#### KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

# 6

# JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING

# SELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGES

Among the qualifications necessary for individuals to be selected as Judges for Kitemakers' Competitions at AKA Conventions, the following experiences should be considered:

- > Previous judging experience at major kite festivals,
- > Winning previous national competitions,
- > Training in the field of art,
- > Experience in kitemaking,
- > Experience in flight and aerodynamics,
- > Experience in sewing construction,
- Experience in structural design and craftsmanship, and
- ➤ History of kiting interest.

Kitemakers' Competition coordinators should choose judges based on their areas of expertise. It is recommended that the National Kitemakers' Competitions use **five judges for each judging criterion**, although three or four judges could be used. (As there will be two types of judging conducted while kites are in the air, and then two types of judging conducted after the kites have been brought down to the ground, **a minimum of ten judges is recommended for the AKA National Kitemakers' Competition.**) All judges should have expertise in the given area, e.g., craftsmanship should be judged by skilled craftspeople. Judges with lesser experience may serve as apprentices or shadow judges to the more experienced judges.

Registered contestants may not serve as judges in events in which they are competing.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Judges will excuse themselves from situations involving conflicts of interest, or potential conflicts of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest. These situations could include judging kites

- designed and/or constructed by a family member,
- > currently owned by the judge or to be owned by the judge after the competition,
- in which the judge has a financial interest, or
- in a competitive category in which the judge has entered a kite for competition.

A Judge who might have a conflict of interest will provide full details of the situation to the Head Judge before the competition occurs. In situations requiring judgments concerning conflicts of interest, the Head Judge will make the final decision.

#### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

The following are comprehensive criteria by which an experienced judging panel can rank a kitemaker's ability to perform his or her craft. Kites will be judged according to

- > kite flight and kite handling,
- > aesthetic visual appeal while in flight,
- > craftsmanship, and
- > structural design.

Judges will be given the specific criteria for their judging categories on separate sheets for easy referral during the competition.

#### Criteria for Judging Kite Flight and Handling

Does the kite launch and take off easily, and then achieve a good angle of flight for its type?

Is the flight steady?

Does the kite fly in a manner appropriate to its type?

When flying with kites of similar design, does the handler demonstrate the kite's stability as appropriate for this type of kite?

Is the flier able to keep the kite steady in gusty winds?

Does the flier maintain good control of kite and line?

Can the flier retrieve the kite to a controlled landing?

## Criteria for Judging Aesthetic Visual Flight Appeal

How attractive does the kite look while flying? Has the kitemaker created an attractive general appearance? Has the kitemaker been able to create new or more attractive visual images for a kite of a given category?

To what extent does the surface of the kite contain original artwork? Copies of the work of another artist will not be scored as highly as original kite art.

For kites with traditional artwork, has the artwork been adapted to create new and unusual visual effects never seen before but appropriate to the category?

Does the kite have additional flight characteristics that are interesting and new for a kite of its type?

Do the colors contrast or blend well when the kite is flown nearby and at a distance?

Does the mechanical structure of the kite enhance or detract from the appearance of the kite? Is the mechanical structure integrated into the totality of the kite design?

Is the kite's concept original?

Has the kitemaker extended our appreciation of this kite type by the artwork used?

Are the choices of the kite form and sail materials appropriate for the artistic concept?

# Criteria for Judging Craftsmanship

What degree of skill and craftsmanship was required to make the kite?

Are lines or seams straight when they are meant to be straight? Are corners square? Are curves smooth?

Do points meet and are seams uniform? Is the work neat, with threads and strings trimmed, no marks or spots from oil, glue, or paint, and no ragged or burned edges?

Are the spars, joiners, connectors, reinforcements or pockets done well?

Are bridle lines tied securely and finished precisely?

### Criteria for Judging Structural Kite Design

Does the structure contain significant unique or original features?

Does the structure use materials that are of sufficient but not excessive weight and strength for the design?

Do the bridle and the kite structure distribute forces on the sail evenly and efficiently?

Does the kite maintain its intended shape or shapes in various wind speeds?

Does the kite's design, either very large or very small, use structural features to adapt to the kite's size?

Does the structural design enhance the functioning of the kite?

#### SCORING PROCEDURES

Separate judging sheets will be provided to the judges for each competitive kite category (see Chapter 3 and Appendix C). The judges will list all competitors in that category on one judging sheet.

Numerical scores are to be used. Scores for each of the judging criteria (flight, visual appeal, craftsmanship, and structural design) will range from 0 to 10, in one-tenth (0.1) increments. The following benchmarks are to be used:

10 points: THE VERY BEST POSSIBLE; NOTHING ELSE COULD BE BETTER.
5 points: EQUAL TO THE AVERAGE OF ALL KITES IN THIS CATEGORY.

> 0 points: AS POOR OR INADEQUATE AS EVER SEEN.

It is anticipated that perfect scores (10.0) will seldom be given. Scores of zero are not expected to be given except in the most unusual circumstances. At the National Kitemakers' Competitions, the average scores are expected to be higher than those scores given at local competitions; hence, the average score at the National Kitemakers' Competition is expected to be in the 6.0 to 6.5 range.

The Contestant's **average score for each of the four judging criteria** (flight, aesthetics, craftsmanship, and structural design) will be the sum of the numerical scores given for that criterion divided by the number of judges giving scores. **Each score will be calculated to hundredth increments** (**.01**). Ideally, five or more judges will be used for all scoring. If judging is done by five or more judges, the highest and lowest scores will be deleted before calculation of the average score, leaving the three or more middle scores to be averaged. When judging is performed by four or fewer judges, the scores of all judges will be summed in the creation of the average score.

The contestant's **total score for the competition** will be the sum of the four average criteria scores for kite flight, aesthetics, craftsmanship, and structural design. **The score will be calculated to hundredth increments (.01).** The contestant receiving the highest overall total score of all competitors entered in that kite category will be declared the winner of that category.

In a competitive category, if the sums of the contestants' scores in the four scoring factors are tied, the tie will first be broken by the highest flight score. If the flight scores are tied, the tie will be broken by the decision of the judges, considering both originality and visual appeal. Ties not involving first, second, or third places will be recorded as ties.

The contestant receiving the highest overall total score of all of the winners of the individual kite categories will often be declared the Grand National Champion; however, the judges may, at their discretion, award the Grand National Champion award to a kite that did not have the highest score.