KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

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OVERALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The AKA National Kitemakers' Competitions will be conducted according to the following rules. Rules not only establish continuity and fairness in the competition but also are designed to produce a successful event. Suggestions for changes in the rules may be submitted to AKA's Kitemakers' Competitions Committee according to the instructions in Appendix A.

- 1. All entrants of the National Kitemakers' Competition at the AKA Convention must be registered for the entire Convention and current AKA members.
- 2. Competition is open to handmade, handcrafted kites flown by the maker of the kite.
- 3. Competitors may enter as many categories as they wish, but must enter a separate kite for each category. Kites that are essentially identical to kites flown in other competitive categories may not be entered, with the exception of the following categories: Arches and Ribbons; Trains; and Sky Display. Only one entry per category is allowed (with the exception of Cooperative entries: refer to the definition of the Cooperative Category in item 8 below for more information).
- 4. Kites or essentially identical copies of kites that have won any prize in kite or special award categories in AKA National Kitemakers' Competitions at previous AKA Conventions are not eligible to compete in subsequent National Kitemakers' Competitions.
- 5. A miniature kite is one where the longest dimension in which the kite is rigid is not more than 12." Kites entered in the fighter kite category no matter their size do not qualify as miniatures.
- 6. Flight time and line length:
 - a. All kites must fly for a minimum total of 5 minutes. Generally, kites that fly for a continuous five minutes will score higher than kites requiring more than one launch.
 - b. Stunt or sport kites must perform at least one loop to the left and one loop to the right.
 - c. Other multi-line kites should demonstrate the enhanced control offered by multiple control lines.
 - d. Fighter kites will do a right spin on one side of the window, and then travel across the window and do a left spin on the other side. The track across the window should be straight and true. The flyer should be able to bring the kite into an almost overhead position, and also a controlled dive on demand.

e. Each kite must fly in a manner appropriate for its type.

7. Line Length:

- a. Except for miniature kites, fighter kites, and arches & ribbons, all single line kites must fly with a minimum 100 feet of flying line.
- b. Miniature kites must fly with a minimum line length of 20 times their longest dimension, excluding the tail.
- c. Stunt or sport kites must fly on a line set of between 50 and 100 feet.
- d. Fighter kites are to be flown on at least 50 feet of line.
- 8. Entries made collaboratively by several people or a kite designed by one person and constructed by a second person must be scored in the Cooperative category. In order to qualify in the Cooperative category, all members of the group must have had significant hands-on participation in the entry's design or construction. Ordering a kite to be built by another individual, or specifying a particular color scheme or a pre-existing graphic design does not constitute a cooperative effort. The entry will be judged according to the requirements of an entry of that type. All makers of the entry must be current members of the AKA, but not all kitemakers need to be present at the kite judging and flight. In Kitemakers' competitions, a kitemaker may be affiliated with multiple cooperative teams, but may be affiliated with only one cooperative team for each different kite category. Only one kite may be entered per category (kite type) by any contestant; either as an individual or part of a cooperative team. Group projects involving kite clubs do not count as the one cooperative entry in the category.
- 9. All parts and pieces of the kite submitted to the Craftsmanship and Structural Design Judges must have been flown with the kite for the Kite Flight and Flight Handling Judges. Contestants may not add any decorations or structural elements after judging begins.
- 10. A kite damaged during flight judging may be repaired by the flier and resubmitted for flight judging before the judging time is over, if permission is first given by the Head Judge.

 Replacement of damaged portions of the kite is allowed, although significant alterations such as adding bridles or spars not used on the first flight attempt will not be permitted.
- 11. Protests and requests for special exemptions will be directed to the Head Judge or Event Coordinator for a ruling or clarification. Protests and requests for special exemptions must be submitted according to the procedures specified in Chapter 5 of this rulebook to be considered.
- 12. If the wind drops or rises to speeds unreasonable for successful flights, judging may be postponed until a more favorable time. In the interest of maintaining the schedule of events posted, competitors are responsible for adhering to the schedule as posted or as modified and reporting to the competition when required to do so. See Chapter 5.
- 13. Scores will be available for competitors to view after the competition, but specific scores will not be identified with specific judges.
- 14. In the event of questions, problems, or disputes, the Head Judge is the arbiter of all such issues. If the competitor is not satisfied with the head judge's response, the protest may be referred to the

Chair of the Kitemakers' Competition Committee. If the Chair cannot resolve the protest, the competitor may protest, in writing, to the Kitemakers' Competition Committee. Members of the committee in attendance at the convention will resolve the issue.

- 15. Contestants will refrain from any unsafe, disruptive, obscene, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 16. Any failure to observe these rules may result in disqualification from the competition by the Judges or the Head Judge.