

General Safety Guidelines For Kite Surfing

These guidelines are general in nature. They are intended for all riders making use of a wide variety of launch sites, using all types of kites and boards. It's important to augment these general guidelines with local guidelines set down for local launches, due to their own unique challenges and conditions. The wisdom below is made possible by the mistakes of riders who went before you! If you disagree with anything, please submit a recommendation for change.

If you choose not to follow this guidance, you will be setting a bad example to other riders who may not have your level of experience. Our objective is SAFETY, which promotes continued beach and waterway access. Always exercise good judgment and common sense while using these 10 simple guidelines. Fly safe!

- 1. Any beginning kiter or rider should have professional instruction or as a minimum, direct supervision from an experienced rider.
- 2. A safety release and leash must be attached to your body, prior to launching any waterlaunchable kite. If you're capable of landing multiple-spin jumps, it may be attached to your bar, but ONLY when well clear of shore.
- 3. Maintain a clear downwind area, allowing extra space when kite control might be compromised, such as when launching, landing, jumping, or maneuvering. If someone else crashes a kite on or near land, offer assistance in grounding that kite without reservation.
- 4. Yield to any pedestrian or swimmer, and to any watercraft that has the right-of-way. Do so immediately and with enough margin to avoid any possible contact with the kite or lines.
- 5. Grounded kites must be sufficiently weighted (sand, if available) to offset strong gusts. If a kite is left unattended, disabled by disconnecting all lines from one side.
- 6. Land kites with assistance whenever possible and offer assistance without reservation whenever possible, especially in populated or cluttered areas. If forced to self-recover, downing kites in shallow water is often safer than on land. In either case, ensure the entire downwind arc is clear.
- 7. Riders must yield to everyone when jumping, maneuvering, or riding on port tack (left hand forward).
- 8. Incoming riders give way to those launching.
- Avoid obstructing the way of others or cluttering any area with grounded kites, lines or boards (always wind up your lines).
- 10. After consideration has been given to the above, normal sailing rules apply.

Right-of-Way

Note: Right hand forward while riding is Starboard Tack, and generally has right-of-way. Left hand forward is Port Tack. (If you can easily put your right hand in your way, you generally have right-of-way)

- When two kiteboarders converge in a way that may lead to a collision, the kiteboarder on port tack must give way to the kiteboarder on starboard tack. Starboard tack has right of way in this situation.
- When two kiteboarders converge, and they are on the same tack, the kiteboarder most upwind must give way to the kiteboarder most downwind. The leeward kiteboarder has right of way in this situation.
- When two kiteboarders converge in a way that may lead to the kites colliding, the upwind kiteboarder must fly their kite as high as possible, and the downwind kiteboarder must fly their kite as low as possible.
- A kiteboarder must give way to anyone they are overtaking. The kiteboarder being overtaken has the right of way, but is responsible for maintaining course while being overtaken.
- Always give right of way to anyone who enters the 200' downwind safety zone.
- Jumping and transitioning / jibing riders give up their right-of-way to any other rider on a steady course. Always look ahead and behind before jumping, jibing, transitioning, etc.