KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

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PROCEDURES FOR THE COMPETITION

PRECOMPETITION STAFF MEETING

A preflight meeting of judges and field personnel will be held in order to:

- 1. Introduce contest officials.
- 2. Confirm schedule of competitive categories.
- 3. Answer or clarify any questions about the scoring or judging.
- 4. Explain field layouts and flow of action.
- 5. Announce last-minute changes to the schedule, process, or fields.
- 6. Review and gain practice in applying the judging criteria to create consistent numerical scores.

REGISTRATION

All competitors must register in advance of the competition for a particular category or kite class. Competitors may pre-register before the day of the competition, but they are not required to do so. All persons intending to compete in a specific competitive category should report to the Registration Desk at least one-half hour prior to the scheduled competition for that category.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONTESTANTS

Fliers must report to the Registration desk where they will be given competition numbers to be prominently displayed on the kitefliers throughout the competition. Fliers must fill out registration forms before being allowed to compete. Fliers without proper ID numbers will not be allowed on the field of competition.

SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES

Fliers in each category will be directed to queue up in the staging area prior to the judging of that category. Fliers will be responsible for checking the schedule to confirm the judging times of their categories.

Flight Judging

Judging will begin with a mass ascension of all kites in that kite category. All competitors in that kite category must participate in the mass ascension. While kites are in flight, the Kite Flight/Flight Handling Judges and the Aesthetic Visual Flight Appeal Judges will score the kites according to the scoring methods described in Chapter 6.

When the Flight Judges are ready to judge the entrants, they will inform the Field Marshall. The Field Marshall will direct fliers to the correct flying area, assign launch assistants if needed, and guide the fliers through the flying phase of competition. Fliers should make sure the Field Marshall has noted their competition number and knows when they are ready to launch. The Field Marshall will inform fliers and judges when timing begins and ends. The Field Marshall will then direct fliers to exit the flying area. Fliers should retrieve their kites as quickly as possible and exit to prepare the flying area for the next kite category. At the discretion of the judges, **kites which do not achieve minimum flight standards (see Chapter 2, item number 5) may not be allowed to continue on to the ground judging.** After flight judging, the fliers should proceed promptly to the ground judging area. Kites are to be brought to the judges for ground judging; judges will not search for missing kites or kitefliers!

Ground Judging

The ground judging criteria of a category will take place following the flight portion of that category. Structural Design and Craftsmanship Judges will examine kites in the ground judging area. They will record fliers' scores on judging sheets for each kite category. Fliers will then be directed to the Event Documentation area.

Event Documentation (Optional)

A photographer will take a picture of each flier and their kite. Each competitor's Competition Number should be clearly visible in the photograph. Photos from this process will be available from AKA's Archives for use by newsletters and magazines.

WIND, WEATHER, AND FLYING CONDITIONS

Weather conditions can significantly alter what was planned to be a smooth and timely kiting event. Events may be delayed or even canceled because of weather. If an event is canceled, no awards will be issued. Every effort will be made to complete the event; if necessary, the event may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Event Coordinator. If the wind drops or rises to speeds unreasonable for successful flight, judging may be postponed until a more favorable time. If, in the opinion of the judges, participants should be able to fly their kites, they will be instructed to fly. Lack of proper winds will be taken into consideration.

If the wind speed is very low, a recess for Flight Judging may be called. If the winds remain calm for an extended period of time, the judges can ask the contestants to use long-line launches and to fly their kites as best they can. Judges will take these conditions into consideration and must remember that, if the winds increase later, subsequent fliers will be performing under more advantageous conditions. The Head Judge should have a wind sensing device and should be able to give the Flight Judging panel a wind speed reading at any time upon request.