



FREESTYLE KITE MOUNTAINBOARDING KITE SPORTS COMPETITIONS SPORTING REGULATIONS 2013

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1. Regulations, Respecting the Regulations, Dispensations

1.1. Validity of the Present Regulations

These sporting regulations concern all the federal kite sports competitions organised by the FFVL.

1.2. Respecting the Regulations

The Contest Director must apply the sporting regulations and ensure they are respected.

1.3. Dispensation to the Regulations

In the event that certain measures of the present regulations are not applicable, the Race Director, in agreement with the majority of the other judges, may dispense with them. All riders are to be informed of these dispensations. The Race Director will send a report to the Kite Competition Commission explaining the dispensations made.

1.4. Suggestions for Future Regulations

Riders are encouraged to write to the Kite Competition Commission with their suggestions, questions or requests for alterations to the regulations before 1st February each year. This cut-off date allows the AFCK to potentially consider the data for future regulations.

2. Registering at the Kite Sports Competitions

2.1. Competitors' Commitments

By registering, competitors make a commitment to:

- Respect the federal regulations for kite sports competitions.
- Respect the instructions given by the Contest Director.
- Wear and place on their equipment the promotional items provided by the competition organiser.
- Respect Article 17¹ of the law no.99-223 of 23rd March 1999 relating to the health

All persons are forbidden, during or with the intention of participating in sporting events and competitions organised or authorised by sports federations, from:

¹ "Forbidden actions - Article 17

⁻ Using substances and procedures to artificially alter their abilities or hide the use of substances or procedures that do;

⁻ Resorting to the use of such substances or procedures whose use is subject to restrictive conditions, when said conditions are not met. The substances and procedures concerned by the present article are determined by a joint decree between the minister for sports and the minister for health."

protection of athletes and the fight against performance-enhancing drugs.

2.2. Competition Registration

To be able to participate in competitions, riders must have registered before registration closes. Each rider is responsible for taking every measure to ensure that the organiser is in possession of their full and complete registration before registration closes. A registration will be considered as full and complete if the organiser has received the duly completed registration form, payment for the registration fees, a copy of the entrant's medical certificate, a copy of their license with their competition card, and any other eventual documentation that has been called for during that registration. All registrations must be returned to the Race Director by the organiser. Riders whose registration is incomplete (or not returned before the end of the registration period) will not be allowed to participate in the competition.

2.3. Nationality

The kite sports competitions organised by the FFVL to determine the Champion of France are open to anyone who practices kite sports, whatever their nationality, who is properly qualified or selected for these contests. However, only French nationals can gain the title Champion of France.

2.4. Registration Formalities

Competitors wishing to register at a kite sports competition organised by the FFVL must be in possession of:

- An FFVL club license
- A competition card
- Civil liability insurance, which will be:
 - Either that offered in addition to the FFVL license
 - Or civil liability insurance that covers the practice of kite sports in competitions, with a total of guarantees that is at least equal to that granted by the FFVL insurance.

2.5. Minimum Level for Registering

Competitors wishing to register at a kite sports competition organised by the FFVL must show a minimum level of ability that equates to kiting with ease, fluidity and autonomy at any speed.

2.6. Age Categories

The age categories for kite sports contests are:

Name	Age	Date of Birth (Year 2005)	Class
Poussins	10–11 years old	10 years old on 1st January of the current year	Super Young Class
Benjamins	12–13 years old	12 years old on 1st January of the current year	Super Young Class
Minimes	14–15 years old	14 years old on 1st January of the current year	Young Class
Cadets	16–17 years old	16 years old on 1st January of the current year	Young Class
Juniors	18–19 years old	18 years old on 1st January of the current year	Senior Class
Seniors	20 years and over	20 years old on 1st January of the current year	Senior Class

2.7. Competition Classes

The French Championship competitions and the competitions that allow for self-selection are open to the following classes:

- Senior Class, which includes the age categories of "Juniors and Seniors"
- Young Class, which includes the age categories of "Cadets" and "Minimes"

2.8. Change of Class

A competitor in a given age category can be advanced up by one or more older age categories by requesting a change of class at the start of the season (and in all cases before the first competition). The procedure is written in the federal medical regulations, and allows for a dispensation to be given by the federal medical commission on a case-by-case basis. The request to change class will be presented to the AFCK for opinion, and the decision must be validated administratively by the National Technical Directorate. If accepted, the procedure will remain irreversible for the entire year, unless a medical reason arises during the year, and the Kite Competition Commission will be informed. The competitor can present their dispensation when registering for the competition. He/she will be given a license and competition card that includes the change of class. Nevertheless, the Race Director can still refuse the registration of a competitor who has changed class, in light of the environment of the competition that he/she is organising.

2.9. Parental Permission

Competitors who are minors (at the date of registration for the competition) must have documented parental permission, a model for which is provided in the annex.

2.10. Accompanying Participating Minors

If a competing minor is not accompanied by one of their parents, the parental permission must detail the full name of the accompanying person responsible for them. Said person must be present for the entire duration of the competition.

3. Calendars

3.1. Calendar of Regional Friendly Contests

Each league is autonomous in managing their calendar of regional friendly contests, in conjunction with the clubs. These friendly competitions are not included in the French Freestyle Championship, only the federal calendar.

3.2. National Official of the Competitions

The National Official of the kite sports competitions is the Official of the AFCK, and is in charge of coordinating and publishing the calendar of contests for the French Championships.

He/she directly manages the preparation and organisation of the contests of the French Championships with the clubs involved.

3.3. Regional Official of the Competitions

Nomination

The Regional Official of the competitions is chosen from within their league.

Geographical Scope

The geographical scope of his/her duties is the "Competition Region".

When a given duty does not fall on the geographical territory of the league that they represent, he/she must collaborate with the relevant league.

Duties

He/she manages the regional competitions calendar, coordinating with the National Official.

He/she participates in the meetings of the National Competition Commission.

He/she approves the choice of Race Directors for the regional competitions, excluding the French Championship.

He/she manages contest results for their Competition Region, following a specific format set by the Kite Competition Commission.

He/she verifies transmission to the secretary of the FFVL.

3.4. Preparation and Publication of the Calendar

The preparation and publication of the calendar are coordinated by the AFCK. The calendar is published by the secretary of the FFVL on the AFCK's website (www.afck.fr).

3.5. Registering Events in the Calendar

Any event open to kitesurfers (competitive, friendly, promotional) must be written into the calendar of federal events. Any event written into the French Championship must be written into the federal calendar by 1st July of the preceding year. It must be declared to the secretary of the FFVL using the printable document available on the AFCK's website (www.afck.fr) or from the secretary of the FFVL upon request.

3.6. Changing Competition Dates

Any change made to the calendar must be relayed to the secretary of the FFVL. If the date of a friendly is postponed, the new date can be no sooner than 15 days later. The new date must be relayed to the secretary of the FFVL as soon as the postponement has been announced.

3.7. Sporting Season

The sporting season takes place across the calendar year, i.e. 1st January to 31st December.

3.8. The Competitor's Region of Membership

The address of the club providing the competitor's license determines the region to which they belong. (The first 2 numbers of the club indicate the FFVL regional league.)

4. French Kite Sports Championships for Kite Mountainboarding

4.1. Preamble

4.1.1. Titles Issued

The titles issued are:

- French Champion of Freestyle Kite Mountainboarding, Senior Class (male and female)
- French Champion of Freestyle Kite Mountainboarding, Young Class (male and female)

4.1.2. Issuing of Titles

In each discipline and for each class, the title is issued if at least 3 competitors have registered and participated.

4.2. Format of the Championship

This championship comprises of one stage. Titles are issued at the end of the particular competition specified in the calendar as enabling participants to earn the French Champion titles.

4.3. Registration

Any licensed competitor can register for the French Championship, no matter what regional league they belong to.

4.4. Final Ranking

4.4.1. Definition

During single elimination, a competition is considered valid if the series table is run through right to the end. In the case of double elimination, the results will be validated once the full series is finished. If a competition cannot be validated, it may be deferred to a later date. If no deferral date has been scheduled or is possible, it will be cancelled.

5. Individual Protective Equipment

A system allowing to neutralise the power of the kite without losing it is compulsory, and checked before the start of every competition. A (passive function) kite leash is compulsory, hooked to the competitor or their harness. Any systems that allow the pilot's weight to be increased are strictly forbidden.

Wearing a helmet and protective clothing for the upper and lower limbs is compulsory. Individual items of protective gear are compulsory (elbow pads, knee pads).

6. The Competition Space

6.1. Delimiting the Competition Area

Before the start of the competition, the Head Judge and the Contest Director will determine and delimit the competition area or areas. A competition area is delimited by fixed markers.

6.2. Changing the Competition Area During a Competition

At any moment, the Head Judge and the Contest Director can change the competition area. This change can only be carried out between two heats.

6.3. Buffer Zone Between Two Adjacent Competition Areas

When the competition is being carried out over multiple competition areas that are close together, a safety buffer zone equal to at least half the width of a competition area must be provided.

6.4. Presence in the Competition Area

During a heat, only competitors registered in that current heat are allowed to be in the competition area.

6.5. Competition Area Safety

The competition area(s) is/are strictly reserved to competitors, and the emergency crew for any safety intervention.

6.6. Technical Zone, Definition

An identified zone on the competition site, reserved for competitors, intended for storing, rigging

and handling kites.

6.7. Take-Off / Landing Zone, Definition

An identified zone on the competition site, reserved for take-off and landing.

6.8. Secured Spectator Zone, Definition

An identified zone on the competition site, reserved for spectators.

7. Format of the Series

The race format consists of a succession of heats that run from the 16th from the final up to the final, this with 32 competitors. This is the single elimination format detailed in the annex of the sporting regulations. If time allows it, a double elimination can be run. During a single contest, other race formats adopting the same principle can be put in place if the number of competitors is less than 32. Examples of series tables are included in annex.

8. Heat Organisation

8.1. Heat Duration

Unless the Contest Director decides otherwise, a heat will last for 7 minutes. This duration can be changed by the Race Management in light of local contest conditions. The Race Director must then communicate this change. All the heats within a single series will have the same duration.

The length of heats is announced in the briefing given by the Contest Director.

8.2. Conditions of the Proceedings

The wind limit for starting a heat is at the discretion of the Race Director and the Head Judge. The Race Management decide when to start heats according to the wind conditions, which must be safe for all. The decision to start a heat is the responsibility of the Race Management.

Watching the air conditions, the Race Committee will decide whether or not to start the heats.

8.3. Heat Composition - Number of Competitors in a Heat

The base number of competitors in a heat is 4. When conditions allow, heats can be run 1 on 1.

8.4. Management of Coloured Lycra

When used:

- The Beach Marshall will distribute the coloured lycra at least 3 minutes before the programmed start of the heat.
- As soon as the heat is over, competitors will return their lycra to the Beach Marshall.
 Unless the Beach Marshall allows it, competitors must not exchange the lycra directly between them.

8.5. Heat Timing Signals and Announcements

8.5.1. Heat Timing Management and Communication

The timing management of the heats is communicated to competitors by sound signals (horn or foghorn)

And/or

visual signals (coloured flags)

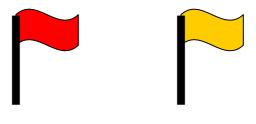
Visual signals take precedence over sound signals. In competitions equipped with sound systems, the speaker can announce a countdown of the final seconds before the start and end of each heat .

A heat is made up of 2 periods: a period of preparation, during which the rider has the time to position themselves and take in the competition area, and a period of competition, during which they are scored by the judges.

8.5.2. Announcement of the 3 Minutes Before the Start of the Following Heat

Sound signal: 1 long horn blast

Visual signal: raised red flag (remains in the air for 2 minutes)



Red for 4 mins

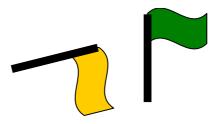
Yellow for 1 min

8.5.3. Announcement of the Start of a (7-minute) Heat

Sound signal: A long horn blast

Visual signal: Lowered yellow flag

Raised green flag (stays in the air for 9 minutes)



8.5.4. 1 minute before the end of the heat

Visual signal: The green flag is lowered, there is no hoisted flag during this last minute.



8.5.5. Announcement of the End of a Heat, Start of the Next Heat

Sound signal: 1 long horn blast

Visual signal: The red flag is raised ...the procedure continues...



8.5.6. Delay and Postponement in the Proceedings

Visual signal: "AP" flag (red and white stripes)

Sound signal: 2 short horn blasts

When this flag is lowered, the proceedings will continue from where they left off.

8.6.7. Cancellation of the Proceedings

Visual signal: "N" flag (blue and white chequers)

Sound signal: 3 short horn blasts

8.5.8. Awaiting Turns

Competitors appearing in the following heat must remain outside the competition area, and not disrupt the current heat.

Competitors must present themselves to the Beach Marshall.

8.5.9. Rhythm of the Heats

The minimum delay between 2 competition periods is at least 4 minutes.

8.6. Heat Interruption, Cancellation or Restart

8.6.1. Interruption of a Heat

For reasons of safety or inadequate conditions of the heat's proceedings, the heat may be interrupted at any moment.

This decision must be made by the Contest Director.

Heat interrupted due to inadequate conditions of proceedings

If the heat is interrupted because of inadequate conditions of proceedings that do not present any particular danger, upon the order of the Race Director:

- The timer is stopped.
- The judges' sheets are left as they are and stored.
- The AP flag is hoisted and 2 horn blasts are sounded.

8.6.2. Resuming an interrupted heat from where it left off or from the start

Decision

It is up to the Race Director to decide if a heat, following interruption, should be continued from where it left off, or rerun in its entirety.

Resuming a heat from where it left off

When a heat has been interrupted, it will be continued for the remaining amount of time, and the judges will continue scoring from where they left off at the moment of interruption.

Fully restarting a heat

When a heat is to be fully restarted, competitors are informed by the usual sound and visual signals.

9. Interruption of the Competition's Proceedings

9.1.1. Validity of a Competition

A competition is valid if the entire table has been run.

9.1.2. Decision to Interrupt

The Race Committee can, at any moment, interrupt a competition.

9.1.3. Reasons for Interruption

Relating to the Judging or the Course

When environmental conditions (the weather, etc.) or those of the equipment organisation are such that they prevent the judges and the Head Judge from being able to identify, assess, and rank with the certainty required the different competitors' performances:

- Wind no longer reaching the minimum level or exceeding flying conditions.
- Spot paralysed by a particular moment of the tide.
- Conditions preventing the different competitors from still being identified with certainty (fog, blinding sunlight, violent squalls, etc.).
- Judges' excessive fatigue (lack of judges, doubling of podiums, etc.).

Relating to Safety

When conditions or circumstances present a real danger and do not allow a sufficient level of safety to be guaranteed for competitors, and sometimes for the goods and the persons present on the site:

- Deficiency of rapid means of communication and intervention, equipment required for first aid, qualified staff, etc.
- · Lack of supervisory staff, etc.

Relating to Sporting Fairness

When certain incidents, irregularities, errors or malfunctions are serious enough to no longer respect the sporting fairness and ethics of the competition, and could seriously affect the results:

- confusion identifying one or more of the competitors,
- examination into a complaint,
- decision and application of a sanction, etc.

9.1.4 Resuming the Interrupted Competition

An interrupted competition can only resume when the conditions required for its normal proceedings have been restored. This decision is to be made by the Race Director.

9.1.5. Validity of a Competition

A competition is considered valid if the table of series is run through to the end. If a competition cannot be validated, it may be deferred to a later date. If no deferral date is scheduled or is possible, it will be cancelled.

9.1.6 Resuming an Interrupted and Deferred Competition

A competition that has been interrupted and deferred will resume from the stage at which it left off, continuing with the results already acquired and the initial organisation chart used.

10. Determining Ranking

10.1. Scoring

Competitors are scored by judges throughout the duration of the heat. The competitor's goal is to demonstrate their highest degree of technical ability, composition and ease. Each trick must be executed as exactly as possible within the limits of the rider's ability. The degree of mastery of their device in the freestyle category is therefore taken into account during scoring.

10.2. Ranking

The total scores from each judge determine the ranking of the heat's competitors. The overall ranking per heat is made by totalling the rankings given by each judge. In the event of a draw, ranking will be determined with reference to the total scores of each judge for the riders concerned.

In the event that this still results in a draw, another heat may be run with the two riders.

10.3. Counting Tricks in Freestyle

Only tricks performed during the active time of the heat and within the competition area are counted. Any trick begun from the moment the first horn blast sounds the start of the heat is counted. Any trick begun at the start of the long horn blast sounding the end of the heat will be counted.

Tricks that are not counted will be noted on the judges' sheets, but will have no bearing on the final score, no matter what the criteria. In the event of contention, it will be the role of the Head Judge to announce whether the trick was valid or not.

Tricks considered as "not landed" are tricks where the rider completely stops their speed when landing and falls on the ground, or when the rider does not land their jump with their board.

10.4. Scoring Criteria for Tricks

Each rider will be scored out of 20 points:

- 10 points for difficulty
- 10 points for execution

For each trick, the Head Judge will decide if it is counted or not.

Difficulty:

This score reflects the general difficulty level of tricks landed and controlled. Tricks that are not landed or not controlled will not be counted.

The scoring criteria takes into account the variety and difficulty of the tricks. The greater the number of difficult and different manoeuvres, the greater the score given for difficulty.

Variety is linked to the different families outlined in the IKA regulations. 53

Execution:

Judges score the level of execution for all tricks, based on the following criteria: power, fluidity, ease, height and style.

Composition of the freestyle contest judging panel

For judging 2-4 competitors, the panel of judges must be made up of a minimum of 3 rotating judges.

11. Results Management

Contest Directors must imperatively transmit contest results to the FFVL secretary and the National Technical Directorate within 5 days. The Contest Director retains the scoring and calculation sheets that were used to determine the competition rankings. If the Contest Director encountered any difficulties of any nature during the competition, he/she must include a written report with the results for the national sporting commission.

12. Rules of Priority

12.1. Respecting the Rules of Priority

During heats, competitors must respect the discipline's rules of priority.

12.2. Reminder of the Rules of Priority to be Respected

- When two participants are coming at each other from opposing tacks, the participant on the port tack must remain out of the other's way.
- The windward rider lifts their kite, and the one downwind lowers theirs.
- If one rider is carrying out a move or a trick, he/she has priority.

12.3. Priority Sanction

A competitor will be given a priority sanction if:

- In a given trick, the majority of the judges decide that he/she has obstructed another competitor (with regards to the rules of priority);
- A competitor enters into physical contact, deliberately places themselves in front of the competitor who has priority, or forces them to change their trajectory;
- A competitor is responsible for the fall of another competitor;
- A competitor finds themselves in the way of another, causing a collision or forcing the other competitor to change their trajectory, or to lose or drop out of their trick.

12.3.1. Decision to Give a Priority Sanction

It is the Head Judge's decision whether or not to apply a priority sanction. The extent of the sanction will be decided by the Head Judge after taking advice from the Race Committee.

12.3.2. Extent of the Priority Sanction

The different priority sanctions that can be given are:

- Lowered ranking;
- Disqualification from the heat. Once validated by the Race Director upon proposal from the Race Committee, the priority sanction will be announced (clearly detailing which competitor was at fault and which competitor was wronged).

13. Complaints

In the event of dispute of a ranking or inflicted penalty, any competitor can make a complaint.

A complaint can be made in the following cases:

- If it concerns a deficiency in the regulatory conditions of a heat's proceedings (procedural error, external riders crossing the zone and causing obstruction, etc.);
- If it is made between the start of the heat and within 10 minutes of the heat's results being displayed;
- If it is conveyed verbally to the Race Director and the Head Judge, then made in writing.

A complaint cannot be made concerning a score given by the judges.

In the event of a complaint:

- The official timer will remain the Head Judge's absolute point of reference.
- Visual signals take precedence over sound signals for competitors.

13.1. Complaints Procedure

A complaint can only be accepted if a competitor makes the complaint to the Competition Director in writing, in the 10 minutes following the display of results. Furthermore, as soon as the heat is over, the rider must give verbal notice that they are making a complaint.

13.2. Examining the Complaint

Complaints are examined by the Race Committee, which is made up of the Contest Director, the Head Judge and the Competitors' Representative (or their stand-in), in the shortest delay possible. If they feel it necessary, the Race Committee can hear the competitor making the complaint. In no event is the complaining party allowed to approach the judges directly.

14. Discipline - Sanctions

14.1. Disciplinary Authority

In the event of failure to respect sporting regulations or social rules during the competition, the Contest Director can give a verbal warning or any other type of sanction to the person in question. He/she must refer it to the Race Committee beforehand.

In the event of behaviour deemed serious, the Contest Director must make a written report and send it to the Kite Sports Competition Commission (AFCK).

14.2. Punishable Behaviour

- Any competitor not in the current heat entering the competition area during an active heat (with the exception of competitors from the previous heat who are leaving the competition area, and competitors of the following heat who are awaiting the start of their heat).
- Failure to respect the sporting regulations.
- Refusal to wear the promotional items given by the club and the federation.
- Degrading the image of the FFVL.
- · Refusing priority.
- Deliberately crossing-out or degrading the scoring sheets or the score-keeping summary sheet.
- Insults, inappropriate gestures, aggression on the site of the competition (towards a judge, member of staff, another competitor, etc.).
- A competitor accessing the judges' podium without having been summoned.
- Dangerous behaviour.
- Degrading equipment on the site of the competition.
- Aggression towards another competitor or a member of the organisation.

14.3. Type of Sanction

Depending on the gravity and repetition of punishable behaviour, disciplinary sanctions will be determined on the following register:

- Verbal warning
- Loss of their best jump (which is then marked in square brackets on the scoring sheet)
- Tricks ceasing to be counted (the judges will then only score the heat on tricks observed before the infringement of the rules)
- Disqualification, with the possibility of being allowed to run in the double

elimination table

Sanctions can be cumulative. Exclusion from FFVL competitions can only be decided by the FFVL's Disciplinary Commission, following consultation of the disciplinary regulations.

15. The Official Personnel of an Organisation

A contest organisation must imperatively consist of:

- The Contest Director,
- The Judges, one of whom is named a Head Judge,
- · The Beach Marshall,
- The Competitors' Representative(s),
- The Representative(s) of the FFVL and the AFCK.

15.1. The Contest Director

Nomination

The Contest Director is appointed by the organising structure. He/she must hold a valid FFVL license/insurance.

Validation of the Choice

Designation of the Contest Director is validated:

- By the Regional Competitions Official for regional-level competitions
- By the National Commission of Kite Sports Competitions (AFCK) for national (the French Championship) and international competitions.

Role

The Contest Director takes care of the following important tasks:

- Appoints the rest of the contest's official personnel,
- Applies the sporting regulations and ensures they are respected,
- Verifies the registration list and required items: license/insurance, age, parental permission, medical certificate,
- Conducts the contest's various briefings,
- Communicates all information necessary to the competition's proceedings to all competitors,
- Organises the safety system,

- Decides on the daily programme and changes to this programme,
- Decides with the Head Judge on the competition area, and changes to it,
- · Decides on the length and format of the heats,
- Handles the organisation of the contest table,
- Examines competitors' written complaints,
- Decides sanctions in the event of punishable behaviour,
- Manages the timing of the heats (he/she can use a timer),
- Decides when to interrupt and resume heats for safety reasons,
- Decides when to interrupt the competition.

15.2. The Judges, including one Head Judge

Nomination

Judges are appointed by the Contest Director in agreement with the National Technical Directorate and the AFCK. They must hold a valid FFVL license/insurance. The Head Judge is appointed by the AFCK.

Role

- The Head Judge accompanies the Contest Director in all the decisions that he/she makes.
- He/she organises the judges' rotation.
- Explains the scoring criteria to competitors during the first briefing.
- Decides with the Contest Director on the position of the judges' podium and its relocation.
- Takes care of the score-keeping (can be assisted by an accounting judge).
- Ensures the coherence of decisions made by the judging panel.
- Ensures rules of priority are respected.

15.3. The Beach Marshall

Nomination

The Beach Marshall is appointed by the Contest Director. He/she must hold a valid FFVL license/insurance.

Role

- He/she verifies the presence of obligatory safety devices on competitors and their equipment.
- He/she ensures the traffic system is respected between the different zones defined by the Contest Director.

15.4. The Competitors' Representative(s)

Nomination

A Competitors' Representative is chosen by the competitors through a majority vote and will represent them during that competition. When representatives are absent from a competition, the competitors can temporarily name a step-in for the remainder of the competition.

Role

- The Competitors' Representatives represent the competitors' opinions in the different decisions that the Head Judge and Contest Director have to make.
- They participate in the Race Committee meetings.
- The step-in participates in the Race Committee meetings when the representative is involved in the complaint, and when the representative is unavailable.

16. List of Annexes

Annex 1 Parental Permission

Annex 2 Permission for minors to be tested for drugs

Annex 3 Scoring sheet