

## **PILOTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFE AND REASONABLE AIRCRAFT OPERATION**

There have been occasions during the rainy season(s) when pilots have operated aircraft while the runway surface was excessively wet and soft. In some cases, such operations may create unsafe conditions for takeoff or landing and may result in damage to the grass runway surface, including rutting or soil displacement, requiring repair and additional maintenance.

The Board would like to remind all pilots who operate on the airfield - whether owners, residents or guests - that maintaining the runway is a shared responsibility of the community. **IRAPOA's Airport Manager position is a volunteer role**, focused on coordinating maintenance activities and monitoring general airfield conditions. The Airport Manager does not direct, authorize, or prohibit aircraft operations and does not determine whether runway conditions are suitable for takeoff or landing.

IRAPOA relies in part on volunteer efforts, in addition to contracted services such as mowing, lighting, and sprinkler maintenance, to maintain the airfield. Responsible use of the runway helps minimize maintenance needs and shared costs for all members.

### **Therefore, please be advised of the following:**

- **Operational Responsibility**  
All decisions regarding aircraft operation, including whether runway conditions are suitable for takeoff or landing, rest solely with the pilot in command.
- **Runway Status**  
The runway is not formally "opened" or "closed" by IRAPOA based on weather or surface conditions. No condition-based closure system exists. Pilots must independently assess runway conditions prior to operation.
- **Role of the Airport Manager**  
Pilots may consult the Airport Manager regarding observed runway conditions; however, any information provided is advisory only.
- **Damage and Maintenance Responsibility**  
Pilots are responsible for avoiding operations that may cause damage to the runway or surrounding areas. If aircraft operations result in damage requiring repair, sod replacement, or other unusual maintenance, the Board may review the condition and assess reasonable repair costs to the responsible party.
- **FAA Responsibility Standard**  
Consistent with FAA regulations, including 14 C.F.R. § 91.3, the pilot in command is directly responsible for, and is the final authority as to, the safe operation of the aircraft.

Let's work together to keep IRAPOA an enjoyable, safe, and affordable place to live and fly.

Respectfully,

**The Board of Directors**

Indian River Aerodrome Property Owners Association