

TITLE 16

AIRPORT AND AIRCRAFT

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CHAPTER 16.04

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

16.04.010 Definitions.

As used in Title [16](#), unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Aircraft" means and includes any and all contrivances now or hereinafter used for navigation or flight in air or space, including but not limited to, airplanes, airships, dirigibles, helicopters, gliders, ultralights, amphibians and seaplanes.
- B. "Airman" means an individual who engages, as the person in command or as pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew, in the navigation of aircraft, or an individual who is directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling, or repair of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, or associated accessories.
- C. "Airport" means the Petaluma Municipal Airport.
- D. "Airport commission" means the seven members appointed to the commission by the city council.
- E. "Airport manager" means the city manager or his designee.
- F. "Airport operations area" means that portion of the airport designated and used for landing, taking off, or surface maneuvering of aircraft.

- G. "Based aircraft" means any aircraft assigned a reserved parking space, tiedown, or hanger space at the airport, whether or not such assignment is made under written lease with the city of Petaluma.
- H. "City" means the city of Petaluma, California.
- I. "Council" means the city council of the city of Petaluma, California.
- J. "FAA" means the Federal Aviation Administration of the United States of America, as defined in the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, or any subsequent and successor to that agency created for the control and operation of aviation and its related functions.
- K. "Fire marshal" means the fire marshal of the city of Petaluma or his designee.
- L. "Fixed base operator" means a person or entity who has obtained a contract or permit to operate as a general aviation concessionaire at the airport.
- M. "Owner" means the registered or legal owner of an aircraft according to the records of the Federal Aviation Administration.
- N. "Person" means individuals, firms, companies, corporations, public agencies, and any other person as defined in Title [1](#), Chapter [1.04](#) of the Petaluma Municipal Code.
- O. "Restricted area" means any portion of any airport not intended for use by the general public and so posted by the city.
- P. "Rules and regulations" means the provisions of Title [16](#) of the Petaluma Municipal Code contained herein.
- Q. "Title [16](#)" refers to the provisions of Title [16](#) of the Petaluma Municipal Code.
- R. "Vehicle" means a device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be propelled and includes, but is not limited to automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, tractors, bicycles, buses, and trailers.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.020 Compliance with Federal Aviation Act and Federal Regulations.

- A. The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe air traffic rules and regulations governing the flight of aircraft. The Federal Aviation Regulations promulgated by the Administrator cover all flights on or in the vicinity of the airport.
- B. Aircraft operators, pilots, and other users of the airport are required to be familiar with and comply with the Federal Aviation Regulations, and, in particular, Part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, of said regulations.
- C. All aeronautical activities at the airport and all flying of aircraft departing from or arriving at said airport, shall be conducted in conformity with the Federal Aviation Regulations.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.030 Airport manager shall enforce rules and regulations.

The airport manager is empowered to oversee the operations of the airport and to apply and enforce the rules and regulations contained in Title [16](#) of the Petaluma Municipal Code. The provisions of Title [16](#) are supplemental to the Federal Aviation Regulations and apply specifically to the airport. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.040 Compliance with applicable rules and laws.

All persons using the airport shall be subject to, and governed by, the rules and regulations contained in Title [16](#) of the Petaluma Municipal Code, and all other applicable provisions of city ordinances and resolutions, county ordinances and resolutions, state and federal laws, and the Federal Aviation Administration Regulations. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.050 Compliance with rules by flight instructors and students.

All based flight instructors shall inform their students of the rules and regulations contained in Title [16](#). All flight instructors shall be responsible for the conduct of students under their direction during dual instruction. When a student is flying solo, it shall be the student's responsibility to observe and abide by these rules and regulations. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.060 Radio contact between pilots and fixed base operators.

Radio contacts between pilot(s) and fixed base operator(s) at the airport shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures and by means of the phraseologies recommended by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wherever practical. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.070 Duties and powers of the airport manager.

A. The airport manager shall represent the city at all times in regard to all airport matters. He shall also have the following duties and powers:

1. The airport manager shall at all times have authority to take such actions as may be deemed necessary to safeguard the public in attendance at the airport. Every fixed base operator, pilot, mechanic or other person employed on or using the airport shall cooperate to enforce these rules and regulations and to see that all persons upon the premises use care to prevent injury to persons or damage to property.

2. The airport manager may suspend or restrict any or all operations at the airport without regard to weather conditions whenever such action is deemed necessary in the interest of safety.
3. The airport manager may suspend, as a means of safeguarding the airport and the public, the privileges of the airport and its facilities to any person refusing to comply with these rules and regulations.
4. The airport manager shall have authority to restrict airport operations to such portion(s) of the airport as he may deem necessary or desirable. Any part of the airport temporarily unsafe for aircraft operation which is not available for any cause, shall be clearly marked in accordance with recommendations of the FAA.
5. The airport manager may issue permits or written permission for use of the airport as authorized by this Title [16](#).
6. The airport manager in any contingency or emergency not specifically covered by these rules and regulations is authorized to make such decisions as to him may seem proper.

B. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the airport manager restricting or prohibiting use of the airport and its facilities, or prohibiting or restricting airport operations, may appeal the airport manager's decision to the airport commission. A notice of appeal stating the grounds therefor shall be filed with the city clerk.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.080 Hours of airport operation.

The airport shall be open for public use at all hours of the day and night, subject to these rules and regulations and subject to the condition of the landing area, as may be determined by the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.090 Interference with airport use prohibited.

No person shall obstruct, impair, or unreasonably interfere with the use of the airport by any other person, or obstruct, impair, or unreasonably interfere with the passage and safe, orderly and efficient use of the airport by any other person, vehicle or aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.100 Entrance on restricted areas prohibited.

No person shall enter any portion of the airport designated a restricted area unless authorized to do so by the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.110 Animals at airport.

No person shall enter any airport operations area or landing area with any animal, excepting a guide dog for the blind, hearing impaired or a leashed animal taken to and from an aircraft. Animals may be permitted in other areas of the airport if restrained by a leash or confined in such a manner as to be under control. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.120 Assumption of liability for airport use.

The privilege of using the airport and its facilities shall be conditioned upon the assumption of full responsibility and risk by the user thereof and such user shall release, hold harmless, and indemnify the city and its officers and employees, against claims arising from use of the airport. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.130 Use of airport for commercial activities.

Subject to applicable orders, certificates, or permits of the FAA or National Transportation Safety Board, or their successors, no person shall use the airport or any portion thereof, or any of its improvements or facilities, for revenue-producing commercial business or activities without compliance with the requirements of Title [16](#), and other provisions of the Petaluma Municipal Code. Such business or commercial activities shall include, but not be limited to any business for the operation, service or repair of aircraft, any solicitation of data or statistical information; peddling of any goods, merchandise or food, any advertisements or promotion of goods or services, any offer to sell, rent, or lease goods or services directed to the public. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.140 Contract/permit required to conduct commercial business.

A. No commercial business shall be conducted on the airport without the operator thereof having a current contract/permit which has been approved by the city council and a city business license.

1. Such contract/permit shall define the areas of airport land and facilities to be used by the tenant or operator.
2. Such contract/permit shall stipulate services to be rendered and the operator may charge reasonable fees for such services.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person not so authorized by contract/permit to engage in any commercial business at the airport including the operation, service or repair of aircraft on airport premises for hire.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.150 Reporting of accidents.

Any person involved in an accident at the airport which results in damage or injury to one or more persons or to property shall promptly report such occurrences to the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.160 Firearms at the airport.

A. No person except peace officers, duly authorized government employees, members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or other persons duly authorized by law to carry a firearm or similar instrument in his possession shall have any of the following in his possession on airport property: any firearm, fireworks, gun, pistol, revolver, explosive of similar nature, air-gun, BB gun, pellet gun or any other instrument enumerated in Section [10.56.010](#) of this code.

B. *Exceptions.* This prohibition shall not apply to persons possessing flares or other aircraft survival equipment nor to persons carrying firearms in cases, broken down, or unloaded.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.170 Disposal of garbage.

No person shall dispose of garbage, papers, refuse or other material on the airport except in receptacles provided for that purpose. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.180 Damage to airport property.

It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, damage, or deface or cause to be destroyed, damaged, or defaced any public property located at the airport. Any person causing or responsible for such destruction or damage shall report such damage to the airport manager, and upon demand of the airport manager shall reimburse the airport for the full amount of the damage. Any person failing to report and/or reimburse the airport for damage may be refused the use of any facility until and unless said report and/or reimbursement is made. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.190 Commercial photography and filming.

No person shall take still, motion, or sound pictures for commercial purposes on the airport without permission from the airport manager. Exception: This section shall not apply to representatives of the press and other news services reporting on persons or events which are on the news excepting that all such persons must obtain

permission from the airport manager prior to entrance on any of the airport operations area. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.200 Club and other private meetings.

No person shall sponsor or conduct club, association or other private meetings on airport property except as authorized in writing by the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.210 Religious, charitable and political activities.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title [13](#), Chapter [13.32](#) of this code, this section shall govern the issuance of permits for activities specified in subsection B of this section including those activities on the airport which may incidentally affect traffic and parking on streets in the airport vicinity.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to sponsor or conduct any of the following activities on the airport without first obtaining a special activity permit from the airport manager:

1. Any public parade, rally, or demonstration.
2. Any public distribution or offer for sale of pamphlets, circulars or other written materials for religious, charitable, political or other non-commercial purposes.
3. The carrying, posting, or displaying of any signs or placards for religious, charitable, political or other non-commercial purposes.
4. *Solicitation of contributions.* For purposes of this section "contributions" means and includes the words donations, money, alms, food, clothing, subscriptions, property, credit, financial assistance, or other thing of value.

C. A verified application for a permit shall be filed with the airport manager on a form provided by the airport manager. The application shall set forth the following:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the person/organization conducting/sponsoring the proposed special activity and the individual who will be in charge of the activity at the airport.
2. The nature/purpose of the activity.
3. The date(s), time(s) and location for the proposed activity.
4. The estimated number of persons who will participate in the activity.
5. Such other information the airport manager finds reasonably necessary to determine whether to grant the permit under this section.

D. The airport manager shall determine whether to issue or deny the permit within five business days of receipt of a completed application. Any permit denial shall be in writing and shall specify the grounds therefor. The airport manager shall issue a permit unless he determines from the application or other information that:

1. The location or time of the proposed activity would conflict with a previously scheduled airport activity or event.
2. The proposed activity would interfere with airport use or the safe and orderly movement of pedestrian, vehicular, or aircraft traffic at the airport or on streets in the airport vicinity.
3. The proposed activity would be in violation of any applicable law as described in Section [16.04.040](#) of this code.
4. The location of the proposed special activity is not authorized pursuant to subsection E of this section.
5. Any of the grounds for permit denial specified in Section [13.32.080](#) of this code exist.

E. Special activities shall not be permitted in any of the following airport areas:

1. Any airport area designated a restricted area by the airport manager or which is otherwise not open to the general public including but not limited to the aircraft apron area.
2. Any restroom.
3. Any airport area or facility for which a lease or permit has been granted to conduct commercial activities in accordance with Section [16.04.140](#) of this code.
4. Any aircraft operating area. The airport manager may condition the issuance of a permit by imposing reasonable requirements concerning the time, place, and manner of the activity and such requirements are necessary to protect the safety of persons and property, normal operations of the airport, and compliance with all applicable laws. Such permit conditions may include a requirement that the permittee indemnify the city as specified in Section [13.32.120](#) of the code, pay cleanup deposits (when applicable) as specified in Section [13.32.140](#) of the code and/or police traffic control fees (when applicable) as specified in Section [13.32.150](#) of the code. It shall be unlawful to violate any of the terms or conditions of the permit.

E. Insurance shall be required for any public parade, rally or demonstration involving thirty or more participants as specified in Section [13.32.130](#) of this code. The insurance requirements of subsections 13.32.130A, B, and C shall be waived by the airport manager if the conditions specified in subsection 13.32.130D of this code are satisfied.

F. A special activity permit shall be issued for the date(s) requested in the application, or thirty days, whichever is less.

G. The permit applicant may appeal a permit denial or condition to the airport commission within seven days of the date of personal service or posting in the mail of the notice thereof. The appeal shall be filed with the city clerk stating the grounds therefor. Whenever the airport manager is a designee of the city manager, the permit

applicant may request that the city clerk schedule the appeal before the city manager instead. The city manager or his designated hearing officer shall conduct an appeal hearing within three business days after an appeal is filed. If the appeal is heard before the city manager, the city manager's decision is the final city decision.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.220 Airshows, exhibitions, and other special events.

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title [13](#), Chapter [13.32](#) of this code, this section shall govern the issuance of permits for events specified in subsection B of this section including those events on the airport which may incidentally affect traffic and parking on streets in the airport vicinity.
- B. No person shall sponsor or conduct any of the following events on airport property without first obtaining a permit from the airport commission with rights of appeal to the city council:
1. Any airshow or other special air event.
 2. Any public exhibition, show, commercial demonstration, or similar event on airport property.
 3. Any other special event on airport property which is open to the general public.
- C. Permit applications shall be submitted to the airport manager at least thirty days prior to the planned event unless the filing deadline is waived for good cause by the airport manager.
- D. The permit application may be denied for any of the following grounds:
1. The location or time of the proposed event would conflict with a previously scheduled airport activity or event.
 2. The proposed event would interfere with airport use or the safe and orderly movement of pedestrian, vehicular, or aircraft traffic at the airport or on streets in the airport vicinity.
 3. The proposed activity would be in violation of any applicable law as described in Section [16.04.040](#) of this code.
 4. The event is not compatible with other airport uses or activities or is otherwise not in the best interests of the operation of the airport.
 5. A previous special activity permit issued under this section has been suspended and the period of suspension has not expired, or has been revoked within one year of the date of application.
 6. Any of the grounds for permit denial of special event permits specified in Section [13.32.080](#) of this code exist.

E. The airport manager/city council may impose conditions and restrictions on issuance of a permit including the deposit of cleanup fees to ensure that the airport site will be cleaned and restored after the event. Such permit conditions may include a requirement that the permittee assume liability for the event as specified in Section [16.04.120](#) of the code, and that the permittee obtain a comprehensive general liability insurance policy in the amount and scope of coverage prescribed by city council resolution.

F. A permit may be revoked or suspended by the airport manager/city council for failure to comply with permit terms and conditions or for any of the reasons specified for permit denial under subsection D of this section. Notice of the grounds for permit revocation/suspension shall be personally served or served by mail on the permittee.

G. The permit applicant/permittee may appeal a permit denial, condition, revocation or suspension to the city council within seven days of the date of personal service or posting in the mail of the notice thereof. The appeal shall be filed with the city clerk stating the grounds therefor.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

16.04.230 Fees, rates, and charges.

A schedule of fees, rates, and charges for use of airport areas and facilities shall be established by resolution of the city council. (Ord. 1802 NCS §2 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.06 AIRPORT LEASES

16.06.100 Findings and purpose.

Section 46 of Article VII of the Petaluma City Charter provides that action to provide for leases of city property be taken by ordinance unless the council takes action pursuant to a general law of the state. The large number of hangar and tie-down facilities and interest by airport users in such facilities, as well as in ground leases, makes approval of individual leases by ordinance impractical and costly in terms of staff time and other public resources. Legislative authority for city council approval of form leases for tie-down spaces, hangars and ground leases and other specified arrangements regarding airport facilities, and for city manager execution of airport leases using council-approved form documents, is intended to meet the requirements of Section 46, Article VII of the Petaluma City Charter, provide for appropriate city council oversight concerning the municipal airport lease program, provide for efficient use of public resources, promote fiscal efficiency, and provide necessary flexibility to airport management to effectively meet the needs of airport users and maximize airport services and generation of revenue for airport facilities. (Ord. 2268 NCS §1 (part), 2007.)

16.06.200 Approval of airport leases by resolution.

In accordance with Section 46 of Article VII of the City of Petaluma Charter, the city council of the city of Petaluma may approve form lease documents for city-owned hangars and tie-down spaces at the Petaluma Municipal Airport by resolution; and may approve ground leases, specialized lease arrangements and other specialized use of the Petaluma Municipal Airport by resolution. (Ord. 2268 NCS §1 (part), 2007.)

16.06.300 Execution of airport leases by city manager.

The city manager or his/her designee is authorized to execute, on behalf of the city airport, leases for hangar and tie-down facilities at the Petaluma Municipal Airport using form leases that have been approved by city council resolution as long as such leases do not differ materially from such approved form leases. The city manager or his/her designee is authorized to execute, on behalf of the city, other specified leases or agreements for use of the Petaluma Municipal Airport that have been approved by the city council by resolution. (Ord. 2268 NCS §1 (part), 2007.)

CHAPTER 16.08

MOTOR VEHICLES AT AIRPORT

16.08.010 Compliance with state law.

Every person who operates any motor vehicle or mobile equipment on the airport shall comply with all applicable provisions of the laws of the state of California and any special regulations prescribed herein for the control of such vehicles excepting in cases of emergency involving life or property. (Ord. 1802 NCS §3 (part), 1990.)

16.08.020 Parking in designated areas.

A. The city shall designate by appropriate posting the following:

1. Places where vehicles may or may not be parked in aircraft parking areas. Vehicles shall not be left standing on taxiways.
2. The period of time for which vehicles may be parked at any place on the airport.

B. The city shall be authorized to remove any vehicle parked on any roadway, parking area, or other posted area of the airport in violation of this chapter, and to impound the same at the owner's expense and without liability to the city for damages which may result from, or in the course of, such moving.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §3 (part), 1990.)

16.08.030 Parking on parallel taxiway or on runway prohibited.

Motor vehicles, except emergency vehicles, shall not be driven onto the parallel taxiway or runway without the express permission of the airport manager. Such authorized vehicles shall be distinctly painted or marked in accordance with the provisions of the current FAA requirements for marking of vehicles used on landing areas. Automobile parking may be permitted in specified general aviation aircraft parking areas. (Ord. 1802 NCS §3 (part), 1990.)

16.08.040 Driving in excess of posted speed limit prohibited.

No vehicles shall be driven upon any road or upon other areas within the perimeter of the airport in excess of the speed which is posted at the entrance to the airport or upon a particular road or area. The driver of every vehicle shall adhere to any sign posted to regulate vehicular traffic or about the airport for the public safety. (Ord. 1802 NCS §3 (part), 1990.)

16.08.050 Vehicles to yield right-of-way to aircraft.

All vehicles except emergency vehicles engaged in emergency activity shall at all times yield the right-of-way to any and all aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §3 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.12 AIRCRAFT ON GROUND

16.12.010 Aircraft parking in designated areas.

Aircraft shall be parked in designated areas administered by the city and in areas rented to commercial operators. Aircraft owners or operators may also park aircraft in privately-owned hangars erected on land leased by the owner from the city. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.020 Fees by fixed base operators.

Fixed base operators may charge reasonable fees for use of leased facilities. Appeals of such charges may be made to the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.030 Parking for special events.

For special events, aircraft shall be parked only in areas designated by the airport manager. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.040 Parking in areas not under lease.

No aircraft shall be parked in areas not under lease without special written permission of the airport manager, who may authorize such parking as a temporary measure or as an interim measure pending the execution of a lease or contract. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.050 Parking in taxiway areas prohibited.

Taxiway areas shall be maintained open to taxiing aircraft at all times, and no aircraft shall be parked in such taxiway areas or left unattended in such a manner as to interfere with the free flow of traffic. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.060 Unattended aircraft.

No aircraft shall be left unattended on the airport unless properly secured in a tiedown or within a hangar. Owners of aircraft shall be responsible for damage resulting from failure to comply with this section. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.070 Start-up and run-up of aircraft.

Aircraft shall be started, warmed-up and run-up only in designated areas. At no times shall engines be run-up when hangars, shops, other buildings, or persons in observation areas are in the path of the propeller slipstream. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.080 Hand-propping of aircraft engines.

Hand-propping of aircraft engines is prohibited except when the design of the aircraft is such that this is the only method of starting. When handcranking is necessary, a licensed pilot or mechanic shall be at the control at all times and the wheels shall be chocked. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.090 Use of aircraft apron area restricted.

No persons except airmen, duly authorized personnel, passengers, or other persons going to or from aircraft personally conducted by airmen or airport attendants, shall be permitted to enter an aircraft apron area. Any person or persons so excepted does not have the privilege of unrestricted use of the apron. These privileges are confined to the necessary use of such space in connection with flights or routine duties. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

16.12.100 Removal of disabled aircraft.

Aircraft owners and their agents and pilots shall be responsible for the prompt removal from the airport of disabled aircraft and their parts, except for salvage and repair conducted within an enclosed hangar, unless required or directed to delay this action pending investigation of an accident. (Ord. 1802 NCS §4 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.16

AIRCRAFT TAXIING, LANDING AND TAKEOFF

16.16.010 Aircraft movement areas defined.

Aircraft movement areas at the airport are defined as the runways, taxiways, and other areas of the airport utilized for taxiing, takeoff, and landing of aircraft. The movement areas do not, however, exclude aircraft parking and loading ramps and the taxiways serving the general aviation hangar storage areas. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.020 Aircraft taxiing for takeoff.

All aircraft preparing to takeoff shall taxi via the taxiway to the end of the runway for takeoff. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.030 Use of taxiways by landing aircraft.

All landing aircraft returning to the airport flight line shall leave the runway on the first available taxiway which is practical in order to keep the runways clear for approaching aircraft. Aircraft shall not make one hundred eighty degree turns on the runway after landing unless no taxiway is available, but shall continue straight ahead until reaching the first taxiway and shall clear the runway as soon as possible. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.040 Taxiing from a parking space.

No person shall taxi an aircraft from an approved parking space until the pilot has ascertained through information furnished by visual inspection that there will be no danger of collision with any person or object in the immediate area. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.050 Speed limit for taxiing.

Aircraft shall be taxied at a safe and reasonable speed and distance from other aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.060 Right-of-way for taxiing aircraft.

Taxiing aircraft shall not overtake other taxiing aircraft. Approaching traffic shall give way to the right. At intersections, the aircraft on the right shall have the right-of-way. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.070 Location of aircraft during engine run-up.

Taxiing aircraft shall be stopped at a distance from the end of each runway, as marked by FAA standard broken yellow lines, for the purpose of engine run-up. Aircraft shall be turned to provide the pilot with a clear view of approaching aircraft, and it shall be his responsibility to remain clear of other traffic. No aircraft shall be moved onto a runway until ready for takeoff. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.080 Taxiing under power into or out of hangar prohibited.

Aircraft shall not be taxied under power into or out of any hangar. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.090 Midfield or intersection takeoffs prohibited.

Midfield or intersections takeoffs are prohibited. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.100 Runway to be used for takeoffs and landings.

Landings and takeoffs shall be made on the runway most nearly aligned with the wind indicator at the airport. When wind conditions are calm, Runway 29 should be used. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

16.16.110 Exceptions for emergencies.

Exceptions to the rules and regulations governing landing and takeoff specified in this chapter shall only be made in an emergency requiring immediate action as provided in Part 91.3 of the Federal Aviation Regulations. (Ord. 1802 NCS §5 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.20 AIRCRAFT TRAFFIC PATTERNS

16.20.010 Compliance with FAA rules.

All aircraft arriving at or departing from the airport shall conform to the FAA rules for operations at airports without a control tower. (Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

16.20.020 Airport traffic patterns.

Excepting for ultralight aircraft which are governed by Chapter [16.32](#) of this code, the traffic patterns for the airport shall be as follows:

- A. Standard left hand rectangular pattern for Runway 11.
- B. Nonstandard right hand rectangular pattern for Runway 29.
- C. At one thousand eighty-seven feet mean sea level (MSL).
- D. Entrance to pattern shall be at forty-five degree angle to the downwind leg and shall be established in the middle third of the downwind leg. Aircraft entering the airport traffic pattern shall be at pattern altitude at least one-half mile before entering the pattern.

E. The normal departure procedure for aircraft shall be to maintain runway headings to one thousand two hundred feet MSL before turning. Aircraft remaining in the pattern shall climb to six hundred feet MSL before making crosswind turn.

F. Aircraft with an approach speed less than forty m.p.h. are governed by Chapter [16.32](#) of this code entitled "Unlicensed Aircraft".

(Ord. 1887 NCS §1, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

16.20.030 Aircraft approaching to determine airport conditions.

All aircraft approaching to determine airport conditions should remain at one thousand five hundred eighty-seven feet MSL or more above the airport until entering the pattern. It is recommended that aircraft entering or remaining in the pattern announce their intentions on the unicorn radio. (Ord. 1887 NCS §2, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

16.20.040 Helicopters.

Helicopters arriving at, operating on, or departing from the airport shall operate clear of the traffic pattern as established herein and shall operate on or over the field well clear of fixed-wing traffic and in accordance with the following regulations:

A. All arrivals and departures shall be restricted to the helipad located on the northwest end of the field.

B. The traffic pattern altitude is established at five hundred feet AGL and shall cross under the fixed-wing downwind leg at approximately midfield and proceed to the field over the segmented circle using caution for landing and departing fixed-wing traffic before proceeding across the runway to the parallel taxiway.

C. All taxiing on the field shall be over the parallel taxiway, proceeding directly to the helipad and the adjacent helicopter tie-down area.

D. Helicopters may taxi to the fuel island by way of the parallel taxiway only.

E. No hover or taxi practice operations shall be conducted without the approval of the airport manager and limits for the same may be established at his discretion.

(Ord. 1884 NCS §1, 1992; Ord. 1802 NCS §6 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.24

AIRCRAFT FUELING AND DEFUELING

16.24.010 Fueling and defueling restrictions.

No aircraft shall be fueled or defueled at the airport while engines are running or while such aircraft is in a hangar or enclosed space. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.020 Smoking restrictions during fueling and defueling.

No smoking shall be permitted within fifty feet of the aircraft fuel tanks while the aircraft is being fueled or defueled or within fifty feet of any fuel carrier utilized for fueling or defueling of aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.030 Spillage of fuel.

Persons engaged in the fueling or defueling of aircraft shall exercise all caution to prevent spillage of fuel, including the filling of tanks to the point where they would overflow from heat expansion. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.040 Static discharge precautions.

No person shall use any material likely to cause a static discharge during fueling or defueling of aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.050 Fire extinguishers required.

Adequate fire extinguishers shall be within ready reach of persons engaged in fueling and defueling operations at all times. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.060 Restrictions on engine start-up.

No person shall start the engine of any aircraft when there is gasoline on the ground under the aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.070 Fueling hoses and defueling equipment.

Fueling hoses and defueling equipment shall be maintained in a safe, sound, and non-leaking condition at all times. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

16.24.080 Grounding devices for fueling and defueling operations.

During fueling and defueling, the aircraft shall be properly grounded. (Ord. 1802 NCS §7 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.28

AIRPORT FIRE SAFETY RULES

16.28.010 Compliance with applicable fire safety rules.

All persons using the airport shall comply with the fire safety rules and regulations contained in this chapter and with all fire safety laws, ordinances and regulations established by any governmental entity having jurisdiction for fire protection at the airport. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.020 Power operated tugs.

Power operated tugs used within hangars shall be of a type approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.030 Storage of material and equipment.

- A. No person shall store or stock material or equipment so as to constitute a fire hazard.
- B. No person shall store or place any flammable liquids, solids, gases, signal flares, or similar hazardous materials within any hangar or building except in areas or rooms specifically approved by the fire marshal. The storage of flammable liquids within buildings shall be under permit issued by the fire marshal. Such storage shall be in approved containers bearing the label of the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (five gallon maximum container).
- C. All tenants of buildings shall maintain the floors of hangars, hangar ramps, and adjacent areas free and clear of oil, grease, and other flammable materials.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.040 Maintenance and cleaning of hangars.

- A. All tenants of buildings shall maintain the floors of hangars, hangar ramps, and adjacent areas free and clean of oil, grease, and other flammable materials.
- B. No person shall use flammable substances for cleaning floors of hangars or other buildings.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.050 Cleaning of aircraft engines and parts.

The cleaning of aircraft engines or other parts using solvents shall be limited in scope and only nonflammable or high flashpoint solvents shall be used. Drip and collecting pans shall be used during any cleaning process. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.060 Disposal of gasoline and other flammable waste projects.

No person shall dispose of gasoline, oil, solvent, or other flammable waste products in any drain, manhole, open ditch, or other airport areas. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.070 Painting and doping of aircraft.

Painting and doping of aircraft with flammable liquids shall be conducted only in areas or in buildings approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.080 Smoking restrictions.

No person shall smoke any cigarette, cigar or pipe, or strike any match or kindle any flame whatsoever within fifty feet of any aircraft while being fueled, or within fifty feet from fuel islands or any flammable liquid container, or within any aircraft workshop located upon the airport, except as approved by the fire marshal. Smoking shall be permitted within areas designated by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.090 Cutting, welding and spray painting.

Cutting, welding, and spray painting operations shall be conducted only within areas or buildings approved by the fire marshal. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.100 Electrical wire, fixtures and appliances.

All electrical wiring, fixtures, and appliances shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the city building code. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.110 Fixed base operators to provide fire safety training.

Each fixed base operator shall institute training programs for employees in the use of portable fire extinguishing equipment and methods of evacuating or relocating occupants of the premises in case of fire or other emergency. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.120 Portable fire extinguishers.

- A. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and installed by each fixed base operator, within the operator's leased area, as directed by the fire marshal as to number, type, and location.
- B. Portable fire extinguishers shall not be moved from designated locations for any reasons other than as a precaution against an immediate hazard or to be recharged.
- C. Access to all fire extinguishing equipment shall be kept free and unobstructed at all times. Portable fire extinguishers shall be inspected periodically by the fire marshal.

(Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.130 Duty to report fire.

Every person who becomes aware of any fire or smoldering combustion of any unwarranted or insidious nature which is not confined within equipment designed for fire or which is a hazard to the premises shall report said fire or smoldering combustion without delay to the local fire department. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.28.140 Fire marshal drills and inspections.

Fire prevention inspection shall be conducted by the fire marshal and fire drills shall be held at his discretion. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.32 UNLICENSED AIRCRAFT

16.32.010 Rules and regulations governing ultralight aircraft.

All air vehicles not licensed by the FAA are considered ultralight aircraft. Due to the unique operating characteristics, licensing procedures and minimal Federal Air Regulations, this chapter shall establish specific rules and regulations governing ultralight aircraft operators as defined in FAR Part 103. All other provisions of Title [16](#), excepting Chapter [16.20](#) governing aircraft traffic patterns, are applicable to ultralight aircraft operators. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.020 Prior permission required.

All ultralight operations shall require approval of the airport manager for each arrival or departure for safety reasons because of the potential hazard of ultralight operations. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.030 Yielding right-of-way.

In accordance with FAA Part 103.13, ultralight operators shall maintain vigilance so as to see and avoid conventional aircraft and shall yield the right-of-way to all conventional aircraft. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

16.32.040 Compliance with FAA rules.

All ultralight aircraft arriving at or departing from the airport shall conform to the FAA rules for operations at airports without a control tower. (Ord. 1802 NCS §8 (part), 1990.)

CHAPTER 16.36

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

16.36.010 Penalty for violations.

Any person violating any provision of Title [16](#) shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars or six months in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment. (Ord. 1802 NCS §9 (part), 1990.)

The Petaluma Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 2891 NCS, passed July 1, 2024.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Petaluma Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

[City Website: cityofpetaluma.net](http://cityofpetaluma.net)

[Hosted by General Code.](#)