

kta 

KITEBOARD TOUR ASIA



Produced as an KTA short version of the full IKA /ISAF
2009 – 2012 Experimental Kiteboarding Competition Rules

Overall

- All freestyle competition rules are in conjunction with the KTA general rules.
- The KTA is run under the recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play, with safety being paramount at all times.
- By participating in the KTA each riders agrees -
 - To be governed by these rules.
 - To accept any judgments or penalties imposed under these rules.
 - To accept appeal and review procedures provided within the rules as the final determination of any matter arising.
- The competitor must respect and accept as final the decisions of the KTA staff.

Competition Format

- The KTA freestyle competition is progressed through elimination heats. The number of which depends on the number of competitors and conditions on the day
- Each rider will compete as indicated on the event scoreboard and shall be solely responsible for competing in the right heat at the right time.
- A minimum of two riders will take part in each heat and will be judged by overall impression, with moves being scored on –
 - Technical Difficulty
 - Height
 - Smoothness
 - Power Style.

Judges will take the following taken into account. –

Jumps	jumps on both sides, number of rotations, type of rotation, back, front, off axis, handle pass, kite loops. Jumps are defined by the airtime and continuing in the same direction.
Tricks	low-level -one hand, board take offs, handle passes, blindside, switch, and grab, the total fluidity and style of the manoeuvre.
Transitions	a jump or trick will be scored as a transition when the move is started in one direction and landed in another.
Difficulty	hooked or unhooked moves, surface and ariel, combinations.
Landings	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Perfect landing when the board touches the water first and the rider planes away.Half-landing landing when your bum touches the water and the board is sliding. The move can only score a potential of 50%.Crash landing when the back of the rider hits the water before the board or the rider sinks and does not plane away.
Wipe out	<p>crashed and lost kites or boards are noted as potential tiebreakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Riders can only be scored in the marked competition area and for moves to be counted they must both start and finish inside this area.- Scores are only given for what the judges see, not for what competitors or spectators think they have done.

Rights of Way and Safety Rules

- Safety and good sportsmanship are the most important aspects of the KTA competition and unsafe riders will be disqualified.
- Downwind riders have right of way, so upwind riders must not jump when a rider is close downwind of them.
- When crossing the upwind rider should keep their kite up high and the downwind rider should keep their kite low.
- When Riders are on opposite tacks the rider on the starboard tack has right of way over the port tack rider. The starboard rider should then stay upwind allowing the port rider to cross downwind.

- A rider making any jump, turn or transition jumps is responsible for the safety of other riders so must look and check the area is clear before attempting the move.
- If a rider performs a move that results in a tangle or collision with another rider while performing they will be given a warning or maybe disqualified from the heat at the discretion of the head judge.
- When a rider not at fault is unable to continue due to a tangle or collision, the heat will be re-run.
- Riders may not change course to block another competitor.
- All riders who are not competing must stay clear of the competition area at all times.
- Riders must not land jumps on or near the beach or over fly spectators. Infringements may lead to disqualification on the discretion of the Head Judge.
- During the transition period, a competitor entering the competition area to compete has right of way over a competitor returning to shore.
- When riders are on the same reach only the rear rider can pull a handle pass. This is to avoid complications if the front rider transitions without looking if another rider is behind them.
- When riders are on opposite reaches only the downwind rider can pull a handle pass.
- All instructions issued by safety crews on water or land must be undertaken immediately.

Signals

- The regulation of the heats shall be made using 3 flags and air horn signals.

Yellow up	- beginning of transition	down - 1 min before start
Green up	- heat start	down - 1 min before end of heat
Red up	- end of heat or return to beach for further instructions	

- The air horn signals will be :
 - One horn blast for end of transition period and start of heat
 - One horn blast for end of heat and start of transition period
 - Three horn blasts to abandon a heat

Judging Criteria

- A rider shall only score when in the marked competition area. Whether a rider is in or out of the competition area, is the final decision of the head judge.
- The judging team will comprise of an odd number of judges with no less than three members.
- Judging is based on overall impression therefore judges will not be assigning score values to moves, but will take brief notes of the moves performed. Giving a final overall performance marks out of ten for –
 - Technical difficulty and power
 - Variety
 - Overall Impression
- Watching the heat takes priority over writing down the moves.
- All judging sheets for each heat shall bear the full names of the judge.
- The head judge only may explain judgments to the riders.
- The judging sheets of the judges may be shown only to competitors in that heat at the discretion of the head judge.
- The decisions of the judges are final and may not be appealed.
- The Head Judge has the power to re-run a heat at his discretion, for discrepancy or errors in the judging.
- Judging will be based on an entire heat, not on individual moves. So one big move will not be judged as highly as a rider who has shown a range of moves at a high standard.
- The judges overall impression is based on the following –
 - The technical difficulty of the moves shown, combinations do not automatically score higher as everything is related to the quality of the execution of the move.
- The power of a move is considered as the combination of -
 - The speed into and out of the move.
 - The height of the kite during the move.
 - The height of the move.
 - The technical difficulty and risk factor involved in the move.
 - The variety of moves shown during the heat shown in both directions. Repetition of moves decreases the chance of winning the heat.

- Smoothness shown during the execution of single moves, combinations and landings.
- Style showing the riders personal flamboyance and attitude during the heat.
- The riders innovation showing a unique range of moves and or new ones.
- Crashes are not penalised, but the move is not scored.
- Tricks are judged from take-off to the landing and in general the judges will look for quality of moves over quantity.
- Any handle pass that is finished by pulling the leash to get the bar will be considered a crash and therefore will not be scored.

Heat Format

- KTA freestyle competition were possible will be based on single or double elimination ladders, depending on the number of competitors and time available.
- Rider's names shall be entered onto the elimination ladders according to the tour-seeding list. Note the first event of the series is a none seeded event and names will be drawn for ladders placements.
- Byes if any are required shall be positioned so that they are allocated to the most highly ranked riders. A Bye card will be added to the draw in the first event if required.
- Riders shall compete against each other in pairs, or in groups of up to four.
- During the single elimination, the men's contest results will be considered valid for that event when the quarterfinals or beyond are reached. For the women's competition results will be considered valid for that event once the semifinals or beyond are reached.
- If the loser side of the double elimination is partly completed, the results of each completed round or column of the loser side shall count in combination with the remainder of the winner side.
- The head judge before the start shall specify the duration of the heats and the transition period at the riders meeting. If needed times can be modified at any time.
- All heat ladders and times will be posted on the official notice board.
- The head judge may postpone a heat before the starting signal for any reason.
- The head judge may abandon a heat after it has started because due to safety, fairness of competition and changes in conditions or wind strength.

Scoring

- The scoring system on the KTA will be as follows -

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1	1000	5	650	13	485
2	885	6	610	17	440
3	790	7	585	25	400
4	710	9	530	33	365

- In the event of no wind points will be allocated to all riders on the basis of the number of registered competitors plus two places.
- The KTA freestyle ranking for the year will be determined by the cumulative adding of the total points gained after discards. With discards as follows –
 - 1 – 3 rounds no discards
 - 4 – 5 rounds one discard
 - 6 – 7 rounds two discards
- In case of a tie the riders event results shall be listed in order of best to worst and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the rider with the best results. No discard scores are used at this point.
- If the tie remains, then discard scores will be used to break the tie.

Seeding

- The eight male and female riders will be seeded for the next round of the KTA following the first round.
- The seeding for the first round of the following year will be based on the overall tour rankings for the current year.
- In case a seeded rider doesn't show up to an event, their place will be given to the next rider down on the seeding list.

Protests

- A competitor has a right to protest following any incident they are involved in during their heat.
- All protests must be made in writing before the end of the next heat to the head judge.
- The head judge can, according to the degree of the incident, make a decision or stop the competition and call for a hearing.
- The only parties allowed to be present at the hearing are the competitors involved in the incident, the judges and any other party called by the head judge.
- After the hearing the decision given is final.