

INTERNATIONAL SPORT KITE RULES BOOK

Version 3.0
01-APRIL-2017



All Japan Sport Kite Association



American Kitefliers Association



Sport, Team and Competitive Kiting
European Conference

I. CHANGE HISTORY:

Version 3.0 - 01 April 2017

- Changes to clarify and reinforce wording throughout.
- Section III F 1 Unfair treatment: Amendment to Appeals procedure
- 3. IV D. Addition at to define “competition mode/hot”.
- 3. IVJ Mix Format: Amendments and clarifications

II. THE INTERNATIONAL RULE BOOK COMMITTEE – 2017



**All Japan Sport Kite
Association**

Seiji Kato
kitevillage@i.softbank.jp

Naoki Tamura
airrex@hkg.odn.ne.jp



**American Kitefliers
Association**

Scott Davis
scott@teamevidence.com

Lisa Willoughby
stellakite@me.com



**STACK European
Conference**

David Morley
dave.morley.uk@gmail.com

Andrew Taylor
ihj@live.co.uk

III. INTRODUCTION

The International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) was conceived in 1996 to produce a user-friendly rule book that could be used by fliers at competitions all over the world.

This latest edition of the International Sport-Kite Rules Book (ISKRB) contains the definitions, rules, and guidelines used in current sport-kite competitions. It does not go into detail about judging or compulsory figures. The companion Judges' Book (ISKJB) provides more of this detail and the Compulsories Book (ISKCB) completes the series. Taken together, these books provide valuable information for competitors, prospective competitors, competition officials, organisers and other interested parties.

The IRBC would like to thank all the competitors, judges, organisers and other officials (now too numerous to name individually) who have helped develop and refine these rules over the years.

The current IRBC delegates include two former World Champion flyers and four international judges. All are currently active in sport-kite competitions and in training and coaching sport-kite flyers in their own countries and worldwide.

The IRBC welcomes suggestions, comments and constructive criticism which can be sent, by email, to any IRBC Committee member.

Persons using this book should interpret the wording with common sense, as among partners sharing common interests. Words used in this book shall have their common and accepted meaning which shall not be perverted or manipulated to gain advantage.

Anyone is welcome to translate this, and its companion volumes, into other languages, however the IRBC accept no responsibility whatsoever for any errors in translation. In competition situations, where there is any dispute over interpretation, this edition in English, being the source, shall determine the meaning.

The Official adoption dates of this Rules Book, unless otherwise announced by the respective sanctioning authority, are:

- 1 April, 2017 - AJSKA (All Japan Sport Kite Association)
- 1 August, 2017 - AKA (American Kitefliers Association)
- April, 2017 - STACK (Sport Team and Competitive Kiting European Conference)

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. SANCTIONING AUTHORITY

A sanctioning authority shall be any of the following organizations: All-Japan Sport Kite Association (AJSKA), American Kitefliers Association (AKA), and any National Association within the Sport Team and Competitive Kiting (STACK) European Conference (currently Federation Francaise de Vol Libre, STACK Italia, STACK Lithuania, STACK Russia and STACK UK.). Other organizations may be recognized as sanctioning authorities by a unanimous vote of all current sanctioning authorities. Individual sanctioning authorities may issue appendices that further explain and modify portions of this document, and any other documents issued by the International Rule Book Committee. It is the responsibility of the sanctioning authority to use due diligence to make the rule books and appropriate appendices available to all competitors and staff. It is the competitor's responsibility to understand all such documents.

B. INTERNATIONAL RULE BOOK COMMITTEE (IRBC)

The International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) shall consist of two members from each of AKA, AJSKA and STACK Europe Conference.

C. SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

The supervisory committee shall consist of the event organizer or their appointed representative, a judges' representative (not the chief judge), and a competitors' representative. The judges' representative will be chosen by the judging staff. The competitors' representative will be chosen by the competitors at the competition briefing. The committee members may solicit advice from others as needed.

D. SKILL LEVELS

Skill levels shall be defined by each sanctioning authority but shall include, at least, novice and masters levels. The method of determining a competitor's skill level shall be defined by each *sanctioning authority*.

E. DISCIPLINE

A discipline is an individual part of a *competition*, for example, Masters Dual-Line Team Ballet or Experienced Multi-Line Individual Precision.

F. CLASS

A class is one, two, or more specified *disciplines* at the same skill level; the same *competitor* must complete all the disciplines. For example, Masters Individual Dual-Line Ballet plus Masters Individual Dual-Line Precision combine to form the Masters Individual Dual-Line Class.

G. COMPETITION

A competition consists of a number of *disciplines* all carried out at one location over one or more consecutive days.

H. ROUND

A round is a competition forming part of a **series** of competitions where the **competitor's** scores from each **competition** are combined to determine the overall result.

I. SERIES

A competition series consists of a number of **competitions** where the **competitors'** scores from each **round** are combined in accordance with a pre-determined formula to provide the overall result for the series. A competition series may be staged at different locations on non-consecutive dates (some national championships follow this pattern) or at the same location on consecutive days (the World Sport Kite Championship is an example of the latter).

J. COMPETITOR

A competitor is a **team, pair, or individual**, depending on the **discipline**. During the **competition**, a separate **sport kite** or **train** of sport kites must be flown by each person who makes up the competitor.

K. TEAM

A team consists of at least three people.

L. PAIR

A pair consists of two people.

M. INDIVIDUAL

An individual is one person.

N. SPORT KITE

A sport kite is a controllable kite flown by one individual.

O. DUAL-LINE KITE

A dual-line kite has two independent control lines.

P. MULTI-LINE KITE

A multi-line kite has more than two independent control lines.

Q. TRAIN

A train consists of two or more kites flown as one.

R. TAILS

Tails are optional but, if attached to the kite, are considered as part of the kite.

V. RULES

These rules cannot be changed by competition officials under any circumstances.

A. REQUIRED PENALTIES

A competitor who breaks any rule or guideline will be penalised.

B. SAFETY

At all times, safety shall be paramount.

C. BOUNDARIES

An outer boundary is required. This is informally called the Red Boundary. The outer boundary is defined by an imaginary line that runs through the poles, posts, or other supports that are used to hold the boundary marking material (rope, cord, tape, etc.), not by the marking material itself.

An inner boundary is strongly recommended. This is informally called the Yellow Boundary. The inner boundary is used by line judges and field directors as a reference for cautioning competitors that they or their kites are nearing the outer, Red boundary.

D. FLYING AND MOVING OVER BOUNDARIES

Flying over the outer boundary will result in disqualification from the discipline in which a competitor is competing, is about to compete, or has recently competed. This rule applies from 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the discipline or such earlier time as may be announced or otherwise published by the Chief Judge, and shall normally end when the Judges leave the field at the end of the discipline, OR such later time as announced by the Chief Judge.

If, while competing, any part of a competitor's body moves outside the outer boundary, the competitor will be disqualified.

E. UNSAFE FLYING

A competitor will be penalised for unsafe flying. In such cases, the discipline head judge may disqualify a competitor from a discipline. In any serious case of wilful unsafe flying, the chief judge may disqualify the competitor from the entire competition.

F. BREACH OF RULES OR GUIDELINES WHERE NO SPECIFIC PENALTY IS MENTIONED

The chief judge may penalise or disqualify that competitor from the discipline, class or competition depending on the seriousness of the action.

G. SPORTSMANSHIP

Competitors shall act in a sportsmanlike way at all times.

H. OFFICIAL STAFF

Any official may delegate part of his or her duties (excluding judging) to another person.

1. Chief Judge

There must be one chief judge of the competition. The chief judge allocates the head judge duty and other judging duties for each discipline. The chief judge cannot be a competitor at the competition. It is recommended that the chief judge not act as a head judge.

2. Judging Panels

There must be a minimum of three judges for any discipline. Five-judge panels are strongly preferred.

3. Field Director

There must be one field director for every discipline.

4. Pit Boss

A pit boss will be provided as needed, depending on the discipline size and skill level.

5. Line Judges

There should be a minimum of two line judges for any discipline.

6. Scorers

The scorers are required to tabulate the scores from the judging panels and post the results under the direction of the chief judge. Provided always that adopted program/method does not compromise the requirements of the ISK Judges Book, no particular scoring program/method is preferred. It is recommended that scoring programs should require no specialist knowledge or particular skills beyond accurate data entry.

I. ADVICE WHILE COMPETING

While on the competition field, competitors may not receive advice from anyone other than the field director.

J. PROTEST

1. Unfair Treatment

In most sporting codes, a decision made by officials can be challenged only where surveillance equipment is available to review events leading up to the decision. However in the majority of cases, a decision made by officials on the field of play is deemed to be final.

Notwithstanding the above, any competitor who feels unfairly treated may appeal to the head judge of the discipline in accordance with the Appeals protocol is set out at ISKJB section II E.

2. Abuse of Official Position

Any competitor or official who feels that an official has abused his or her position or behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner may complain to a member of the supervisory committee or, in writing, to the appropriate sanctioning authority. The supervisory committee may uphold the complaint and give the official a warning. In this case, the supervisory committee shall then send a written report to the sanctioning authority. The sanctioning authority may take appropriate action against the official. Such action might include banning the official from being an official for a prescribed time.

At international competitions sanctioned by more than one of the sanctioning authorities, the International Rule Book Committee (IRBC) replaces the sanctioning authority in the above process.

K. MEMBERSHIP OF PAIRS AND TEAMS

1. Registration

Membership of pairs and teams should be registered with the appropriate sanctioning authority. Each sanctioning authority shall determine their own registration procedure and requirements.

2. Composition

Team composition may be different within a competition (e.g., between ballet and precision) and between competitions or during the course of a competition series. Team members cannot compete on multiple teams at the same competition.

The number of members on a team is limited to five for the precision discipline. All team members flying in the precision discipline must also fly in the ballet discipline. Violation of this principle will result in a zero for the violating (last) discipline. How this is monitored is at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

There is no upper limit to the number of team members flying in the ballet discipline.

Pairs' composition may not be different within a competition but may change between competitions or during the course of a competition series. .

L. PENALTIES

Various penalties can be imposed for violating rules. These penalties are explained in detail within the latest edition of the ISK Judges' Book. All competitors and staff should have a solid understanding of the ISK Judges' Book, in particular section VI Scoring Penalties.

VI. GUIDELINES

These guidelines cannot be changed by competition officials unless competitors are notified of any changes at least 30 days in advance of the first day of the competition. The Sanctioning Authority must also be informed of any changes to the guidelines for the respective competitions. The Sanctioning Authority reserves the right to disallow changes to guidelines at their discretion.

A. BRIEFINGS

1. **Competition Briefing**

At the start of a competition all competitors, judges, and officials come together for a briefing run by the chief judge. At a minimum, the chief judge shall cover any specific rules and guidelines, go through the running order for the competition and answer any general questions concerning the competition. There should be sufficient time allotted for the competitors to choose a competitors' representative. At the chief judge's discretion, introductory briefings may be held at the start of each day.

2. **Discipline Briefing**

Before each discipline starts, the head judge shall hold a briefing specific to that discipline. At a minimum, the head judge shall introduce the judges, field director, pit boss, and line judges for that discipline, explain the arrangements for staging-in and staging-out, announce the precision compulsory figures, ensure that music for ballets has been delivered to the appropriate person, and answer any specific questions for the discipline.

B. DEBRIEFINGS

1. **Competition Debriefing**

At the end of a competition, all competitors, judges, and officials shall come together for a debriefing run by the chief judge. The purpose of the debriefing is to stimulate discussion among the various parties and thus enable recommendations to be made to improve future competitions.

2. **Discipline Debriefing**

If requested by either the judges or any of the competitors, a discipline debriefing run by the head judge will be held.

C. FLIGHT ORDER DRAW

The flight order of each discipline should be randomly drawn.

The draw can be made by the chief judge in advance of the competition and should then be copied to the contestants at the earliest opportunity. Alternatively, the draw may be made at the discipline briefing.

If there is a conflict over timing, the flight order may be adjusted by the chief judge.

D. COMPETITION FIELD / FIELD IN COMPETITION MODE (HOT)

1. Dimensions

The outer (Red) boundary shall be at least the size set out below but preferably larger.

	Meters	Feet
Team and Pairs	110 x 110	360 x 360
Individual Dual-Line	90 x 90	295 x 295
Individual Multi-Line	75 x 75	246 x 246

An inner (yellow flag) boundary, at least 3 meters (10 feet) from the outer boundary, should be marked where possible. The sizes expressed in meters take precedence.

2. Field in competition mode (hot)

15 minutes before the scheduled start of the discipline (or such earlier time as may be announced by the Chief Judge) the field is deemed to be "in competition mode" or "hot". This means that the field is under the control of the Field Director (irrespective of whether the whether the Field Director is actually in the arena). At this point

- all informal flying or practice in the arena must cease immediately
- all kites and equipment must be moved outside the red boundary
- competitors may enter the field only when invited/instructed by the field director
- the rule regarding flying over boundaries at ISKRB section V subsection D applies immediately

E. STAGING IN AND OUT

Adjacent to each flying field, there shall be two separate areas for staging in and out. It is solely the competitor's responsibility to be in the stage-in area and awaiting the signal to move onto the field.

F. CALLING IN AND OUT

1. Precision

A competitor must announce the starting point of each compulsory by calling IN. Likewise, the exit point of each compulsory must be marked by calling "OUT".

In addition, the competitor must announce the beginning of a technical routine by calling "IN" and mark the end of the routine by calling "OUT".

2. Ballet

Competitors may call IN and OUT for the beginning and end of their routine. However, if no calls are made, the judges will consider the competitor IN with the beginning of the music and OUT with the end.

G. SETUP TIMES

A competitor may not enter the competition field until the field director signals permission. The setup times for the discipline begin with that signal.

Competitors may not start any part of their performance without the field director's signal. The competitor must start within the prescribed setup time OR 45 seconds from the field director's signal, whichever amount of time is greater.

If the competitor fails to start within the maximum time allowed, the field director will call IN for the competitor and the judges will score accordingly.

If the competitor fails to call OUT within 45 seconds of calling IN on a compulsory figure, the Field Director will call OUT on behalf of the competitor. The judges will then score what they have seen between the IN and OUT calls.

The setup time for the next precision component (either the next compulsory figure or the technical routine) will begin immediately following the OUT call

H. BALLET

The ballet discipline is characterised by the interpretation of music. Therefore a performance that is without music, or where music is absent for significant periods will not be considered to be ballet.

1. Setup Times

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Setup	3 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes

2. Routine Minimum and Maximum Times

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Minimum	2 minutes	2 minutes	2 minutes
Maximum	4 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes

3. Music

Recorded music formats accepted by the organisation and the arrangements for the handling of recorded music shall be notified to competitors at the earliest possible opportunity. Music shall be cued and clearly labelled. Competitors may turn in up to 3 pieces of music but must tell the field director which piece to use at any point up to 30 seconds before the setup time expires. Live music may be accepted if approved by the organiser and chief judge.

It is acceptable to add a cueing signal prior to the start of the music.

The music must be, or give the impression of, a cohesive entity. Given the availability of music editing software, there is no excuse for untidy editing or abrupt endings.

4. Choreography

Choreography is the interpretation of selected music and is identifiable where a close relation between the performance and the music is maintained from beginning to end. The routine should aim to interpret the variations of the musical composition such as dynamic, tempo, rhythm, mood etc.

5. Execution

Execution is a measurement of the flying ability of the competitor and is judged with reference to the competitor's accuracy, control, timing, spacing, and use of the wind window, as well as the complexity, daring, and technical difficulty of the routine.

I. PRECISION

A precision discipline tests the technical skills of the competitor. It normally comprises three compulsory figures and a technical routine, performed in that order.

In exceptional circumstances (such as unexpected time limitations) and subject to

- the majority approval of the competitors for that disciplines *and*
- the majority approval of the judges for that discipline

the number of compulsory figures may be reduced or the requirement for a technical precision routine may be waived before starting the discipline.

1. Set-up Times

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Setup	3 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
Between compulsories	45 seconds	45 seconds	45 seconds
Between compulsories and technical	90 seconds	90 seconds	90 seconds

2. Compulsory Figures

Three compulsory figures testing different skills of the competitors are chosen on the day of the discipline by the chief judge from a maximum selection of six that must have been disclosed to the competitors at least 30 days in advance.

The figures should be flown in the same order that they appear in ISKCB.

The competitor may fly any figures using a left-to-right orientation, as in a mirror-image of that shown in ISKCB, but must notify the field director of any such intention before the set-up time expires. Failure to do so will result in a zero score for that figure. Each compulsory figure must be completed within 45 seconds from the IN call

3. **Technical Routine**

A technical routine should demonstrate the technical skill of the competitor within the framework of a flowing, cohesive and seamless sequence of manoeuvres. For judging and scoring purposes, it is separated into execution and content components.

a) **Execution**

The execution component consists of, but is not limited to, considerations of accuracy, control, timing, and spacing, use of the wind window, complexity, and inclusion of technically demanding and daring manoeuvres.

b) **Content**

The content component consists of, but is not limited to, considerations of tempo, rhythm, originality (not necessarily meant to be spectacular), creativity, and variety.

c) **Routine Minimum and Maximum Times**

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Minimum	1 minute	2 minutes	2 minutes
Maximum	3 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes

J. **ALTERNATIVE COMPETITION FORMAT: MIX FORMAT**

A mix discipline consists of the compulsories from item VI.I.2 and the ballet from item VI.H.

Any part of this discipline that is dropped must meet with the majority approval of the disciplines competitors and with the majority approval of the disciplines judges.

The two elements are combined, in accordance with the scoring formula at ISKJB section IV,

For the purposes of Team competitions under the Mix format **the number of members in a team is limited to 3 for the Precision discipline**. This enables Judges to differentiate more easily between Compulsory Figures performed by the same number of pilots from each team, thus removing any perceived advantages or disadvantages in the Compulsory Figures section arising from the number of pilots in each team. Where the competition is held over multiple rounds each member of the team must fly the Precision section in at least one round. There is no upper limit to the number of team members flying in the Ballet section.

1. **Setup Times**

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Setup	3 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
Between compulsories and ballet	90 seconds	120 seconds	120 seconds

2. Routine Minimum and Maximum Times

	Individuals	Pairs	Teams
Minimum	2 minutes	2 minutes	2 minutes
Maximum	4 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes

K. WIND GUIDELINES

1. Wind Speed Ranges

Competitors are expected to fly when the wind is within the following ranges:

	Minimum		Maximum	
	Km/h	mph	Km/h	mph
Novice	7.0	4.4	30.0	18.6
Masters	4.0	2.5	45.0	28.0

Speeds have been approximately converted from km/h to mph; the figure in km/h takes precedence. Regulations for other skill levels may be defined by the relevant sanctioning authority.

2. Wind Checks

a) Before Calling IN

At any time before calling IN, a competitor may request a wind check. Competitors must still comply with other rules and guidelines while the wind check is taking place.

The field director will measure the wind for a period of 10 seconds. If the wind speed is not within the prescribed range throughout, the competitor does not need to call IN, and a wind recess will be announced by the field director.

b) Up to Minimum Time in Technical or Ballet Routine

A competitor may request a wind check at any point up to the appropriate Minimum Time for the technical or ballet routine. While the wind check is taking place, the competitor should continue flying.

The field director will measure the wind for a period of 10 seconds. If the wind is not within the prescribed range, the competitor may stop flying and a wind recess will be announced by the field director.

3. Wind Recess

Once a wind recess has been announced, the head judge determines when and how the performance or discipline will resume, if it can.

The chief judge will decide to postpone or cancel the discipline if it cannot be resumed within a reasonable amount of time.

If a postponed discipline cannot be resumed within a few hours on the same day, any scores from completed performances shall be void and discipline must be restarted from the beginning with all competitors.

Competitors may be asked to remain on the field or told to await an announcement. If and when the performance or discipline is resumed, competitors will be allowed setup time in accordance with the appropriate setup time rule for that discipline.

4. Extreme Weather

In the event of extreme weather conditions that may lead to unfair competition or dangerous conditions during a particular discipline, (such as unsettled low wind, gusting high wind, heavy rain or lightning) in a particular discipline, the chief judge may take appropriate action.

The action may include, but is not limited to, announcing a wind recess, amending the wind speed regulation, cancelling the discipline or competition, enlarging the field, reducing the number of compulsories, or eliminating the technical routine in a precision discipline.

Where appropriate the chief judge should call for a special briefing to explain the circumstances to competitors, officials, and organisers to ensure that everyone is clear as to the revised rules and guidelines.

L. HEATS

If there are more than 15 competitors in a discipline, it may be necessary to have heats. The number of heats shall be such that no heat has more than 15 competitors and that, as much as possible, there are the same number of competitors in each heat. The chief judge and organiser shall determine how many competitors from each heat will qualify for the final, providing that there are no more than 15 competitors in the final, and announce this (if relevant) at the introductory briefing.

M. EQUIPMENT

Competitors may fly any safe dual- or multi-line kites relevant to the discipline. They may change their kites between parts of a discipline or a wind recess, provided that they comply with the regulations as to setup times. A broken line must be replaced, not tied.

N. HEADSETS

Teams and pairs may use headsets to communicate among themselves, provided that they do not interfere with the communication systems used by the officials, organisers, or local authorities and that they comply with relevant local laws.

O. DISQUALIFICATION

Any competitor who is disqualified shall leave the field as soon as possible. Any protest or discussion shall take place after the discipline has finished.

P. HELPERS / GROUND CREWS

Helpers are people brought inside the boundary by the competitor to assist with kite placement, crash recovery, equipment repair and the like. Individuals and pairs may have at most two helpers. Teams shall have one helper for each team member.

The method of choosing helpers will be described at the introductory briefing. In principle, all competitors are expected to take a turn as helpers for other competitors in the same discipline. If any competitor is unable to take their turn as helpers, they must inform the discipline Head Judge at the earliest opportunity before the start of the discipline. Failure to attend promptly for duty as helper, or failure to carry out the duties of helper in an attentive and conscientious manner may result in the deduction of an unsporting conduct penalty from the helpers score.

END