RC FLIGHT READINESS & SAFETY CHECKLIST

Canadian R/C Club Pilot Assessment & Field Checkout Guide

Pilot Name: _____ **Instructor:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Aircraft Model:** _____

1. ADMINISTRATIVE & REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- ☐ **Pilot Certification** – Verify valid Transport Canada Pilot Certificate (Basic or Advanced) if model ≥ 250 g.
- ☐ **MAAC Membership** – Confirm current MAAC membership status is active and valid for insurance.
- ☐ **Aircraft Registration** – Ensure Transport Canada registration number is permanently marked on the exterior (≥ 250 g).
- ☐ **Safety Equipment Location** – Confirm pilot knows location of field first aid kit and LiPo-ready fire extinguisher.

2. BENCH INSPECTION (POWER OFF)

- ☐ **Control Surfaces & Hinges** – Check elevator, rudder, ailerons, and flaps for loose slop, tears, or separation.
- ☐ **Linkages & Clevises** – Confirm straight pushrods, secure control horns, and proper safety keepers installed.
- ☐ **Structural Elements** – Inspect firewall, motor mount, landing gear, and main wing joins for cracks or fatigue.
- ☐ **Propeller / Rotor** – Inspect for nicks, structural cracks, and balance. Check that the adapter/spinner is tight.
- ☐ **Electronics & Servos** – Receiver and antennas firmly mounted (antennas at 90°). Servos completely rock-solid in mounts.

3. RADIO SETUP & LOGIC CHECK

- ☐ **Model Profile Match** – Verify transmitter is explicitly powered on and set to the correct model profile name.
- ☐ **Failsafe Verification** – **CRITICAL:** Restrain aircraft, remove prop/isolate motor, switch off TX. Motor must cut immediately; surfaces hold safety presets.
- ☐ **Control Direction Test** – Standing behind model: Stick back = Elevator up. Stick right = Right aileron up, Left aileron down. Rudder right = Rudder right.
- ☐ **Rates, Expo & Switches** – Verify functional high/low rates and exponential settings. Switches muscle-memorized.
- ☐ **Dedicated Throttle Cut** – Confirm a dedicated throttle safety kill switch is mapped, functional, and actively used.

4. POWER-UP & PRE-FLIGHT OPERATIONS

- ☐ **Center of Gravity (CG)** – Physically balance aircraft on manufacturer recommended lines with battery/fuel onboard.
- ☐ **Battery / Fuel Security** – LiPo locked down securely via hook-and-loop straps to prevent shifting. Check fuel plumbing.
- ☐ **Operational Range Check** – Execute low-power transmitter range check (approx. 30m / 100ft) checking for signal drop.
- ☐ **Voltage Status Under Load** – Confirm transmitter battery and flight pack/receiver pack indicate full operational capacity.

5. FLIGHT-LINE ETIQUETTE & AIRSPACE AWARENESS

- ☐ **Safe Pit Handling** – Model nose must point away from pits/people at all times during flight battery arming or engine startup.
- ☐ **Full-Scale Surveillance** – Continuous scanning of local airspace. Full-scale aircraft always maintain strict right-of-way.
- ☐ **Verbal Voice Calls** – Pilot demonstrates loud announcements: *"Taking off!"*, *"Landing!"*, or *"On the field!"*.
- ☐ **Wind & Pattern Planning** – Confirm pilot has identified wind direction; flight pattern must keep aircraft upwind of lines.

> **Instructor Note:** If custom mixes (e.g., flap-to-elevator compensation) are utilized, require the student pilot to explain the expected behavioral logic on the ground before clearance to fly is granted.