Drone Filmmaker's Pre-Flight Technical Checklist

Weather Check

- ☐ Check wind speed (Max 15-20 mph recommended)
- ☐ Verify no precipitation in forecast
- ☐ Check UAV Forecast or Windy app
- ☐ Note sunrise/sunset times for golden hour
- ☐ Temperature check for battery performance
- ☐ Cloud cover assessment for lighting

Power Management

- ☐ Main battery fully charged
- ☐ 2-3 backup batteries charged
- ☐ Battery temperature optimal
  - – Keep warm in cold weather
  - – Avoid extreme heat exposure
- ☐ Battery health checked
  - – No physical damage
  - – Cycle count within limits
- ☐ Controller fully charged
- ☐ Mobile device/tablet charged

Legal Compliance

- ☐ FAA registration current
- ☐ Part 107 certification valid
- ☐ Insurance active
  - – Liability coverage
  - – Equipment coverage
- ☐ Airspace clearance checked
  - – B4UFLY or AirMap verified
  - – Local restrictions noted
- ☐ Flight log book ready

Pre-Flight Checks

- ☐ Propellers secure and undamaged
- ☐ Gimbal movement smooth
- ☐ SD card formatted and inserted
- ☐ Camera settings configured
  - – ND filters ready
  - – Frame rate set
  - – Resolution chosen

☐ Compass calibrated
☐ GPS signal strong
☐ Return-to-home point set
☐ Take-off area clear
☐ Visual observers briefed (if any)

Shot Planning

☐ Flight path mapped
☐ Shot list prepared
☐ Maximum flight time calculated
☐ Battery swap points identified
☐ Emergency landing zones identified
☐ Visual line of sight maintained
☐ Backup shots planned

Emergency Procedures

☐ Return-to-home tested
☐ Emergency landing spots identified
☐ Wind direction noted for emergency landing
☐ First aid kit accessible
☐ Emergency contacts saved
☐ Incident report forms ready

Remember: This checklist is a guide. Always follow local regulations and manufacturer guidelines for your specific drone model.