



National Kitesurfing Series Rulebook

Version 1.0





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Introduction

The following National Kitesurfing Series Rulebook is used as a document to outline the safety guidelines, competition format and rules of kitesurfing competitions sanctioned or organised by Kiteboarding Australia or a State Association body.

The content of the document has been created in collaboration with State Associations and the National body to create a consistent approach to competition in Australia and create an alignment to the international competition standards set by the GKA.

The rule book should provide clear instruction and guidance to competitors regarding National and State based event rules, safety guidelines and rider expectations.

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1.0 Safety Guidelines

Kitesurfing is easy to practice safely with a little forethought and common sense. Ultimately, we are responsible for minimizing the risk to ourselves and others, which will help protect the future of this great sport. As such competitors are asked to familiarise themselves and follow the below safety guidelines at all times, not just at sanctioned events.

1.1 During events:

- Competitors are to attend the initial competition briefing to ensure familiarity of the day's events, conditions, potential hazards, safety guidelines, emergency procedures and general rules and regulations relevant to the competition.
- Every competitor is responsible for disclosing any pre-existing medical conditions to the event committee. KA strongly discourages involvement in a kiteboarding event if this puts the competitor's health and well-being at risk.
- Medication (if required) for pre-existing conditions is to be carried by the competitor and the competitor should take all foreseeable measures to make event organisers aware of its location and use in case it is required.
- Qualified first aiders and first aid kits are available in the event of an incident on the day.
- A rescue vessel may be available for on-water support in the event of an incident/injury to a competitor while on the water.
- All competitors are expected to sign on and off each day using the designed sign on/off sheets. Failure to sign off prior to the end of the day's competition may result in being disqualified from the competition.
- Treat all other beach users with respect; beach users/swimmers have right of way at all times.
- Treat the environment with respect. Do not enter dune areas, use designated paths to and from the beach and please put any rubbish in the bins provided.
- Competitors are encouraged to drink plenty of water, and protect themselves from the sun (Slip, Slop, Slap). Sunscreen and sun shelters will be provided on the day.
- Competitors are encouraged to leave valuable items at home or in a safe place while competing. Items such as towels, shoes, sunglasses can be left in a central location (e.g. the event tents) on the beach where on-shore event organisers can monitor them.
- Competitors should check all equipment for faults prior to the competition, making sure all equipment is fit for use, including making sure safety systems are in working order. Competitors are encouraged to avoid using equipment if deemed to be unsafe.
- Competitors are asked to use equipment suitable for the conditions on the day. If you are unsure on the correct equipment to use, please ask event organisers for assistance.
- It is also advised to wear appropriate protective equipment such as helmets and PFD's to prevent injury and harm.
- Roll up bar and lines when kites are not in use to prevent slips, trips, falls and tangles.



- It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their equipment is ready and they have reported to the marshalling area prior to their heat/s. Event organisers will not chase competitors and heats will be run whether participants are ready or not.
- Volunteers will be available on the beach to assist with launching and landing kites. Launch/Land kites towards the water and do not self-launch or land where possible.
- The competition zones will be clearly marked to competitors, organisers and beach users with flags, signs and buoys.
- Competitors are required to leave the water immediately when their heat has finished. Competitors riding through the competition zone outside of their heats may BE DISQUALIFIED from the competition.
- It is advised not to perform manoeuvres too close to the beach or in very shallow waters to avoid injury.
- Event organisers may postpone or stop heats should a safety risk arise i.e. change of weather conditions, member of the public in the competition zone, shark sighting, etc. Heats will not be recommenced until the event committee deem it safe to do so.
- Competitors are to report all incidents or confrontations with members of the public to an organising committee member ASAP. The organising committee will deal with any disgruntled members of the public to diffuse the situation prior to escalation.
- Any undesirable behaviour (verbal or physical abuse, unsafe behaviour, disregard for event organisers instructions) will be dealt with appropriately by event organisers and may result in disqualification from the competition.
- All competitors must abide by the C.L.E.A.R guidelines, right of way and wave priority rules outlined in this document at all times.

1.2 Alcohol Consumption:

- Competitors are discouraged from consuming alcohol while competing at KA sanctioned events.
- Should competitors choose to consume alcohol during the event they are encouraged to drink responsibly.
- All alcohol must be consumed in accordance with all relevant Australian laws. No alcohol is to be consumed by minors.
- All competitors found with alcohol in a designated dry zone will be asked to leave the competition area immediately.



1.3 Weather and Marine Conditions

- In extreme weather conditions, the event organisers reserve the right to call off heat(s) or the event if conditions are unsafe.
- Event Organisers will postpone the event at the first sign of thunder and lightning. Competitors are asked to exit the water immediately and take shelter from the elements until the storm has passed. Shelter should be sought under solid structures, buildings or motor vehicles, avoiding standing under large trees, kites, tents or temporary shelters. Event organisers will monitor the weather conditions closely and if deemed safe will restart the competition as soon as practical to do so.
- Event organisers and competitors are to keep an eye out for marine creature hazards. Evacuation of the water, postponement of heats or the event may be necessary should signs of danger be present.

1.4 C.L.E.A.R. Kiteboarding Safety Rules

Conditions

- Wind strength and direction
- Always keep downwind area well clear
- Waves, tides and currents
- Consider possible changes

Look

- Before you launch, land, jump, jibe etc.
- Use appropriate launch areas. Make sure your launch area is in an approved kiting area. Make sure the area is open, no person or hard objects are downwind from you, watch poor or slippery footing, nearby power lines, buildings and walls etc.
- Check to see what size kite other kiteboarders are rigging and get their input on conditions. Try to select a kite size for the lower to middle part of the wind range. Do not rig too large a kite for conditions and carefully consider advice of more experienced riders. If you do not have a small enough kite to safely launch, do not go out

Equipment

- Always complete a pre-flight check (Check your kite for tears or leaky bladders. If you have leaky bladders or tears in your kite, repair them before flying. Check all equipment, including your kite, harness and bar. Check that your safety works and inspect lines for knots, cuts, wear or abrasion. If the line sheathing shows any breaks or knots, replace them. The pigtails should be replaced no less frequently than every year on inflatable kites)
- Use a kite leash and use a quick release on anything you hook into
- Practice using your safety systems regularly so that it becomes instinctive



- Never exceed manufacturers specifications and connect your lines according manufacturers specifications

Attitude

- Always seek and listen to local advice
- Do not exceed your limitations
- Use judgement to prevent situations, do not rely on skill to try and get out of it
- Avoid self-launching and landing. Self launching and landing are NOT recommended and should be avoided when possible, particularly when other kites are able to help. Launch and land with a trained assistant towards the water, using reliable audible and visual signals. Never use untrained bystanders to help you launch or land your kite. If in doubt, don't go out.

Respect

- Others - be considerate and courteous to all other waters and beach users
- The law
- Fellow kites - follow the right of way rules
- The environment



2.0 Competition Rules and Format

The following rules and format information apply to all National Kitesurfing Series events.

2.1 Divisions

Division	Gender	Age
Junior's	Male	<18
	Female	<18
Open's	Men's	All ages
	Women's	All ages
Masters	Male and Female	35+
Grand Masters*	Male and Female	45+
Legends *	Male and Female	55+
Amateurs *	Male and Female	All Ages

* Event organisers have the authority to not run any of these divisions due to lack of numbers, time constraints or for any other reason should it be deemed acceptable to do so.

2.2 Seeding

Where applicable seeding for National and State Titles events will occur from the previous Nationals or State Titles events. For instance, seeding for the 2018 Nationals will originate from the 2017 Nationals.

Where possible, the top 8 riders will be seeded.

No seeding will be carried through from a State Titles event to a Nationals Titles event.



2.3 Event Format – Dingle Elimination Format

National and State Title events should be held in a dingle elimination format, the format adopted by the Global Kitesurfing Association for all international kitesurfing events.

The competition format allows every rider to compete at least twice, with the top two riders from each heat progressing to the next round. Third and fourth placed riders move to the repechage round or are eliminated, depending on the stage of the competition. An example of the Dingle Elimination format can be seen in **Appendix -1**.

Each Division will consist of a maximum of 24 riders. In the event there is more than 24 competitors wishing to compete in a Division, it is at the head judge's discretion to form an abridged format allowing additional riders to compete.

Event organisers have the authority to alter the event draw to suit weather conditions, competitor numbers or unique requirements associated to each event, which will be communicated to all competitors involved.

Divisional draws will be displayed at the event or by using online tools, which can be viewed by competitors and spectators alike. Event Organisers will endeavour to update the draws as soon as reasonably practicable to keep riders informed on their progress throughout the competition.

2.4 Heat Format

Heat times shall be no less than 7 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes in length, with 1 to 2 minutes for change overs between heats.

There is to be a maximum of two heats, with a maximum of 6 competitors on the water at any given time.

Event organisers have the right to alter heat duration, formats, etc at any time to cater for competitor numbers, time restrictions, or adverse weather conditions.

2.5 Flag System

A flag or lighting system will be utilised at all KA sanctioned events to signify the start and end of heats, however may be altered to accommodate availability of resources and infrastructure.

The specifics of the flag or lighting system, to signify the start and end of heats, used at events will be advised during the rider briefings taking place at the start of each event.



Below is a typical example of a flag system used at events which may be adopted by event organisers.

Flag Colour	Meaning
Green	Heat in progress
Yellow	1 minute warning
Red	Heat is finished
Blue	Competition is on hold

2.6 Judging Criteria and Guidelines

The competition is a kitesurfing competition and will be judged using the GKA judging criteria. The GKA judging criteria is an internationally recognised judging format that prepares competitors for international standard riding and judging, should they progress to that level. Using this criteria creates a fair and unbiased scoring method, catering for all levels of competition.

The aim of the judging panel and head judge is to ensure the best riders win on the day irrespective of the equipment being used. The degree of difficulty dictates the best rider.

2.6.1 Judging Criteria

- Judges will analyze the following major elements when scoring waves:
 - Commitment and Degree of Difficulty
 - Innovative and Progressive Manoeuvres
 - Combination of Major Manoeuvres
 - Variety of Manoeuvres
 - Speed, Power and Flow
- Kitesurfers must perform to these key elements (above) to maximize their scoring potential.
- Kitesurfers should consider wave selection, turns and positioning, style, aerals, barrel-rides, unhooked riding where it contributes to increased performance, milking the wave's energy for extra long rides, and variety of moves when on the water.
- A kitesurfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvre's in the critical section of the wave to maximize scoring potential.
- Innovative /progressive kitesurfing as well as variety of repertoire (manoeuvre's) will be taken into consideration.
- The kitesurfer who executes this criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the waves shall be rewarded.
- All kite-surfing styles will be scored equally no matter what the wave riding style / board style / kite style or line length, however degree of difficulty will be considered, for example unstrapped / unhooked riding will be rewarded as requiring higher skill.
- Aerals 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); or



- They are performed on a surfboard going out through the waves (aerials going out on a twin tip are not rewarded). The degree of difficulty will depend on strapped/unstrapped.
- It is important to note that the scoring of manoeuvres will vary depending on location and the conditions on the day, as well as changes of conditions throughout the day.
- Judges will assign numerical values to waves based between 0.1 and 10, the scaling of which is detailed below:

Score	Wave
0.1-1.9	Poor
2- 3.9	Fair
4-5.9	Average
6-7.9	Good
8-10	Excellent

- The judges scores for each wave will be averaged together to form a total wave score. The top two waves will then be totalled together to make a maximum possible score out of 20.
- In the event of a draw, the Kitesurfer with the highest single wave score will win. If this still results in a draw, a third wave may be considered, however outcomes must be on decided based on waves score, not on consensus.
- Scores are final and cannot be appealed by competitors.

2.6.2 Strapped vs Unstrapped

The use of foot-straps will not penalize a rider over one that doesn't use them. Strapped vs Unstrapped riding will be taken in to consideration when doing manoeuvres like aerials, floaters, 360s where it is more difficult without straps.

Where a manoeuvre is more difficult without straps this will attract an increased score due to its degree of difficulty, the move must however be performed with skill and precision to obtain the higher overall score. A poorly executed move strapless will not outscore a well-executed move strapped.

2.6.3 Judging Guidelines

- A rider shall be scored whilst being in the designated competition area. Whether a rider is in or out of the competition area, will be at the discretion of the head judge or judging panel.
- Judging sheets will only be shown to competitors in that heat, if requested and at a time that does not interfere with the competition i.e. between heats.
- The decisions of the judges may not be appealed.
- The Head Judge has the power to re-run a heat where there is strong evidence that there is a major discrepancy in the judging scores or should conditions be unsatisfactory to provide a result.



- If competitors feel disadvantaged by certain judges, a formal report shall be made in writing to the relevant organising body at the end of the day. A competitor can-not approach a judge or event official whilst competition is taking place.

2.7 Alteration to Event Format or Rules

The event committee has the right to alter the rules and judging criteria from time to time to suit weather conditions, competition formats, time constraints, etc. Any changes to the rules or judging criteria will be communicated to the competitors in a timely and effective manner.

2.8 Right of Way Rules

- There is no absolute right of way - All competitors should take any action necessary to avoid a collision.
- The first competitor on the face of a wave has right of way. This may override the starboard tack rule. Wave riding priority is set out below.
- Starboard Tack Rule - When two competitors are on opposite tacks, the port tack competitor shall alter course and/or kite position to keep clear of the starboard tack competitor who should maintain the same course and speed.
- When two or more competitors are on the same tack with kite lines overlapped, the upwind competitor(s) shall keep their kite high and the downwind competitor(s) keep their kite low.
- When two competitors are on the same tack and are not overlapped, the competitor behind shall ensure the competitor ahead is aware of the competitor approaching from behind.
- Never deliberately manoeuvre into a right of way position so that it interferes with any other water user. If you are behind another kite heading into the beach, turn early to allow the lead kitesurfer plenty of room to turn. Always check for other water users before jumping, water-starting, jibing, re-launching a kite or recovering a board.

2.9 Wave Riding Priority

- Any competitor riding a wave has right of way over non-wave-riding competitors.
- 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 (no snaking or dropping in)
- If two competitors begin riding a swell simultaneously, the competitor closest to the break section of the wave (usually upwind) has priority of the wave.
- When two competitors are on waves, the upwind competitor shall keep clear of the downwind competitor.
- Do not block or intentionally disturb the flow of competition in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner.
- A competitor shall avoid contact with other competitors. A right of way competitor or one entitled to room shall stay clear of a competitor not in control.



- A competitor relaunching a kite has no right of way and shall not intentionally interfere with other competitors. Other competitors should stay clear.

2.10 Rider Briefings

Event organisers will conduct rider briefing at the beginning of each day's competition to advise competitors of the competition rules, heat format details, judging criteria, risks and overall day to day running of the event. It is the competitor's duty to ensure they are at the event prior to the morning briefing each day.

Should the event be postponed, conditions or event formats change, or a new risk be identified Event Organisers will call a special rider briefing to convey these changes and keep riders informed.

2.11 Postponing, Abandoning, Extending or Rerunning a Heat/the Event

The event organising committee, competition director or head judge may abandon, postpone, extend or rerun a heat in the event of unfavourable weather conditions, a safety risk, judging discrepancies, rider interference or a starting error.

The Event Organising committee will advise the process to be followed in the event these circumstances are required during the rider briefing.

This decision by the event organising committee, competition director or head judge cannot be appealed.

In the event the competition cannot be completed within the event window or is postponed due to adverse weather conditions, the Event Organising Committee will reschedule the event and advise competitors as soon as reasonably practicable.

2.12 Rider Eligibility

Proof of the below will be the onus of the competitor and can be requested by the Event Organising Committee or Head Judge at any time prior, during or after an event.

2.12.1 Insurance/Membership

All competitors must be current financial event or full members of Kiteboarding Australia or their State Association at the time of the event. By default, members of Kiteboarding Australia are also members of their local state association.

Membership can be obtained through the Kiteboarding Australia Website at the below address:
www.kiteboardinaus.com.au/registration.



2.12.2 Division Age Group Eligibility

Where age groups are defined in the Division Table above a competitor's age will be determined on the scheduled start date of the competition. If a competitor turns 18 years of age on the scheduled start date, they are ineligible to compete as a junior. Similarly, if a competitor turns 35 on the start date of the competition, they are eligible to compete in the Master's Division.

2.12.3 Amateurs Division Eligibility

The Amateurs division should be reserved for kite surfers new to the sport or new to the wave riding discipline. It should consist of non-shop affiliated riders and should be treated as a fun entry level division to build the sport, and wave riding interest throughout Australia.

The event organising committee has the right to bump competitors to another division if they are deemed too good to compete as an Amateur.

2.12.4 Competing in Multiple Categories

It is at the Event Organising Committee's discretion to allow individuals to compete in multiple divisions, should they be eligible, i.e. Open Men and Masters, Juniors and Open's, etc.

Notification of eligibility to compete in multiple divisions will be advised in event communications in the lead up to the competition and through the KA website (registration portal).

2.12.5 International Rider Eligibility

The National Title may only be contested by Australian Residents or a person who currently holds a long-term Australian visa for three or more consecutive years.

State Titles international rider eligibility is to be decided by each State Association at their own discretion. Should no prior notice be given by the Organising Committee regarding International Rider State Title eligibility, then the National Titles eligibility criteria will apply.

Note: Event organisers may choose to have a unique draw that would include international competitors separate to the National or State Titles. This draw would allow international riders to go head to head with Australian riders.



MAIN EVENT 12 WOMEN
FREESTYLE DINGLE ELIMINATION

2015

ROUND #1

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
1	#11		
	#06		
	#02		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
2	#10		
	#07		
	#03		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
3	#12		
	#05		
	#04		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
4	#09		
	#08		
	#01		

ROUND #2

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
5	2nd#3		
	3rd#2		
6	2nd#4		
	3rd#1		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
7	2nd#1		
	3rd#4		
8	2nd#2		
	3rd#3		

ROUND #3

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
9	1st#1		
	1st#5		
10	1st#2		
	1st#6		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
11	1st#3		
	1st#7		
12	1st#4		
	1st#8		

ROUND #4

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
13	1st#9		
	1st#10		

Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
14	1st#11		
	1st#12		

FINAL ROUND

WINNERS FINAL			
Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
15	1st#13		
	1st#14		

MINI FINAL			
Heat	Seed	Name	Rk
16	2nd#13		
	2nd#14		

