

## KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

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## MODIFICATIONS TO THESE RULES FOR COMPETITIONS AT LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENTS

Event Coordinators of local or regional events may wish to simplify some of the procedures used for AKA's National Kitemakers' Competitions for use in local or regional events. We suggest that these Event Coordinators review the following areas in designing their competitions:

- judges and field staff,
- competitive categories, and
- classes of competitors.

### JUDGES AND FIELD STAFF

In AKA's National Kitemakers' Competitions, there will usually be ten judges, five of which will judge each of the four judging criteria: flight, visual appearance, structural design, and craftsmanship. In local or regional events with fewer competitors, fewer judges may be used. If there are fewer than 20 contestants, four judges could be used, each of whom would judge all of the four judging criteria. The scores of each contestant would then be derived from the average scores given by all four judges. With 20 to 60 contestants, six judges could be used, with three recording scores for each of the four criteria. With more than 60 contestants, the event organizers should consider using the full complement of ten judges and using the procedures employed by AKA's National Kitemakers' Competitions.

### COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES

In local or regional events with fewer than 80 competitors, the event organizers should consider using fewer competitive kite categories than used in AKA's National Kitemakers' Competitions. For smaller competitions, event organizers should consider using the following categories:

- flat or bowed kites,
- partially flexible kites with spars in only one plane (such as deltas and delta derivatives, sled kites, Hewlett flex kites, etc.)
- fully flexible or "soft" kites with no spars at all (such as parafoils or bullet kites), rigid frame or cellular kites (such as box kites, stars, facets, and the like),
- trains and centipedes,
- multi-line sport kites, and

- an open category for entrants that do not easily fit within the above classes (such as arch trains and ribbons, multi-line figure or innovative kites) or for kites in any of the above categories where there were not sufficient entrants to hold a competition.

It is preferable to have at least three competitors in a class of kites to hold a competition in that class, but local event organizers are free to set their own requirements for minimum numbers of competitors.

Event organizers should also consider adding categories of special local interest or significance, which might include airplane kites, eddys, fighters, figure kites, historic reproductions, rokkakus, or rotor kites. Categories should only be added if enough competitors (three or more) are expected to be able to conduct a real competition within that particular kite class.

Special competitions that may but do not necessarily focus on kitemaking skills — such as largest, smallest, most unusual or unique, funniest, made from the least expensive materials — are often popular awards at local kite festivals. Other competitive events can include altitude sprints, fighter kite battles, rokkaku battles, and other events. Noncompetitive awards — Tree Food, outstanding disaster, Wow!, most impressive tangle, best sport, and so on — are also popular at local festivals. See *The AKA Manual on Kiting Events* for further suggestions and ideas.

## CLASSES OF COMPETITORS

Event Coordinators of local or regional events may wish to allow for classes of competition, ranked in terms of experience and skill, in order to encourage as many new kitemakers as possible to enter the competition. Use of classes also provides a means for training new judges in a local area. This is an option that should be considered based on local interests and considerations. AKA's National Kitemakers' Competition does not use the following classifications.

Each of the competitive kite categories might be divided into one or more classes so that kite builders with similar kitemaking abilities and experience are able to compete with one another.

- Master Kitemakers:** A master kitemaker has won significant awards at previous kitemakers' competitions or they often build kites for sale. The kites of Master kite makers are innovative in design, artistic in appearance, and may approach perfection in every aspect.
- Kitemakers:** An experienced kitebuilder is one who has designed and constructed enough kites to progress beyond the Novice class. The experienced kitemaker has previously entered kites in Kitemakers' competitions.
- Novice Kitemakers:** A novice kitemaker is one who has recently started to build and design kites and one who wants the initial experience of having a handmade kite design, craftsmanship, appearance and aerodynamics judged.

**NOTE:** A Novice kitemaker who has won a Kitemakers' contest is expected to enter in the Experienced Class. An Experienced kitemaker who has won a Kitemakers' contest is expected to enter in the Master Kitemaker class after a one year of competition in this class.

Once a kitemaker wins any contest with a particular kite, they may not enter that kite in the same Kitemakers' contest in subsequent years.

The class of a kite builder is a personal assessment of one's own ability. Class determination is therefore up to the entrant and stands on the **HONOR SYSTEM**, but is subject to challenge by other contestants or the judging staff. In the event of questions concerning the flier's correct competitive class, the final decision shall be made by the Head Judge.