



# **AKSA WAVE-RIDING COMPETITION RULES** **AND JUDGING GUIDELINES.**

## **1. GENERAL:**

- 1.1 These rules and judging guidelines shall apply at all kiteboarding events conducted by the AKSA or at events sanctioned by the AKSA
- 1.2 All competitors shall be current financial members of the AKSA or of a club or association affiliated with the AKSA.
- 1.3 Leashes approved by the Head Judge shall be used at all times by competitors when competing or when practising and or testing outside the competition square during the event. Competitors not complying shall be disqualified from the event. Grab leashes and non-disarming (death leashes) are not approved.
- 1.4 Competitors shall not intentionally jump on the beach. Competitors not complying shall be disqualified from the event. Test flying of kites before a heat is permitted subject to it complying with these rules and not interfering with the conduct of the event in any way.
- 1.5 Penalties at the discretion of the Head Judge will be imposed on competitors who intentionally disobey these rules and which may lead to injury or property damage.

## **2. COMPETITION PERSONNEL:**

- 2.1 There shall be a minimum of five judges of which a minimum of three must judge each heat.
- 2.2 A Head Judge shall be appointed whose decisions relating to the competition are final and not subject to appeal.
- 2.3 There shall be at least one beach marshal appointed who shall be responsible for all competition matters including the timing of heats and the display of flag signals and heat numbers. The beach marshal shall check the leashes and competitor colour identification of each competitor before their heat. Failure of any competitor to check with the beach marshal in sufficient time before their heat will result in disqualification from that heat. The beach marshal may postpone the start of a heat or abandon a heat in progress at his or her sole discretion.

## **3. COMPETITION AREA:**

- 3.1 The competition zone is the area in which a competitor's wave rides will be scored. It will be defined by two outside buoys described at the competitors' meeting. The zone is an indication for the competitors of where the judges have good vision. Wave rides performed outside this area may not be scored and judges are not required to watch performances outside this zone



- 3.2 Out of bounds area(s) will be described at the competitors' meeting. Competitors who intentionally ride in the out of bounds area(s) for any reason other than to avoid a collision or for safety, will be disqualified from that heat for a first offence and will be disqualified from the event for any subsequent offence.
- 3.3 Competitors shall not enter the competition zone during competition unless actually competing in their heat or within the 1 minute interval preceding the start of their heat.
- 3.4 Competitors shall not launch or land their kites in a way which may obscure the judges view of the competition zone.

#### **4. COMPETITION FORMAT:**

- 4.1 Subject to the number of competitors and time and weather conditions, competition will be conducted in a double elimination format consisting of heats of four competitors with the first and second placed competitors advancing.
- 4.2 The results of the finals of the winners round shall be the final results in the case where the loser's round is not completed.
- 4.3 The order of competition and the colour identification allotted to each competitor will be displayed on a notice board located adjacent to the Judge's area.
- 4.4 The number of the next heat to be started will be displayed adjacent to the flag signaling area. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to know which colour identification they have been allotted and which heats they are to enter.
- 4.5 Heats will be 10 minutes duration except for the semi finals and finals which will be 15 minutes duration. The interval between heats will be 2 minutes. The duration of heat times may be changed to allow for varying swell or wind conditions as required.
- 4.6 Competitors' coloured identification may be collected from the Judges' area no more than two heats in advance and shall be returned to the collection area immediately after the completion of the heat concerned.

#### **5. COMPETITION SIGNALS:**

- 5.1 The location of the flag signaling area will be described at the competitors' meeting.
- 5.2 A three flag system will be used as follows:-
  - 5.2.1 A red flag will be raised before a heat to signal the start of the 2 minute transition period. When raised during a heat, it signals both the end of that heat and the start of the 2 minute transition period. The red flag will be lowered there is 1 minute before the next heat.
  - 5.2.2 A yellow flag will be raised at 1 minute to the next heat. It will be displayed for the full 1 minute and will be lowered at the start of the heat.
  - 5.2.3 If the start of a heat is postponed, both a red and a yellow flag will be displayed with three sound signals. To signal the restart of a postponed heat, the red and



- yellow flags will be lowered and a red flag will be raised and rules 5.2.1, 5.2.2 and 5.2.4 will apply.
- 5.2.4 A green flag will be raised to signal the start of a heat. It shall remain displayed until one minute before the end of the heat when the yellow flag will be raised.
- 5.2.5 If a heat has been started and is abandoned the green flag will be lowered and a yellow and a red flag will be raised with three sound signals.
- 5.2.6 To signal the restart of an abandoned heat, the yellow flag will be lowered and the red flag will remain displayed for 1 minute and rules 5.2.1, 5.2.2 and 5.2.4 will apply.
- 5.3 A yellow flag will be displayed for the last minute of a heat, to signal that the heat is about to end.
- 5.4 Sound signals will be used to draw attention to the flag signals. One sound signal will accompany the raising or lowering of any flag signal except that three sound signals will accompany the raising or lowering the red and yellow flags signaling a postponement or abandonment.
- 6. COMPETITION RULES:**
- 6.1 When two competitors are on waves, the upwind competitor shall keep clear of the downwind competitor.
- 6.2 Any competitor riding a wave has right of way over non-wave-riding competitors.
- 6.3 A competitor shall not alter course in a manner which does not allow another competitor to keep clear.
- 6.4 Wave priority belongs to the first competitor on the swell line. Other competitors cannot gybe or drop in to a wave which already has competitor on it.
- 6.5 If two competitors begin riding a swell simultaneously, the competitor closest to the break (usually upwind) has priority of the wave.
- 6.6 A competitor shall avoid contact with other competitors if reasonably possible. However, a right of way competitor or one entitled to room shall stay clear of a competitor not in control. The head judge will be the final arbitrator as to whether a competitor was not in control.
- 6.7 A competitor relaunching a kite has no right of way and shall not intentionally interfere with other competitors. Also, they have little control so other competitors should stay clear.
- 6.8 In all cases, the windward kite high; the leeward kite low rule applies.
- 6.9 Any competitor deemed by the Head Judge to be blocking or intentionally disturbing the flow of competition in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner will be warned for a first offence and disqualified from the heat for any subsequent offence.
- 6.10 If a competitor who has right of way is obstructed and or disabled by another competitor who is required to keep clear and such action results in a loss of more than 3 minutes competition time for the right of way competitor, the heat will be abandoned and restarted without the offending competitor(s).



- 6.11 Beach crews shall not assist competitors to move upwind during their heat but may be used to anchor a competitor if in difficulty whilst he or she lands their kite. Beach crews may be used to assist with the launching and landing of kites.
- 6.11 A competitor may have only one kite in flight at a time.
- 6.13 If a competitor loses his or her kite during competition for whatever reason including a faulty leash or lack thereof, that competitor will be disqualified from the event. This includes practice and testing outside of the competition area at any time during the event.

## **7 COMPETITION SCORING:**

- 7.1 Wave rides will be judged on overall impression based on an average ride an average set wave of the day.
  - 7.1.1 Extra points can be awarded for wave selection, exceptional turns and positioning, style, aerials barrel-rides and exceptional maneuvers, unhooked riding where it contributes to increased performance, milking the waves energy for extra long rides, and variety of moves.
  - 7.1.2 Aerials shall only be rewarded if they are landed in the wave zone defined by the crest and the bottom of the wave (bottom defined as the zone in which a powerful bottom turn would be performed).
- 7.2 Depending on conditions, heat scores will be the sum of each riders best 5 waves scores.
- 7.3 When the overall scores of two or more competitors in a heat are tied, the tie shall be broken in favour of the competitor with the highest individual wave scores.

If you have any questions about this policy or AKSA, please contact me via the [info@aksa.com.au](mailto:info@aksa.com.au) email address.

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