



Fédération Française de Vol Libre

Delta • Parapente • Cerf-volant • Kite • Speed-riding • Boomerang



GDF SUEZ

EnergiesFrance

LONG DISTANCE KITE MOUNTAINBOARDING KITE SPORTS COMPETITIONS SPORTING REGULATIONS



Longue distance

2013





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1. Regulations, respecting the regulations, points not covered in these regulations

1.1. Validity of the Present Regulations

These sporting regulations concern all the Long Distance Mountainboarding 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.

2. Fundamental Rules

2.1. Basic Principles

The type of board used in these competitions is the Mountainboard. The Mountainboard is defined as being any type of single-pilot, wind-driven board that moves on land, pulled by a kite.

2.2. Safety

Competitors are advised to consult the COLREGs, which apply in all circumstances.

2.2.1. Safety 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 is compulsory.

Individual items of protective gear are strongly advised (elbow pads, knee pads, back protectors).

2.2.2. Signing In/Out

Racers are required to sign on land before the start of each race and each time the Race Director requests a return to land or if a race is abandoned.

When a competitor does not sign in at the start of a race, he/she will be disqualified from every race they have run but not signed in for.

Not signing out upon return will result in disqualification from all races completed since the last time he/she signed in.

The time limit for signing in before a race is defined by the closure of the start line.

The time limit for signing out upon return to land out is defined by the time limit for making complaints.

3. Registration

3.1. 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, Champion of France titles can only be given to French nationals who can prove their nationality. Foreign competitors will not figure in the national rankings for the French Championship.



3.2. Registration Formalities

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

- An FFVL club license with 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.

The registered competitor must be able to prove their civil status by showing a piece of identity featuring their name, surname, sex, nationality and date of birth.

3.3. Minimum Level for Registration

Competitors in the French Championship must be able to pilot at all speeds while respecting the rules for group navigation.

3.4. Age Categories

The age categories for kite sports contests are:

Name	Age	Date of Birth	Class
Poussins	10 – 11 years old	10 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Super Young Class
Benjamins	12 - 13 years old	12 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Super Young Class
Minimes	14 - 15 years old	14 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Young Class
Cadets	16 - 17 years old	16 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Young Class
Juniors	18 -19 years old	18 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Senior Class
Seniors	20 - 39 years old	20 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Senior Class
Veterans	40 years old and over	40 years old on 1 st January of the current year	Veteran Class

3.5. Competition Classes

The French Championship competitions are open to the following classes:

- Veteran Class, which includes the Veteran age category
- Senior Class, which includes the Junior and Senior age categories
- Young Class, which includes the Cadets and Minimes age categories

Friendly competitions are open to the following classes:

- Veteran Class, which includes the Veteran age category
- Senior Class, which includes the Junior and Senior age categories
- Young Class, which includes the Cadets and Minimes age categories
- Super Young Class, which includes the Benjamins and Poussins age categories

3.6. 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, 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.



3.7. 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 annex.

3.8. 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 duly appointed accompanying person responsible for them. Said person must be present for the entire duration of the competition.

3.9. Exclusion of a Competitor

When a competitor does not satisfy rules 3.2, 3.3, 3.7 and 3.8, the organising authority or the Race Committee can reject or cancel a competitor's registration, or exclude them.

4. 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 written in the federal calendar.

4.1. 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.

They directly manage the preparation and organisation of the contests of the French Championships with the clubs involved.

4.2. 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.

4.3. 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).

4.4. Registering Events in the Calendar

Any event open to Kite Mountainboarders (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 between 1st January and 31st December of the current 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.

4.5. Changing the Dates of Competitions

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.

4.6. Sporting Season

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

4.7. League Championship

Competitors do not need to be licensed in the corresponding league to be able to participate in a League Championship.

To become League Champion, they need to be licensed in a club of the corresponding league.

All the rules for the French Championships apply for the League Championships.

5. French Championships of Long Distance Mountainboarding

5.1. Preamble

5.1.1. Issued Titles

The French Champion titles are issued at the end of the sporting season once all the specific competitions written into the French Championship calendar are over, in each of the three disciplines:

French Champion of Long Distance Mountainboarding, Veteran Class (male and female).

French Champion of Long Distance Mountainboarding, Senior Class (male and female).

French Champion of Long Distance Mountainboarding, Young Class (male and female).

5.1.2. Issuing of Titles

For each discipline, a minimum of 5 ranked competitors is required for issuing the title of French Champion in the Men's Veteran and Senior categories. For the other categories, the minimum number of participants is 3.

For championships that take place over just one stage, if either the Senior or Veteran categories do not have 5 participants, these two categories will be joined together to form a single Senior Class.

5.2. Publication of the Final Ranking

The final ranking of the championship is settled by the AFCK.

This French Championship takes place over one stage.

The definitive results are announced at the end of the championship.

The victor of the French Championship is the competitor who obtains the smallest number of points throughout the whole of the French Championship.

6. Race Management

6.1. Length of a Race

Unless the Race Director decides otherwise, the length of a race shall be one hour at the most.

The approximate time and distance of the course will be announced by the Contest Director in the briefing.



6.2. Conditions for Proceeding

The wind limit for starting a race is at the discretion of the Race Director.

The Race Management decide when to start races according to the wind conditions, which must be safe for all.

The decision to start a race is the responsibility of the Race Management.

6.3. Number of Competitors in a Race

All categories race at the same time. The maximum number of participants is fixed at 100 people.

6.4. Start Procedure

Signal	Flag and Sound Signal	Minutes Before the Start
Warning	RED flag raised + 1 sound signal	5 minutes
Preparatory	RED flag lowered YELLOW flag raised + 1 sound signal	4 minutes
One Minute	YELLOW flag lowered + 1 sound signal	1 minute
Start	GREEN flag raised + 1 sound signal	0

6.4.1. Cancellation of the Procedure and Postponement

When a race is cancelled, the "N" flag (blue and white cheques) is hoisted with a sound signal (3 short horn blasts)

When there is a postponement to the start procedure, the "AP" flag (red and white stripes) is hoisted with 3 short horn blasts. When it is lowered, one minute remains before the red flag is hoisted back up.

6.5. Races Counted and Points

All the races within a stage are of equal value. There is no coefficient between races that are based on distance covered or on time.

A number of each competitor's worst results in their category over a single stage will be withdrawn, depending on the number of races they have completed:

Number of Races Completed	Number Withdrawn
1 – 3 races	0
4 – 6 races	1
7 – 10 races	2
11 – 15 races	3
16 races and more	4



A scratch race includes all categories of the competition. Ranking is determined by order past the finish line.

Once the scratch race rankings have been determined, the results for each individual category will then be extracted from these rankings to establish ranking by category.

6.5.1. Order Past the Finish Line and Ranking

Ranking is determined by order past the finish line.

All competitors participating in a race score points according to their place past the finish line:

- 0.7 points for 1st
- 2 points for 2nd
- 3 points for 3rd
- and so forth...

6.5.2. Dealing with Ties

When the final ranking order is established as outlined in article 6.5 and it results in a tie:

1. the competitors' rankings will be recalculated with all races run in the contest
2. if they still tie, the ranking from the last race of the contest in which the two concerned competitors did not tie will determine their position

6.6. Races

6.6.1. Definition

The contests are based on speed, and carried out in races. The races can involve turns, changes of tack. Ranking is determined by order past the finish line.

6.6.2. The Race Circuit

The shape of the course is not fixed. The Contest Director sets up the circuit. The course can feature four different types of sections: turns, speed zones, and wide sections for overtaking. It is important that the constructed courses are of the long distance variety.

6.6.3. Course Reconnaissance by Competitors

Course reconnaissance can only be done during official training periods. There is no start order for training. Training groups are defined and announced in the briefing by the Contest Director.

6.6.4. Marking out the Course

The course must be marked out on the beach by fixed markers.

6.6.5. Passing the Finish Line

The competitor's head passing the finish line is what determines when he/she has actually passed it.

6.6.6. Types of Start

Races must be started with kites in the air. The precise format of the start is specified during the Contest Director's briefing. The start line is on the beach.

The start line must be marked out on the ground by soft elements fixed to the ground.

It must be of a sufficient enough size to allow all competitors to start in line.



6.6.7. Composition of the Jury Panel

The Jury Panel is composed of as many members as there are marks to get around.

6.6.8. Transmission of Judging Information

It is the responsibility of the Head Judge to define the method for swiftly receiving judging information (flag, radio, etc.).

6.6.9. Obstruction of Passage Fault

An "Obstruction of Passage" fault is defined by:

- Voluntary obstruction by the competitor.
- Voluntary obstruction by the competitor's equipment.
- Voluntary action to destabilise a competitor.

The judges report obstruction faults.

An obstruction fault will result in obligatory downgrading to last place in the race.

An obstruction fault is punishable by disqualification. The decision rests with the Race Committee, which is composed of a representative of the AFCK, the President of the Jury and the Race Director.

6.6.10. Following the Course

Any fault in following the course or not passing a marker will be relayed to the Race Director by the Jury as soon as possible.

The decision to disqualify a racer can only be made by the Race Committee after taking information from the judges located all along the course.

7. The Competition Space

7.1. 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 on the beach.

7.2. 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 races.~~

7.3. 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.

7.4. Presence in the Competition Area

During a race, only competitors registered in the competition are allowed to be in the competition area.

7.5. Competition Area Safety

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

7.6. Technical Zone, Definition

An identified zone on the competition site, reserved for competitors, intended for storing, rigging and handling kites.



7.7. Take-Off and Landing Zone, Definition

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

7.8. Secured Spectator Zone, Definition

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

8. Interruption of the Competition's Proceedings

8.1. Validity of a Competition

A competition is valid if at least one race has been run and is valid.

8.2. Decision to Interrupt

The Race Committee can interrupt a competition at any moment.

8.3. Reasons for Interrupting

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, invasion of the competition area, etc.),
- Excessive fatigue of the Jury (lack of Jury members, 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.
- audience have become uncontrollable, 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:

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

Relating to the Environment

- Failure to respect the rolling zone and/or degradation of the ecosystem

8.4. Resuming an 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.

8.5. Validity of a Competition

A competition is considered as valid if at least one race has been validated.



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.

8.6. 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.

9. Results Management

Race Directors must imperatively transmit contest results to the FFVL secretary and the National Technical Directorate within 5 days.

The Race Director retains the scoring and calculation sheets that were used to determine the competition rankings.

If the Race 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 (AFCK).

10. Rules of Priority

10.1. Respecting the Rules of Priority

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

The Jury will note whether the rules for preventing collisions are respected in the competition area.

10.2. 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.

10.3. Priority Sanction

A competitor will be given a priority sanction if:

- He/she has not respected 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.

10.4. 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.

10.5. Extent of the Priority Sanction

The different priority sanctions that can be given are:

- Lowered ranking,
- Disqualification from the race.

Once validated by the Jury, the priority sanction will be announced (clearly detailing which competitor was at fault and which competitor was wronged).



11. Complaints

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

11.1. Complaints Procedure

A complaint can only be accepted if a competitor makes the complaint to the President of the Jury in writing, in the time limit given in the race instructions, or by default within 30 minutes following the line closure of the last race of the day.

11.2. Examination of the Complaint

Complaints will be examined by the Jury in the time limits announced on the official board.

11.3. Complaint Decision

The decision taken by the Race Committee concerning the complaint is final and cannot be appealed.

12. Discipline - Sanctions

12.1. Disciplinary Authority

In the event of failure to respect the sporting regulations, the Race Director can decide to give a disciplinary sanction. For any sanction other than a verbal warning, 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 AFCK.

12.2. Punishable Behaviour

- Failure to respect the sporting regulations.
- Refusal to wear the promotional items given by the club.
- Obstruction fault.
- 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.).
- Dangerous behaviour.
- Remarks made to or reported by the media that degrade the image of Kitesurfing or the FFVL.
- Degrading equipment on the site of the competition.

12.3. Type of Sanction

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

- Verbal warning.
- Written warning issued and published for viewing by the other competitors.
- Position in the race lowered.
- Exclusion from the awards ceremony.
- Disqualification from the race
- Exclusion from the competition.

Sanctions can be cumulative.

Exclusion from FFVL competitions can only be decided by the FFVL's Disciplinary Commission.

