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The American Kitefliers Association

AKA APPENDIX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT KITE RULE BOOKS

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Change History:

2006-07-31

Cleaned up minor errors in grammar, capitalization, and spelling throughout.

Removed all mention of ticks and crashes throughout.

Replaced all references to Open Individual Freestyle (OIF) with Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited (OIOU).

In Section II.C.2, clarified the assignment of points in heats and finals.

In Section II.C.5, clarified the competitor ranking system.

In Section V A. created a max upper wind limit.

2004-07-29

Made a variety of changes to the Indoor rules regarding field crew, the nature of ticks, the role of the field director; some other rewordings were done to clarify other points.

Added paragraph L (Multiple Kites) to Section V (International Rule Book Addenda).

Minor editorial changes.

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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I. 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

II. CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE STANDINGS

A. Overview

1) 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 AKA-sanctioned 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.
2) The AKA conferences are coordinated by the Festivals and Competitions Committee. Each conference is governed by a conference commissioner.
3) 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.
4) 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:

a)	Northeast	Regions 1 and 2
b)	Southeast	Regions 3 and 4
c)	Midwest	Regions 5 and 6
d)	Central	Regions 7 and 8 plus Montana
e)	Northwest	Regions 9 (less Utah and Montana) and 10
f)	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 Competitions 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:

a) In-conference conference points

b) Out-of-conference conference points

c) 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. For example, a competitor who places 2nd out of 8 in heat 1, and 1st out of 6 in the final, earns 13 (7 + 6) conference points. A competitor who takes 4th place out of 8 in heat 1 and does not advance to the final earns 5 conference points

Two in-conference attendance points are awarded for each competition attended in the competitor's local conference. Regardless of whether the competitor competes in a heat and the final, or just in a heat, only two in-conference attendance points are awarded for the discipline

The competitor's conference score consists of the sum of the best 5 competition scores 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 (in-conference 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

1) Participation in the AKA conference rankings is limited to AKA members in good standing.
2) Competitors with no in-conference points will be ranked *after* competitors with in-conference points. For example, here's the correct way to rank the following fliers:

Place	Flier Name	In-Conf Points	In-Conf Events	Out-of-Conf Points	Total Points
1	Competitor A	4	2	0	6
2	Flier B	3	2	0	5
3	Competitor C	2	2	0	4
4	Flier D	1	2	0	3
5	Travel Dude A	0	0	18	18
6	Travel Dude B	0	0	12	12

3) 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 must include the following:

1) All places, 1st through last.
2) 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.
3) A list of team and pair members included with the results for team and pair disciplines.
4) The name of the judges and field director for each discipline.

Every attempt should be made to break ties using the criteria indicated in section V.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.

III. OPEN INDIVIDUAL OUTDOOR UNLIMITED RULES

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited follows the same general rules as ballet, except for changes noted in this section. Wind speeds follow those of Novice and 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 score the first three components; a panel of audience members judges 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 Novice and Team Train.

C. Component Highlights

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? Emotional impact and creative expression are considered in evaluating 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.

IV. OPEN INDIVIDUAL INDOOR UNLIMITED RULES

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited follows the same general rules as outdoor competition, except for changes noted in this section. Judging encompasses 3 components: choreography, execution, and entertainment value.

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.

D. Ground Crew

The competitor may have a ground crew under the following conditions:

1) A maximum of 2 ground crew members are allowed.
2) The ground crew may assist the competitor with kite setup.

3) The ground crew must leave the flying area before the performance begins.
4) The ground crew may re-enter the flying area only to remove a kite or kites that will no longer be used in the performance. Any kite so removed may not be used again during the performance.
5) The competitor is responsible for the actions of ground crew. Any interference by ground crew with the performance shall not be grounds for protest. Any penalty for rule infractions by ground crew shall be assessed against the competitor.

E. 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.

1) Kites can have any number of lines.
2) Different kites may be used throughout a performance; kites may be single or stacked.
3) The same house lighting will be used for all competitors.
4) Other than mobility aids for people with disabilities, the use of any wheeled apparatus is not allowed.
5) No props are allowed.
6) At a minimum, discipline personnel must include judges and a field director, and optionally a pit boss.

F. Penalties

Flying outside the designated area will result in disqualification.

G. Guidelines

1) Judges should be seated together to facilitate communication.
2) The AKA does not recognize multiple class divisions in Indoor Individual Ballet. For purposes of ranking, all results are to be reported as Open class.
3) The field director should stand with the competitor to communicate with the sound operator. When the performance begins, the field director should move to one of the corners formed by the hard boundary lines, and monitor these lines for any violations on the part of the competitor.
4) Judges and the field director monitor out-of-bounds and any other safety violations.
5) The staging area should be outside the designated flying area.

V. 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. Team Train

Minimum: 4.4 mph Maximum: 18.6 mph

If the experienced or master class upper wind limit of 28 mph is amended by the Chief Judge, the maximum upper limit then becomes 35 mph and cannot be further amended.

If the novice class upper wind limit of 18.6 mph is amended by the Chief Judge, the maximum upper limit then becomes 24 mph and cannot be further amended.

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 Outdoor Unlimited.

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	Outdoor Unlimited
Open	Team	Train

In addition to the outdoor classes above, the AKA recognizes Open Individual Indoor Unlimited as a separate class. Outdoor Unlimited 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 Outdoor Unlimited	OIOU

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 choose any figures they wish, as long as they are made available to fliers within the specified time frame.

D. Pair and Team Registration and Makeup

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 may not compete on more than one pair and one team in the same discipline at the same competition. Note that multi-line pairs and teams are considered separately from dual-line pairs and teams, as is Team Train.

Team Train consists of two or more members.

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

Competitors at the masters skill level 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.

I. Penalty Accumulation

Only one penalty should be assessed as a result of any one occurrence (for example, exceeding maximum time). For instance, if exceeding the maximum time contributes to an improper ending, the judges assess only one penalty (for exceeding maximum time).

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 competitor's setup time, no additional time is allotted.

L. Multiple Kites

Competitors may use more than one kite (stacks) in dual-line and multi-line disciplines; however, all kites must be controlled as a single entity. Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited and Open Individual Indoor Unlimited are exceptions to this rule. In those disciplines, multiple kites may be employed and controlled separately.

M. Overall Ranking

Overall award for a skill level should be tallied only if there was an average of 5 or more competitors in both ballet and precision disciplines.

Recognition of overall champion is strongly encouraged, but physical awards are fully at the discretion of the organizer(s).

N. Judging

The "3 of 5 judge" method is allowed. When 5 judges are used, the high and low scores can be discarded with the average of the remaining 3 scores being the final score. If 3 or 4 judges are used, all the judges scores will be averaged.

O. Mix

The combining of precision and ballet into one discipline known as MIX will not be used in AKA competition. Precision and ballet will remain separate disciplines.

Indoor Score Sheet

Event: _____ **Judge**: _____

Competitor: _____

Notes.....Score

Choreography		
Execution		
Entertainment Value.....		

Competitor: _____

Notes.....Score

Choreography		
Execution		
Entertainment Value.....		

Competitor: _____

Notes.....Score

Choreography		
Execution		
Entertainment Value.....		