

**VATSIM NORTH AMERICA**  
**POLICY NUMBER: 05/05**  
**DATE ISSUED: 3/4/2007**  
**REVISED: 9/1/2009**

**SUBJECT:** VATSIM NORTH AMERICA (VATNA) LOCAL RULES POLICY

**PURPOSE:** To better manage local rules established within the North America Region, the following process has been put in place. This approval process is mandatory and local rules / policies written or established outside of this process are **invalid** and in no way enforceable. The purpose of introducing this requirement is to:

- Ensure that at all times members are treated fairly by VATSIM North America.
- Ensure that members wishing to operate within VATSIM North America are fully aware of what is expected of them.
- Establish fair and reasonable local rules that are essential for operations within VATSIM North America.
- Assist online Supervisors who are expected to monitor compliance with VATSIM North America local rules.
- Support staff in North America when upholding properly designed and fully authorized local rules.

**BACKGROUND:** The VATSIM Code of Regulations (CoR) gives a Regional Director (RD) a regional airspace to manage. The RD then appoints Division Directors (DD) and delegates authority to the DD to manage the division and its' airspace. With any delegated authority there is accountability back up the line to those that are accountable for it under the VATSIM CoR. The VATSIM CoR does not recognize staff below the DD level, therefore these staff members are not afforded any autonomous authority whatsoever, including writing local rules. It is the responsibility of the DD and RD to establish or approve any rules that a local manager may wish to have put in place. For local staff it is a simple matter of putting up a 'proposal' and getting it 'signed-off'.

**LOCAL RULES APPROVAL PROCESS:** All ARTCCs and FIRs within the VATSIM North America Region must comply with the following process. Any local rule / policy that is not posted on the region website is considered to be invalid.

1. Submit your rule or policy proposal to the Division Director (DD).
2. The rule / policy will be checked against the VATSIM CoR and VATSIM Code of Conduct (CoC) for compliance by the DD, if it is in compliance, the DD will advise that it is being processed for implementation. If it is not in compliance, changes will be made until the local rule is satisfactory, or the matter will be rejected and a reason for the rejection given.
3. The DD will forward the local rule to the Regional Director (RD) for a final check and written authorization prior to its implementation.
4. After receiving RD authorization, the rule / policy will be ready for release at the local level and a copy of the rule / policy will be kept on file and posted on the region website for future reference. The local agency may also post the rule / policy, as approved and unchanged, on their local website.