

Kitemakers Competition in 2022

As reported in previous issues of *Kiting*, there are a number of changes in this year's Kitemakers Competition. These changes are meant as an experiment for one year. The goal is to encourage more member participation in kitemaking and flying activities at the Convention.

The biggest change: every field competition will be judged by the competitors themselves. Fliers will rank the kites being flown in their category and the highest ranked kite will win the category.

For example, if there are six fliers in the Bowed category, they will gather on the competition field at the allotted time. Each will fly his/her bowed kite and compare it to the others in the sky. Then each of the six fliers will be given a scorecard and they will rank the bowed kites 1-5. The votes will be tallied on the field and winners declared. Ideally, this would take about 30 minutes and then a kitemaker could compete in the next category, where the process will be repeated.

For the Grand Champion competition, all kites winning first place in the various categories will have the opportunity to fly their kites during an allotted time on one afternoon. The Grand Champion will be chosen by the members of the Kitemakers Committee, who will vote using the ranking system previously described. The People's Choice awards will be held as in previous years, and awarded at the Saturday night banquet.

The second significant change is that kite categories having less than three competitors will be eliminated as a unique category for this year. In these cases, "dissimilar" kites may be flown with others in order to have a competitive category. Because of this, the number of competitive kite categories will be reduced to six this year. They will be:

- Flat kites
- Bowed kites
- Cellular and Dimensional kites
- Soft and Flexible kites
- Multiline Sport kites
- Traditional Material kites

Additionally, the committee may award the following categories from the week's activities:

- Novice kitemaker of the year
- Most innovative kite
- Best flying kite
- Best visual appeal
- Best structural design
- Best overall craftsmanship

Sport Kite Competitions and Demonstrations in 2022

In April, the 2022 Sport Kite Committee conducted a survey of our membership to estimate the number of sport kitefliers coming to this year's Convention. There were sufficient responses to host outdoor sport kite demonstrations, several outdoor sport competition events, and two indoor sport kite competition events. The seven sport kite competition events we anticipate hosting at this year's convention are:

Outdoor Sport Kite Competition Events:

- Individual Dual-line Precision (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Dual-line Ballet (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Multi-line Precision (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Individual Multi-line Ballet (Open Class for all skill classes)
- Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

Indoor Sport Kite Competition Events:

- Open Individual Indoor Single-line
- Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

The four outdoor individual sport kite competition events are being run as Open class, where all skill classes for each event will compete together as one skill class. The other three sport kite events already exist as Open events.

Due to the unfortunate impacts from COVID-19 on regional events, there will not be any sport kite pre-qualification requirements to compete at this year's Convention. If you register for the AKA 2022 Convention, you will be able to compete in the anticipated sport kite competition events listed above.

The above seven sport kite competition events are subject to change based on the actual registration numbers for this year's Convention. When you register, be sure to check the question saying you want to fly sport kites in competition and/or demonstrations. If you check that question, you will be contacted later with more detailed information and asked to provide a list of those events in which you wish to compete. Sport kite competition events with less than three registered sport kitefliers will not be held.

The outdoor sport kite competition events are anticipated to be hosted on the beach east of the Kite Loft, located at 511 Boardwalk. The indoor sport kite competition will be hosted in the evening within the Princess Royale Resort located at 9100 Coastal Highway. The outdoor sport kite demonstrations will be hosted on the beach to the east of the Princess Royale.

The sport kite competition results and the associated awards will be presented to the successful sport kitefliers at the completion of the sport kite competition for that day.