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The American Kitefliers Association

INTRODUCTION

The International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) was conceived in 1996 to produce a user friendly rule book that could be used by fliers at competitions all over the world.

Initially we debated what was the best method of determining who is the best. After considerable discussion we decided we could not answer the question. As a result we have written a rule book that gives fliers, judges, and organisers a great level of choice and flexibility. The nine rules are sacrosanct and are unlikely to be changed. The guidelines can be changed as long as fliers have been given enough prior warning.

So, as examples, if an organiser feels there is a better way of determining who is the best precision flier or that the wind speed is not appropriate, then they may change the appropriate guideline. If the alteration is perceived to be good then others will copy it and, in time, the amended guideline will be accepted. If on the other hand the alteration is not acceptable then it will be discarded. As Darwin said, evolution is about survival of the fittest (or best).

This book only contains the definitions, rules and guidelines. It is meant to make the sport more appealing to fliers and spectators. It therefore does not go into detail about judging or compulsory figures. These will be issued in due course. Until they are published, the current method of scoring and the current compulsories remains valid.

The IRBC would like to thank all those, now too numerous to mention, who have helped develop the sport kite rules of the years. We would particularly like to thank those who have assisted and supported us in producing this new rule book. We are grateful to you, the fliers, judges, organisers and other officials for your patience in waiting for this and we hope that feel, as we do, that this rule book will take sport kite flying into the new millennium.

The International Rule Book Committee May 1998

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I. DEFINITIONS

- A. A Sanctioning Authority shall be any of the following organisations: All-Japan Sport Kite Association (AJSKA), American Kitefliers Association (AKA), and Sport Team and Competitive Kiting (STACK). Other organisations may be recognised as Sanctioning Authorities by a unanimous vote of the Sanctioning Authorities.
- B. The International Rule Book Committee ('IRBC') shall consist of two members from each of the Sanctioning Authorities.
- C. Skill levels shall be defined by each Sanctioning Authority but shall include, as a minimum, novice and masters levels. The method of determining a competitor's skill level shall be defined by each Sanctioning Authority.
- D. A discipline is an individual part of the competition e.g. Masters
 Dual-line Team Ballet or Experienced Multi-line Individual Precision.
- E. A class is one, two, or more specified disciplines at the same skill level; the same competitor must complete all the disciplines. e.g. Master Individual Dual-line Ballet plus Masters Individual Dual-line Precision combine to form the Masters Individual Dual-line Class.
- F. A competition consists of a number of disciplines all carried out at one location over one or more consecutive days.
- G. A team consists of at least three people.
- H. A **pair** consists of two people.
 - An individual is one person.
- J. A competitor is a team, pair, or individual, depending on the discipline.
- K. A dual-line kite has two independent control lines.
 - A multi-line kite has more than two independent control lines.
- M. A **train** is considered to be three or more kites flown as one.
- N. **Tails** are optional and are not considered part of the kite.
- O. The Supervisory Committee shall consist of the Event Organiser, a Judges' Representative (not the Chief Judge), and a Competitors' Representative. The Judges' Representative will be chosen by the judging staff; the Competitors' Representative will be chosen by the competitors at the Introductory Briefing. Only one Competitors' Representative may be chosen, but they may solicit advice from others as needed.

II. RULES

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These cannot be changed by competition officials under any circumstances.

If any rule or relevant guideline is broken then the competitor will be penalised. Where a specific penalty is not mentioned in the rule or guideline, then the Field Director, Head Judge, or Chief Judge may, at their discretion, warn or penalise the competitor, or disqualify that competitor from the discipline, class, or competition depending on the seriousness of the action. Disqualification from the competition requires approval of the Chief Judge.

A.

B. At all times, safety shall be paramount, unsafe flying will be penalised by the competitor being disqualified from a discipline or the entire competition at the discretion of the Head Judge. In addition, during the time between the first pilots meeting of any day and the close of competition for that day (as determined by the Chief Judge), if any competitor flies their kite(s) over the designated boundary, they

competitor flies their kite(s) over the designated boundary, they shall be disqualified from the discipline.

Any competitor moving their body over the designated boundary whilst competing shall be disqualified from the discipline.

- C. Competitors shall act in a sportsmanlike way at all times.
- D. There shall be a minimum of three judges for any discipline. One judge shall be the Head Judge. There shall be one Chief Judge of the competition who shall nominate the Head Judges for each discipline. The Chief Judge may be a Head Judge but cannot be a competitor at that competition.
- E. There shall be a Field Director for every discipline.
- F. Any official can delegate part of their duties (excluding judging) to another person.
- G. Competitors may not receive advice from other individuals while they are on the competition field during a discipline.
- H. If any competitor feels that they have been treated unfairly, they should protest to the Head Judge of the discipline within an appropriate amount of time. If the competitor is not satisfied with the Head Judge's response, they should refer the protest to the Chief Judge. If further action is required, the competitor should protest to the Supervisory Committee; at this stage, the protest must be in writing. If the protest is still not resolved to their satisfaction then the competitor may refer it, in writing, to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority.
- If a competitor or official feels that an official has abused their position or behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner, then they should complain to a member of the Supervisory Committee or, in writing, to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority. The Supervisory Committee can uphold the complaint and give the official a warning; in this case, the Supervisory Committee shall then send a written report to the Sanctioning Authority. The Sanctioning Authority may take appropriate action against the official; this might include banning them from being an official for a prescribed time.

J. PAIRS/TEAM MEMBER COMPOSITION

- Membership of pairs and teams must be registered with the appropriate Sanctioning Authority; the method of registration shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.
- Team composition can be different within a competition (e.g. between ballet and precision) and between competitions. Pairs composition may not be different within a competition, but may change between competitions.
- The following table indicates how many of the registered members may change for a particular competition and the minimum number of members that must participate in any discipline:

Registered	Maximum # of Members That Can Change	Minimum # of Members	
2	1	2	•
3	1	3	
4	2	3	
5	2	4	

6	3	5
7	3	6
Over 7	4	6

III GUIDELINES

These cannot be changed by competition officials unless competitors are notified of any changes, variations, or omissions at least thirty days in advance of the first day of the competition.

Introductory Briefing

At the start of a competition all competitors, judges and officials shall come together. As a minimum, the Chief Judge shall cover any specific rules and guidelines, go through the running order for the competition and answer any general questions concerning the competition. There should be sufficient time for the competitors to choose a Competitors' Representative. At the Chief Judge's discretion, introductory briefings may be held at the start of each day.

B. Discipline Briefing

Before any discipline starts, the Head Judge shall hold a briefing specific to that discipline. As a minimum, they should introduce the Judges, Line Judges, and Field Director for that discipline, explain the arrangements for staging in and staging out; announce the compulsory figures (where applicable), collect music for ballet, and answer any specific questions for the discipline.

C. Debriefing

At the end of a competition, all competitors, judges, and officials shall come together for a debriefing run by the Chief Judge. The purpose of the debriefing is to stimulate discussion between the various parties and thus enable recommendations to be made to improve future competitions. If requested by either the judges or any of the competitors, then a discipline debriefing will be held, run by the Head Judge.

Draw

The draw for the flight order of each discipline may either be done randomly in advance and clearly posted, or it can be done at the discipline briefing. If there is a conflict over timing, the flight order may be adjusted by the Chief Judge.

Competition Field

The area between the designated boundaries shall be at least the size set out below but preferably larger:

- for team and pair disciplines: 110 x 110m (360 ft.)
- for individual dual-line disciplines: 90 x 90m (295 ft.)
- for individual multi-line disciplines: 75 x 75m (245 ft.)

F. Staging In and Out

Adjacent to each flying field, there shall be two separate areas for staging in and out. It is solely the competitor's responsibility to be in the stage in area and awaiting the signal to move onto the field.

G. Calling "In" and "Out"

Precision: A competitor should announce the start of each compulsory by saying "In" and the end by saying "Out"; in addition, the competitor should announce the beginning of a technical routine or league style routine with "In" and the end with "Out".

Ballet: Competitors may call "In" and "Out" for the beginning and end of their routine; however, if no calls are made, the judges will consider the competitor "in" with the beginning of the music and "out" with the end.

H. Set-up Times

The Field Director will signal to the next competitor when they can enter the flying field. Teams have a maximum of five minutes, pairs have a maximum of four minutes, and individuals have a maximum of three minutes from the time of this signal to start their performance. In between compulsories the competitors have 45 seconds; in between compulsories and the technical routine they have ninety seconds. In all cases they should not start their performance until the Field Director has informed them that they may. If the prescribed time has expired and the Field Director has not informed them that they may start, they must start within 45 seconds of the Field Director informing them they may begin. If the Field Director has announced that they may start and the

competitors fails to start within the prescribed time, then the Field Director will announce 'In' on their behalf and the judges will score accordingly.

Balle

The ballet discipline is characterised by the interpretation of music; therefore a performance which is in major parts or entirely without music will not be considered to be ballet. The routine will be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of five minutes for pairs/teams and four minutes for individuals.

Music for Ballet: It is acceptable to have a signal prior to the beginning of the music. The music may be composed for the performance, may be an arrangement, or an existing piece. The music, however must be an entity and shall not consist of completely separate pieces just attached to one another. If different pieces of music are used they must be combined to give the impression of one entity.

The music should end naturally, not abruptly as if edited to meet time constraints.

Choreography: Choreography is the interpretation of selected music, a performance from the beginning to the end. There shall be a close relation between the music and the performance. The routine shall interpret the variations of the musical composition, such as dynamic, tempo, rhythm, originality (not necessarily meant to be spectacular), mood, creativity, variety, etc.

Execution: Execution is a measurement of the flying ability of the competitor and is judged with reference to their accuracy, control, timing, spacing, use of wind window as well as the complexity, daring, and technical difficulty of the routine.

Handing of Music: Tapes or CD's should be turned in during the discipline briefing; music should be cued and clearly labelled. Competitors can turn in up to three pieces of music but must tell the Field Director which piece they wish to use as soon as they enter the field. Live music may be accepted after consultation with the organiser and Chief Judge.

J. Precision

A precision discipline shall test the technical skills of the competitor; it consists of Compulsories and a Technical Routine in that order.

Compulsory Manoeuvres: Three compulsory figures testing different skills of the competitors are chosen on the day of the discipline by the Chief Judge from a maximum selection of six that must have been advised to the competitors at least thirty days in advance. The manoeuvres may be flown from either direction, following the description and any other information given in the compulsory book or any other specific information given for the competition. If the competitor is reversing the direction of a manoeuvre, they must inform the Field Director prior to starting all figures; failure to so do will result in a zero score for that figure.

The **Technical Routine** is between two and five minutes for pairs/teams and between one and three minutes for individuals. The competitor should aim to present a full, flowing routine which demonstrates the technical skill of the competitor. For judging purposes, it is separated into Execution and Content. *Execution:* Accuracy, control, timing, spacing, use of wind window, complexity, technically demanding and daring manoeuvres, etc.

Content: Tempo, rhythm, originality (not necessarily meant to be spectacular), creativity, variety, etc.

K. League Style Precision

This can be used as an alternative to precision. The competitors will be informed of four compulsory figures at least thirty days in advance of the competition. The competitor must include these figures in the order in which they are given in a technical routine of minimum thirty seconds to maximum four minutes. Transition moves from one compulsory to the next are the choice of the competitor, who should attempt to be creative in planning their routine.

Wind Speed Regulation

Competitors are expected to fly in wind speeds between the following levels:

 Minimum
 Maximum

 Novice
 7 kph (4 mph)
 30 kph (18 mph)

 Masters
 4 kph (2 mph)
 45 kph (28 mph)

Speeds have been approximately converted from kph to mph - the figure in kph takes precedence. Regulations for other skill levels will be defined by the relevant Sanctioning Authority.

Wind Checks

- At any time before calling 'In' a competitor may request a wind check; they
 must still comply with other rules and guidelines while the wind check is
 taking place. The Field Director will measure the wind for a period of ten
 seconds. If the wind is not within the prescribed ranges, then the
 competitor does not need to call 'In', and a wind recess will be called.
- Up to two minutes into their technical or ballet routine (one minute for individual precision), a competitor may request a wind check, although they must continue flying while the wind check is taking place. The Field Director will measure the wind for a period of ten seconds; if the wind is not within the prescribed ranges then the competitor may stop and a wind recess will be called.
 - The length of the wind recess will be announced by the Field Director. The competitor should be ready to start flying within 45 seconds of the end of the wind recess.

N. 45-Second Guideline

- If a competitor crashes and is unable to relaunch within 45 seconds then
 their performance will be deemed to have finished. For the purpose of
 this guideline, if one member of a team or pair crashes and while they are
 on the ground additional kite(s) crash, then all members must relaunch
 within 45 seconds from the time the first kite crashed.
- If the kite(s) are not relaunched within 45 seconds and the original crash took place before minimum time (or before completing the 4 figures for league style precision) then the competitor shall score zero. If the original crash took place after minimum time then there will be a penalty.

) Heats

If there are more than fifteen competitors in a discipline, it may be necessary to have heats. The number of heats shall be such that no individual heat has more than fifteen competitors and that, as much as possible, there are the same number of competitors in each heat. The Chief Judge and Organiser shall determine how many competitors from each heat will qualify for the final providing that there are no more than fifteen competitors in the final and announce this (if relevant) at the introductory briefing.

P. Extreme Weather

When the Chief Judge feels that the weather may lead to dangerous or unfair competition in a particular discipline (e.g. when there is low or high wind conditions, heavy rain, lightening), they may take appropriate action. The action can include, but is not limited to: announcing a wind recess, amending the wind speed regulation, cancelling the event, enlarging the field, reducing the compulsories or eliminating the technical routine.

Where appropriate the Chief Judge should call for a special briefing to explain the circumstances to competitors and ensure that the competitors are clear as to the revised rules and guidelines for the discipline.

O Fauinment

Competitors may fly any safe dual- or multi-line kites relevant to the discipline. They may change their kites between parts of a discipline or a wind recess providing they comply with the regulations as to set-up times. They may mend their kites during a performance although the 45-second regulation will still apply. A broken line must be replaced, not tied.

R. Head Sets

Teams and pairs may use headsets to communicate among themselves providing they do not interfere with the communication systems used by the officials, organisers or local authorities and comply with relevant local laws.

S. Disqualification

In the event that a competitor is disqualified they are expected to leave the field as soon as possible. Any protest or discussion shall take place after the discipline has finished.

T. Launch Crews

During their routine, competitors are allowed to have assistance from a number of persons up to the number of people flying or up to two persons for an individual. The Launch Crew is allowed to have replacement kites available within the flying field in the case of an equipment failure. They may not bring additional equipment into the arena after the competitors have started the discipline.

If a competitor does not have their own Launch Crew, then another competitor will act as Launch Crew; the method of choosing the Launch Crew will be described at the introductory briefing.

Line JudgesThere should be a minimum of two Line Judges for any discipline.

Pit Boss

A Pit Boss will be provided as needed based on discipline size and skill level.