Rules and Guidelines for Kitemakers' Competitions

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The American Kitefliers Association is proud to present this update of the Rules and Guidelines for Kitemakers' Competitions.

This manual describes in detail the standards and procedures by which the AKA National Kitemakers' Competitions will be conducted. It is our intention to make the process less confusing or mysterious, more open and fair, and therefore more enjoyable for everyone.

We hope that festivals and events around the country will adopt these rules so that contestants, judges, and spectators will have a better idea of what to expect when they enter major competitions.

Competition standards are designed to reward the qualities of excellence and originality. The procedures described in this publication are not intended to limit unique events or to stifle the originality of competitors. Judging standards should continually grow, evolve and adapt to new kite styles or designs. We welcome your comments, suggestions, criticisms, and improvements.

The American Kitefliers Association thanks you, the artists, technicians, crafts people and visionaries of the kitemaking community, for your many contributions and innovations. In particular, we thank you for the joy that your creations have brought to all of us.

Good winds!

David Gomberg President

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The intent of this document, the American Kitefliers Association's *Rules and Guidelines for Kitemakers' Competitions*, is to define the process by which AKA National Kitemakers' Competitions will be conducted at AKA's Annual Conventions and to provide guidelines to facilitate an orderly and effective management of those competitions. It is intended that these guidelines be widely disseminated so that the competitors will understand the rules of the National Competition.

A serious Kitemakers' competition includes comprehensive measures of a kitemaker's ability to design and construct an attractive and well-performing kite. The creation of the kite is the focus of this competition. These guidelines provide a standardized format for those competitions, be they local, regional, or national events.

These guidelines have evolved from the rules used at the past AKA National Kitemakers' Competitions. Innovations have led to changes from year to year in an effort to improve conditions for the competitors, the judges, and the field crew. We expect that these guidelines will evolve further as future competitions bring new creations and inspirations. We welcome your suggestions and criticisms in the spirit of continuing improvements to these guidelines. Instructions on how to submit ideas to AKA to make improvements to these rules and guidelines are included in this booklet.

Barbara Meyer, Chair, 2006 Kitemakers' Competitions Committee

Special thanks are due to the following individuals:

The 2006 AKA Kitemakers' Competitions Committee:

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SUMMARY OF AKA'S NATIONAL KITEMAKERS' COMPETITIONS

The purpose of this Summary is to provide a very brief overall description of the rules and procedures to be used in AKA's National Kitemakers' Competitions. This Summary in no way replaces or abridges any of the rules and procedures contained within this Manual. All contestants and staff of the competition should be familiar with the detailed rules and procedures before participating in these events.

The National Kitemakers' Competition is for the purpose of selecting the best handmade kites at AKA's Annual Convention in a variety of categories, as listed below. Judging will be conducted according to the detailed guidelines in this booklet.

Kites will be judged according to specified comprehensive criteria regarding

- ➤ kite flight/kite handling,
- > aesthetic visual flight appeal,
- raftsmanship, and
- > structural kite design.

Kites will be judged in the following competitive categories:

- > Flat kites
- Bowed kites
- > Figure kites
- Rokkakus
- > Cellular and dimensional kites
- ➤ Soft and flexible kites
- > Deltas and delta derivatives
- > Stunt and sport kites
- > Trains and centipedes
- Arch trains and ribbons
- > Fighter kites
- ➤ Sky display
- Cooperative
- ➤ UFO (unclassified flying objects).

If there are fewer than four contestants in any one of the above categories, the judges may decide that kites of that category may compete against kites of other low-entry categories in a "combined" category.

The winner of each category becomes eligible for the judging for Grand Champion. Other Special Awards, including those for Novice Kitemaker, Most Innovative Kite, Mixed Media Kite, and Best Use of Traditional Materials may also be given.

The basic rules of competition are that

- ➤ All competitors must be AKA members and Convention registrants.
- > Only hand-crafted, individually produced kites may be entered.
- Competitors may enter as many kites as they wish (but only one per category).
- ➤ Kites (or essentially identical copies of kites) that have previously won awards at past AKA Conventions are not eligible for current or future AKA Kitemakers' Competitions.