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AKA APPENDIX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT KITE RULE BOOKS

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Change History:

I. 2004-04-09

Added a sentence to the third paragraph under Section II. A. that says that all of the results for an AKA sanctioned competition count in the competition year in which the competition ends.

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II. INTRODUCTION

This book provides additional guidance for AKA-specific events and policies beyond those provided in the International Rule Books (IRBs). The goal is to provide, in one place, clarification and AKA updates to material included in the IRBs.

When researching specific topics within the IRBs, it is recommended that you first review the most recent appendix, then the IRB. Updates to this appendix will be published in Kiting and on the AKA website. This appendix (and any future revision) supersedes any conflicting information in the IRBs for competitions where the AKA is the only sanctioning authority. It is the competitor's responsibility to acquire the most current version of this document.

AKA Sport Kite Committee

July 2002

III. CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE STANDINGS

A. Overview

• The AKA Conferences are designed to promote competition at regional levels and reduce the cost of competing on a national basis. The AKA recognizes sport kite competitors in specific geographical areas. Points are awarded at AKAsanctioned events, and conference results are announced at the end of the season. Winners from each conference are invited to represent their conference in competitions at the AKA Convention Grand Nationals.

- The AKA Conferences are coordinated by the Festivals and Competitions Committee. Each conference is governed by a conference commissioner.
- The conference season runs from August 1st to July 31st. All of the results for an AKA sanctioned competition count in the competition year in which the competition ends.
- The conferences are a means to rank competitors within the conference and select competitors to invite to compete at the convention.

B. Conferences

1. The U.S. Is Divided into 6 Conferences:

Northeast Regions 1 and 2
 Southeast Regions 3 and 4
 Midwest Regions 5 and 6

Central Regions 7 and 8 plus Montana

Northwest Regions 9 (less Utah and Montana) and 10

Pacific Regions 11 and 12 plus Utah

2. Competing in a Conference

Competitors generally compete in the conference in which they live. However, a competitor may elect to compete in a different conference by notifying the conference commissioner of the elected conference. Competitors living outside the U.S. may similarly choose to compete in one of the 6 conferences. They can earn an invitation to the convention as a representative of that conference. In doing so, however, they give up any rights to represent their international region at the convention.

Declarations of changing conferences must be made to the conference commissioner of the new conference by February 15th of each competition year.

3. Event Assignation to a Conference

A competition may petition to be included in a conference other than where it is physically located. The Festivals and Competition Committee must approve the petition. Competitions will be listed in only one conference.

C. Rankings

1. Ranking System

The AKA established a ranking system for sport kite competitors in 1993. This system uses a formula based primarily on how many other competitors one beat during the year to determine the competitor's overall ranking within his or her conference.

There are 3 components to the score:

- In-conference conference points
- Out-of-conference conference points
- In-conference attendance points

2. Assigning Points

At each competition competitors receive 1 conference point for each competitor they beat, inclusive of themselves. For example, in a competition with 10 competitors, first place receives 10 conference points and last place receives 1 conference point. If the competition is in the same conference the competitor participates in, the competitor earns in-conference conference points. Otherwise, the points are considered out-of-conference conference points. Conference points are earned in both qualifying heats and finals.

Two in-conference attendance points are given for each competition attended in the competitor's local conference.

The competitor's conference score consists of the sum of the best 5 competition points plus all the in-conference attendance points earned. Of the best 5 competition scores, a maximum of 2 of these scores can be from competitions outside the competitor's conference.

3. Example

Competitor X competes 9 times, receiving the following points:

- 1) 20 in-conference points (12 points in qualifying heat + 8 points in the finals = 20 points)
- 2) 5 in-conference points
- 3) 2 in-conference points
- 4) 1 in-conference point
- 5) 1 in-conference point
- 6) 1 in-conference point
- 7) 15 out-of-conference points
- 8) 13 out-of-conference points
- 9) 10 out-of-conference points

X's conference score would be 67: 55 (20 + 15 + 13 + 5 + 2) plus 12 (inconference competition attendance points, 6×2). The 10 points earned at the ninth competition are not included because only 2 out-of-conference competition scores are allowed.

4. Conference Ranking Tiebreaker

The only tiebreaker is the comparison of conference points in the top 5 scores (2 of which may be from out-of-conference events).

D. Eligibility for Ranking

- Participation in the AKA Conference Rankings is limited to AKA members in good standing.
- One's ranking and eligibility for an invitation to the AKA Grand Nationals in each and every discipline will be valid under either of the following circumstances:
 - 1. You compete in the discipline at least once in your conference.
 - 2. You compete in the discipline only out-of-conference and there are no other competitors in your conference that competed in that discipline in-conference that would be denied an invitation because of your ranking.
- Competitors can earn points up to and including the date when their membership lapses—45 days after their expiration date (see AKA by-laws Article III, section 7). Any competitions attended during a lapse in membership will not count toward conference ranking. For pairs and teams, all members of the pair or team must be members in good standing at the time of the competition.

E. Convention Grand National Invitations

1. U.S. Invitations

Convention Grand National Invitations are extended each year to the top finishers in each conference. The top three places in each discipline will receive invitations to compete at the convention. The next two places (4th and 5th) are alternates if, for some reason, one or more of the top three finishers cannot attend.

2. International Invitations

International regions are permitted one invitation, per discipline, to the convention. Each of the 4 International Liaisons determines who will represent their region at the convention. Competitors living outside the U.S. who have declared a domestic conference (see "Competing in a Conference" above) are not eligible.

F. Reporting Competition Results

The chief judge of the competition must report the results of the competition to the appropriate sport kite conference commissioner no later than 7 days following the competition.

The report will include:

- All places, 1st through last, must be reported.
- Actual skill levels for competitors in open disciplines. If a discipline mixes competitors of different classes—for example, Open Individual Multi-line Ballet the competitor's actual skill level must be indicated on the report next to the competitor's name.

• A list of team and pair members must also be included with the results for team and pair disciplines.

• A list of judges for each discipline must be included.

Every attempt should be made to break ties using the criteria indicated in section VI.G. Competitors who are disqualified from an event will be shown as taking last place. Competitors who scratch (i.e., do not fly at all) are not to be included.

IV. OPEN INDIVIDUAL FREESTYLE RULES

Open Individual Freestyle will follow the same general rules as ballet, except changes noted in this section. Wind speeds follow those of Team Train. Props are allowed. Competitors may fly any number of kites. Judging will encompass 4 components: program elements, style, performance, and audience appeal. Judges will score the first three components, a panel of audience members will judge audience appeal.

A. Scoring Components

Program elements 30%
Style 30%
Performance 20%
Audience appeal 20%

B. Time Limits/Wind Speeds

1. Setup Time Limit

Maximum of 5 minutes

2. Performance Time Limits

- Minimum of 3 minutes
- Maximum of 5 minutes

3. Wind Speeds

Wind maximums and minimums follow those of Team Train.

C. Components

1. Program Elements

The competitor is allowed to use music and assorted props to create a cohesive thematic routine. In the judging of program elements, consideration is given to performance. The effectiveness of each element is judged according to how it contributes to the whole routine. When music is used, it may convey a story line or set an appropriate background for the performance. When music is used successfully, such that it is considered a part of the performance, it will add to the score under Program Elements. In all cases, elements of the program will be determined by how they add to the value of a performance, by supporting a theme.

2. Style

Style is defined as the way in which a performance is presented. It is made up of 3 components: choreography, execution, and cohesiveness. Style is the interpretation of the theme: How the competitor interacts with the program elements, how the elements are put together, the control the competitor displays, and the relationship to theme are the components of judging. Style molds the elements into a program.

3. Performance

Performance is the total visual impact of the routine. The clarity, the statement, the theme, and how they are expressed are the components of judging here. Performance measures the entertainment value of a routine. Overall impact is considered; that is, the routine is judged on the whole. What does a spectator see and feel? The emotional impact, the creative expression, the performance. The cumulative result of combining the style components with the program elements.

4. Audience Appeal

a) Entertainment

An audience panel scores the performance for excitement, taking into consideration how interesting and captivating a performance is.

Scoring ranges from Excellent to Poor.

b) Theme

The panel grades the routine on whether or not it has a recognizable theme. A performance might convey a message or demonstrate a new style of flying or center around one idea.

Scoring ranges from Excellent to Poor.

c) Clarity

The panel evaluates how well the theme is conveyed and whether the competitor has expressed the ideas clearly within the routine.

Scoring ranges from Excellent to Poor.

V. OPEN INDIVIDUAL INDOOR RULES

A. Scoring Components

- Choreography 60%
- Execution 25%
- Entertainment value 15%

B. Time Limits

1. Setup Time Limit

Maximum of 3 minutes

2. Performance Time Limits

- Minimum of 2 minutes
- Maximum of 4 minutes

C. Component Highlights

1. Choreography

The composition or flow of the routine. How well transitions from one program element to the next are made. How well the routine interprets the music, its tempo and mood. The effectiveness of the music in the development of the routine.

2. Execution

How well the competitor controls the kite throughout the routine (control). How well kite actions are set to the music (timing). How well the competitor exhibits maneuvers specific to indoor flying: up-and-overs, floats, throws and catches (3-D), slack-line maneuvers (axels, flat spins, etc.), use of the 360-degree window, etc.

3. Entertainment Value

The creativity and imagination demonstrated in the use of selected kite movements or actions, as well as the competitor's movements or actions. "Total visual impact" of the routine.

4. Other Rules

The flying area is designated at the time of the event. The area can include walls and ceilings if they do not present a safety issue; spectators should be outside the flying area.

- Kites can have any number of lines.
- Different kites may be used throughout a performance; kites may be single or stacked.
- The same house lighting will be used for all competitors.
- Other than mobility aids for people with disabilities, the use of wheeled apparatus is not allowed.

- No props are allowed.
- The competitor may not have a ground crew.

5. Penalties

- Flying outside the designated area will result in disqualification.
- Incidental contact with floors, walls, or ceiling is not penalized unless it
 adversely affects the routine; otherwise, penalties are assessed as usual
 following the standard outdoor ballet rules, including the 45-second rule and
 improper endings.

6. Guidelines

- Judges should be seated together to facilitate communication.
- Multiple class divisions are not required at this time, given the current participation level; however, this may change as indoor competition becomes more popular and organizers find more venues.
- Standard personnel should be used (judges, field director, pit boss).
- The field director should stand with the competitor to communicate with the sound operator, then move just outside the flying area during the performance.
- Judges and the field director monitor out-of-bounds and any other safety violations.
- The staging area should be outside the designated flying area.

VI. INTERNATIONAL RULE BOOK ADDENDA

A. Wind Speeds

The following table indicates minimum and maximum wind speeds for classes not covered in the International Sport Kite Rules:

1. Experienced

Minimum: 2.5 mph Maximum: 28.0 mph

2. Train

Minimum: 4.4 mph Maximum: 18.6 mph

B. Skill Levels, Classes, and Disciplines

Competitors are not required to compete in all performance types (ballet, precision) within a class. A competitor may not compete in different classes where the kite type and competitor type are the same. For example, one cannot compete in individual dual-line disciplines at different skill levels. However, one may compete at different skill levels in individual dual-line and individual multi-line disciplines.

1. Skill Levels

a) Novice

Beginners in sport kite competition who do not feel ready to compete in a higher class. A Novice may compete as a member of a pair or team.

b) Experienced

Competitors who have a lot of competition experience and/or who have attained a higher skill level than the majority of competitors in the Novice class.

c) Masters

Competitors who have the necessary skills and experience to compete against the very best.

d) Open

Open to all competitors, regardless of their skill level. For example, Open Team Train or Open Individual Freestyle.

The open designation may also be used by competition organizers to combine disciplines from two or more skill levels when the expected number of competitors is small and doesn't justify running the disciplines separately. Organizers should attempt to schedule the competitors by class and run the lower classes first. Separate compulsory figures for open precision disciplines are recommended.

2. Classes

A class is defined as a combination of skill level, competitor type, and kite type.

Skill Level	Competitor Type	Kite Type
Novice	Individual	Dual-line
Experienced	Individual	Dual-line
Masters	Individual	Dual-line
Experienced	Pair	Dual-line
Masters	Pair	Dual-line
Experienced	Team	Dual-line
Masters	Team	Dual-line
Experienced	Individual	Multi-line
Masters	Individual	Multi-line
Open	Individual	Freestyle
Open	Team	Train

In addition to the outdoor classes above, the AKA recognizes Open Individual Indoor Unlimited as a separate class. Freestyle events do not specify a kite type.

3. Disciplines

A discipline is defined as the combination of a class and a performance type, either ballet or precision. Only the following disciplines are currently recognized by the AKA. These are the disciplines run at the AKA Convention Grand Nationals.

Discipline	Acronym
Novice Individual Dual-line Ballet	NIB
Novice Individual Dual-line Precision	NIP
Experienced Individual Dual-line Ballet	EIB
Experienced Individual Dual-line Precision	EIP
Experienced Individual Multi-line Ballet	EMB
Experienced Individual Multi-line Precision	EMP
Experienced Pairs Dual-line Ballet	EPB
Experienced Pairs Dual-line Precision	EPP
Experienced Team Dual-line Ballet	ETB
Experienced Team Dual-line Precision	ETP
Masters Individual Dual-line Ballet	MIB
Masters Individual Dual-line Precision	MIP
Masters Individual Multi-line Ballet	MMB
Masters Individual Multi-line Precision	MMP
Masters Pairs Dual-line Ballet	MPB
Masters Pairs Dual-line Precision	MPP
Masters Team Dual-line Ballet	MTB
Masters Team Dual-line Precision	MTP
Open Individual Freestyle Ballet	OIF

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited Ballet	OIIU
Open Team Dual-line Train Ballet	OTT

C. Precision

Event organizers are encouraged to use the IRBC compulsory figures because they will be used at the AKA Grand Nationals and international competitions. However, event organizers are free to chose any figures they wish so long as they are made available to fliers within the specified time frame.

D. Pair and Team Registration and Make Up

Pairs and teams must register their base members with their AKA sport kite conference commissioner. Registration before the first competition in which the team or pair competes is preferred, but registration information must be received no later than 7 days after the first competition in which the team or pair competes.

One cannot compete on more than one pair and one team in the same discipline at the same competition. For example, multi-line pairs and teams are considered separately from dual-line pairs and teams, as is team train.

E. Moving Up - Moving Down

1. Moving by Class

Competitors move up and down by class, not by discipline. A competitor may therefore be required to move up from Experienced Dual-line to Masters Dual-line, but unless the competitor meets the move up requirements for Experienced Multi-line, there is no required class change in Multi-line.

2. Moving Up

In each conference, the top competitors (three for novice and one for experienced) with at least 15 points, excluding in-conference attendance points, (as reported on the AKA website at the end of the competition season) should move up to the next skill level at the beginning of the next competition season.

Any competitor who meets the above requirement at the end of the current competition season and has also met the requirement in either of the previous two seasons must move up to the next higher skill level at the beginning of the next competition season.

A competitor may elect to move up at any time.

3. Moving Down

Master skill level competitors that do not place in the top three in any discipline of a class at any competition during a competition season may move down to the experienced skill level in that class at the beginning of the next competition season.

F. Music

The term "music" is to be interpreted in the broadest possible way.

G. Discipline Score Tiebreakers

When two or more competitors are tied after the initial tabulations, the following calculations will be applied in order to break the tie, stopping at the point where a tie no longer exists. If the competition is not ignoring the highest and lowest score for each component, the so-called 3-of-5-judge method, ignore the first round in each procedure below.

1. Precision

a) First round - using three scores.

Tiebreaker 1: Use average total compulsories score.

Tiebreaker 2: Use average technical execution component score.

b) Second round - add in scores previously ignored, if any.

Tiebreaker 3: Use total score.

Tiebreaker 4: Use average total compulsories score.

Tiebreaker 5: Use average technical execution component score.

c) Record scores as a tie.

2. Ballet

a) First round - using three scores.

Tiebreaker 1: Use average total choreography score.

b) Second round - add in scores previously dropped, if any.

Tiebreaker 2: Use total score.

Tiebreaker 3: Use average total choreography score.

c) Record scores as a tie.

H. Boundary Disqualification

For a competitor to be disqualified for flying a kite or moving one's body outside the outer boundary, the infraction must be witnessed and reported by a discipline or competition official. Specifically, the discipline officials are the judges, the field director, the line judges, and the pit boss. The competition officials are the chief judge, the competitors' representative, the judges' representative, and safety marshals, if designated.

I. Penalty Accumulation

Only one penalty should be assessed as a result of any one occurrence (crash, exceeding maximum time, etc.) For example, if exceeding the maximum time contributes to an improper ending, the judges assess only one penalty (for exceeding maximum time). The same holds true if the competitor crashes the kite and can't relaunch in time to have a proper ending. However, if the competitor crashes, then recovers, then fails to end properly, two penalties are assessed.

J. Requests for Change or Clarification

Anyone who wishes to request a change or clarification of rules should contact the AKA Sport Kite Committee.

K. Setup Times

At no time will a competitor have less than 45 seconds to start after receiving permission from the field director. If the judges are ready with more than 45 seconds remaining in the competitors setup time, no additional time is allotted.

Indoor Score Sheet

Event:		Judge:		
Competitor:				
		Notes	Score	
Choreography	60%			
Execution	25%			
Entertainment Value	15%			
	<u>'</u>			
Competitor:				
		Notes	Score	
Choreography	60%			
Execution	25%			
Entertainment Value	15%			
	1		-	
Competitor:				
Competitor:		Notes	Score	
Choreography	60%			
Execution	25%			
Entertainment Value	15%			