PRIVACY POLICY

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1 Control Pages

1.1 Document Identification

Document Identification	
Type	Policy
Version	1.4
Issue Date	01 JAN 2026
Identification	VATSIM-POL-Privacy

1.2 Revision Records

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Author
1.0	27 Jul 2001	Initial Release	BoG
1.1	09 Jun 2020	Periodic Update	BoG
1.2	01 Jan 2023	Periodic Update	AC
1.3	18 Jan 2025	Periodic Update	AC
1.4	01 Jan 2026	Moved minimum age to User Agreement	DD

1.3 Related Documents

Document Name	Document Identification
Data Protection and Handling	VATSIM-POL-Data Protection and Handling

2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe how VATSIM collects, uses, and shares personal information

3 Applicability

This policy applies to any current or former user of VATSIM who has been issued a VATSIM Certificate Identification (CID) number.

4 Policy

4.1 Registration

In order to use any of our online services, you must first complete the VATSIM registration form, be accepted as a user and issued a VATSIM ID number. During registration, you are required to give your contact information including your full first and last names and an active email address. This information is used to contact you about the services on our site for which you have expressed interest. Demographic information may be collected to provide targeted services, incorporate network security and comply with appropriate laws regarding children. Cookies, as well as other means of personal unique identification, will be used during the registration process. However, any personal data submitted will be kept strictly confidential and used only to identify you to the registration system.

4.2 Information Collection and Use

VATSIM is the sole owner of the information collected on this site. It will not sell, share or rent this information to others in ways different from what is disclosed in this Privacy Policy. VATSIM collects information from its users at several different points on its website.

VATSIM has a number of responsibilities to you with regard to the collection of your personal data:

- VATSIM has a responsibility to be accountable and transparent in how and why we collect, store and process your data. Users with access to your data are bound by our Data Protection and Handling Policy, which details and controls how we do this.
- VATSIM has a responsibility to only collect, store, and process your data on a lawful basis. VATSIM asserts it has a legitimate interest to do so in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the network and to ensure interactions between users whilst online conform to the User Agreement, Code of Regulations, Code of Conduct and other applicable VATSIM policies. This legitimate interest constitutes a lawful basis for data collection, storage, and processing.

- VATSIM has a responsibility to ensure that data protection is managed in accord with our Data Protection and Handling Policy and our Data Protection Impact Assessment.
- VATSIM has a responsibility to report any data breach to the appropriate authorities.

VATSIM users have a number of rights, including:

- A right to be informed about why we collect your data. This policy explains these reasons to you.
- A right to access your data and view the data collected on you. This data will be released to you on written request. To protect the privacy of VATSIM staff members the names of individual staff members making entries on your record and other security measures may be redacted.
- A right to rectify data you believe to be inaccurate. We encourage users to ensure details such as email address are kept up to date through the self-service myVATSIM dashboard. If you believe other data held is incorrect you can raise a support ticket with the Membership Department to seek to have it corrected.
- The right to request your personal data be erased from the VATSIM systems. This will result in the termination of your VATSIM account privileges.
- The right to request we restrict the processing of your data in the event of a dispute, this may restrict your ability to connect to the network.
- The right to object to our legitimate interests. While your objection is being considered, processing of your data may be frozen, and this may restrict your ability to connect to the network.

4.3 Personal Statistical Information

In the normal course of connecting to the VATSIM network, certain personal statistical information will be collected. This information includes, but is not limited to, name, the time and duration of a user's connection, the callsign(s) used, flight plan(s) filed and other information necessary and useful for the maintenance of the network and your account. This personal information can be seen by other users and/or VATSIM affiliates and partners. In addition, this information may also be available to the general public via the internet. For further information regarding the availability of a user's personal statistical information, please see the VATSIM User Agreement.

If at any time you feel that VATSIM is not following this Privacy Policy, you should contact the Vice President, Operations.

4.4 Cookies

VATSIM may use cookies on its site. A cookie is a piece of data stored on your hard drive which is used to track you through our site and for network security. Some of our affiliates may also use cookies on our site. However, VATSIM has no access to or control over these cookies.

4.5 Log Files

VATSIM uses IP addresses to analyze trends, administer its site, track user's movement, and gather broad demographic information for aggregate use. IP addresses are linked to personally identifiable information for the purposes of network security.

4.6 Sharing of Certain Information

VATSIM may share aggregated demographic information with third parties. This is not linked to any personal information that can identify any individual person.

4.7 Links to External Websites

The VATSIM.net website contains links to third-party sites. VATSIM is not responsible for the privacy practices or policies of such other sites. VATSIM encourages its users to be aware when they leave its website and to read the privacy statements of each and every web site that collects personally identifiable information. This privacy statement applies solely to information collected by the VATSIM.net website or while connected to the network.

4.8 Required NOTAM Subscription

All VATSIM users are subscribed to the distribution of a NOTAM list via email. This list is used to distribute information of an urgent nature to all users of the VATSIM network directly relating to the functioning of the network. Subscription to this distribution list is automatic and mandatory for all users and is a requirement to hold a VATSIM account. This list is not used for any purpose other than official business. Your consent will be requested for other email distributions, such as marketing and other business.

4.9 Surveys, Contests and Marketing

From time-to-time, VATSIM and/or its affiliates and partners may request information from you for surveys or contests or may wish to contact you to make you aware of new initiatives or features on VATSIM. Participation in these surveys or contests, and receiving marketing communications, is completely voluntary and you, therefore, have a choice whether or not to participate. Information requested may include contact information (such as name and shipping address) and demographic information (such as zip code or age). Contact information will only be used to notify the winners and award prizes. Survey information will be used for purposes of monitoring or improving the use and satisfaction of this site and/or the VATSIM network.

4.10 Security

VATSIM takes every reasonable precaution to protect its users' information. When you submit sensitive information via the VATSIM website, your information is protected both online and offline.

VATSIM will make all reasonable efforts to protect user information off-line. All user information, not just the sensitive information mentioned above, is restricted. This information is password protected and only those people who need the information to perform a specific job (for example Administrators, Conflict Resolution Staff, Membership Staff, Supervisors, and Divisional Directors) are granted access to personally identifiable information.

The VATSIM Data Protection and Handling Policy details the circumstances and the manner under which those authorized to see and access your data may do so. All persons with such access are required to indicate their agreement to be bound by this policy before access is granted. Access to this policy itself is restricted to those individuals with a right to higher levels of access as it details internal security procedures used by VATSIM to secure your data.

If you have any questions about the security of the information you submit to the VATSIM website, you can send an email to the Vice President, Operations at the email address posted at the VATSIM website.