you are maintaining the legal distance from uninvolved people and built-up areas.
- Permission: If flying on private land (National Trust, etc.), ensure you have the landowner's express permission.



## Weather & Environment Awareness

The British weather is notoriously unpredictable. Never "guess" the conditions.

- The Beaufort Scale: Aim for winds under Force 4 (13–18 mph) for beginners.
- Precipitation: Check for mist, drizzle, or fog. Moisture can short-circuit motors and obscure your Visual Line of Sight (VLOS).
- Kp-Index: Check for solar activity; a high Kp-index (above 5) can interfere with your GPS signal and compass.



## Equipment & Battery Health

- Visual Inspection: Check the airframe for stress fractures. Ensure the gimbal moves freely.
- Propeller Integrity: Ensure props are free of "leading edge" nicks. In the UK, cold weather can make plastic props more brittle.
- Battery "Cell Balance": Check your app to ensure all battery cells are discharging evenly. Never fly a "swollen" or puffy battery.
- Firmware: Ensure the Home Point is updated and the RTH (Return to Home) altitude is set higher than the tallest nearby obstacle (e.g., set to 60m if trees are 40m).



## Emergency Planning Basics

If things go wrong, you need a "Lost Link" or "Emergency" procedure ready to execute.

- **Failsafe Settings:** Pre-set your drone to "Return to Home" if the signal is lost (rather than "Hover" or "Land").
- **The "Flyaway" Protocol:** If the drone stops responding, immediately announce "Drone Control Lost" to anyone nearby.
- **Public Safety:** If a person or vehicle enters your flight zone, move the drone away or land immediately until the area is clear.
- **Emergency Contact:** Keep the local Air Traffic Control (ATC) phone number saved if you are flying near a flight restriction zone (with permission).



## The Aero Drone Academy Quick-Check

Item	Status
Operator ID Labelled?	
Airspace checked (Drone Assist)?	
Props secure and clean?	
Gimbal cover removed?	
Max Altitude set to 120m (400ft)?	
RTH Altitude set above obstacles?	

*Aero Drone Academy Note: Safety is the foundation of great cinematography. A pilot who respects the UK Drone Code is a pilot who protects their investment and the public.*

