

# **SPORTING REGULATIONS KITE SPORTS COMPETITIONS KITESURF COURSE**

**2019**



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## 1 Validity of the present regulations

These sporting regulations concern all Kitesurf Course Competitions. They are valid until an update or new regulations are published.

## 2 Format of the Championship

### 2.1 Trails and championship

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The IFKO Kitesurf Course World Championship is held over one or several trials (or stages) all listed in the official IFKO calendar.

### 2.2 Kitesurf sporting season

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The Kitesurf sporting season for year 'n' is the period between January 1st year 'n' and December 31st of year 'n'.

### 2.3 Obligations for competitors

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With their entry, competitors accept:

- To respect these IFKO Kitesurf Course Competition Rules,
- To respect instructions from the technical director and from the competition director,
- To wear or to display on their equipment all the promotional elements provided by the organizer of the competition.

### 2.4 Safety

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Competitors participate in the competition entirely at their own risk. The decision to compete or stay in the competition is their sole responsibility.

With the agreement of the IFKO technical director, the competition director may implement and use any procedures he deems necessary to ensure the safety of competitors, competition staff and the public (sign-out/sign-in system, presence call, course restricted to some categories ...).

### 2.5 Registration formalities

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Competitors wishing to register for a kite sports competition organized by the IFKO must have:

- An adequate personal liability insurance coverage for kitesports practice and competition, valid in the place of competition.

Registered competitors must be able to prove their civil status with a piece of identity including surname, name, sex, nationality and date of birth.

Minors must have permission from a parent or guardian to take part in the competition, in line with the annexed form.

For a minor competitor, the parental authorization must include the first name, the last name and the telephone number of the responsible guide (parent, guardian, coach or guide). This guide must be present during all the competition.

### 2.6 Age categories

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For the entire sporting season, competitors are registered:

| Category     | Age                   |   |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| JUNIOR       | 14-17 years old       | On January 1st year 'n' of the Kitesurf sporting season |
| SENIOR       | 18-39 years old       | On January 1st year 'n' of the Kitesurf sporting season |
| MASTER       | 40-49 years old       | On January 1st year 'n' of the Kitesurf sporting season |
| GRAND MASTER | 50 years old and more | On January 1st year 'n' of the Kitesurf sporting season |

## 2.7 Minimum level for registering

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All competitors must kite, launch and land autonomously. Kites must require no assistance beyond that which may be given to the kite for launching or landing.

The organizer and the competition director may check this level at all moments of the competition.

## 2.8 Competition series

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For the entire sporting season, competitors are registered for either:

- The KITEFOIL series or
- The DIRECTIONAL BOARD series or
- The TWINTIP series.

## 2.9 Final ranking – Issuing of titles

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### 2.9.1 Final ranking

The final ranking of each category group is based on the total number of points earned by competitors in that group from each trial in the sporting season. All competitors taking part in at least one validated round in the championship feature in the final ranking.

### 2.9.2 Events counting for the IFKO Kitesurf Course Championship

Only trials written into the IFKO calendar as counting towards the IFKO Kitesurf Course Championship are included in the final ranking. All trials are recorded.

### 2.9.3 Winner of the IFKO Championship

The winner of the IFKO Kitesurf Course Championship is the competitor earning the highest number of points from all the trials written into the calendar in the category group he/she is registered for.

## 3 Titles

### 3.1 Delivered titles

The IFKO Champion title for each category group is issued if (and only if) a minimum number of competitors have participated in at least one of the trials in the contest. The minimum number for each category group is given in the table below:

| Competition category | Series            | Gender | Titles issued (category group)       | Minimum number |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Junior               | Kitefoil          | Men    | Kitefoil junior men                  | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Kitefoil junior women                | 3              |
|                      | Directional board | Men    | Directional board junior men         | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Directional board junior women       | 3              |
|                      | Twintip           | Men    | Twintip junior men                   | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Twintip junior women                 | 3              |
| Senior               | Kitefoil          | Men    | Kitefoil senior men                  | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Kitefoil senior women                | 3              |
|                      | Directional board | Men    | Directional board senior men         | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Directional board senior women       | 3              |
|                      | Twintip           | Men    | Twintip senior men                   | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Twintip senior women                 | 3              |
| Master               | Kitefoil          | Men    | Kitefoil master men                  | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Kitefoil master women                | 3              |
|                      | Directional board | Men    | Directional board master men         | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Directional board master women       | 3              |
|                      | Twintip           | Men    | Twintip master men                   | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Twintip master women                 | 3              |
| Grand Master         | Kitefoil          | Men    | Kitefoil grand master men            | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Kitefoil grand master women          | 3              |
|                      | Directional board | Men    | Directional board grand master men   | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Directional board grand master women | 3              |
|                      | Twintip           | Men    | Twintip grand master men             | 3              |
|                      |                   | Women  | Twintip grand master women           | 3              |

For a championship on one unique event (trial), if one of the category groups does not fit the minimum number of competitors, and with the agreement of the IFKO competition committee, a grouping of categories can be done as follows:

- Junior and Senior for the Senior title,
- Senior and Master for the Senior title,
- Master and Grand Master for the Master title.

The definitive results are announced after the final trial.

### 3.2 Managing ties in the championship ranking

If, when the final ranking of the IFKO championship is decided, there is a tie between two or more competitors in the top three places:

- The competitor with the highest number of points in the final trial is ranked ahead,
- If the tie remains, the competitor with the highest number of points in the second-to-last trial is ranked ahead.

## 4 Kitesurf course

### 4.1 Course

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#### 4.1.1 Definition

Kitesurf course is a speed-based contest on a course on the water environment.

The course is defined by:

- A starting line and a finishing line,
- Several marks like buoys, boats or others.

#### 4.1.2 Course length

The length of the course is at the competition director's discretion.

#### 4.1.3 Presenting the course

During the briefing, competitors are shown the course and the direction for navigating compulsory marks.

#### 4.1.4 Ranking

Rounds are ranked by finishing order.

#### 4.1.5 Time given to complete a course

Competitors not crossing the finish line in the allotted time are ranked joint last.

#### 4.1.6 Initial competition course

The competition course is proposed by the competition director after consulting the technical competition director and the competition committee in light of:

- Weather conditions and their foreseeable change,
- Available competition area,
- Available security means.

#### 4.1.7 Changes to the initial competition course

The competition director can change the competition course at any time between two courses in light of:

- Difficulties encountered by competitors on the course,
- Changing weather conditions,
- Available security means.

If the course is changed, the competition director must signal the modifications to competitors appropriately (a briefing, written notification on the official event board, an oral announcement by loudspeaker).

#### 4.1.8 Trying out the competition course

The competition director may permit competitors to try out the competition course with their kite, only during official training periods.

#### 4.1.9 Competition course feasibility

Wind strength and direction must be such as the course can be completed using the pull of the kite.

If wind conditions make the course technically unfeasible or unsafe, a course can only be cancelled by the competition director.

If one competitor finish the course with fair conditions, the course is validated.

#### 4.1.10 Limitation of the number of courses

After 4 validated courses, an ashore break is mandatory and ordered by the competition director.

At most, there will be 8 validated courses in the same day.

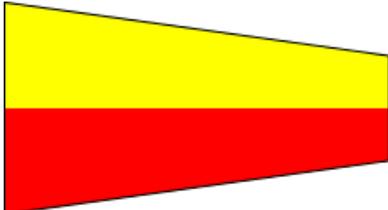
## 4.2 Start

### 4.2.1 The start line

The start line is defined by:

- The start line flag (usually on the boat with the starting proceedings flags),
- A buoy

Both moored at fixing positions.

| Signal   | Corresponding flag   |
|--|----------------------|
| <p><b>Start line</b></p>  | <p><b>7 flag</b></p> |

Its position, limits, and crossing direction are defined and clearly shown by the competition director during the briefing, and stated on the official board.

At least one minute before the start, the competition committee can move a starting mark.

Crossing the start line is not permitted in the minute before the start under penalty of disqualification.

## 4.3 Mandatory marks

Mandatory marks are signaled by one or two way marks, and the direction must be explained at the briefing and displayed on the official board.

A judge may check the passing of all competitors.

### 4.3.1 Way marks

A way mark is a natural or artificial object (for instance, a buoy) marking a point in the course that competitors must pass around. If necessary, the point will be signaled by two marks.

### 4.3.2 Clearing mark

When a way mark forces competitors into a bend with an angle such that competitors may accumulate and upset the course, the competition director may insert a mark complementing the way mark, called a clearing mark, to break up the angle of the bend.

### 4.3.3 Marks

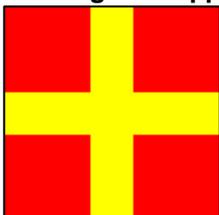
Way marks, clearing marks, mandatory marks, and starting and finishing marks must:

- Be recognizable and visible,
- Be moored at fixed positions,
- Not represent a danger to competitors and their equipment.

## 4.4 Starting proceedings

### 4.4.1 Something will happen

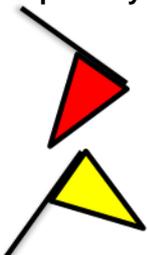
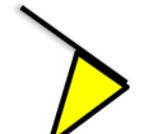
Before the starting proceeding and to call competitors on the starting zone, the R flag is raised. One minute after this R flag is lowered, the starting proceeding may be on.

| Signal  | Corresponding flag   | Sound signal       |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Something will happen</b><br> | <b>R flag raised</b> | <b>Two signals</b> |

The time that the R flag is raised is at the competition director's discretion.

#### 4.4.2 Signals

Starts must be carried out according to the procedure shown in the following table:

| Signal   | Corresponding flag                             | Sound signal    | Minutes before start |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Warning</b><br>      | <b>Red flag raised</b>                         | <b>1 signal</b> | <b>3</b>             |
| <b>Preparatory</b><br> | <b>Red flag lowered<br/>Yellow flag raised</b> | <b>1 signal</b> | <b>2</b>             |
| <b>One minute</b><br> | <b>Yellow flag lowered</b>                     | <b>1 signal</b> | <b>1</b>             |
| <b>Start</b><br>      | <b>Green flag raised</b>                       | <b>1 signal</b> | <b>0</b>             |

Visual signals (flags) override all other signal forms.

From the preparatory signal, competitors are in course.

The start line stays open during 5 minutes after the start of the course. The green flag stay raised during the opening of the start line, and is lowered at the closing of the start line.

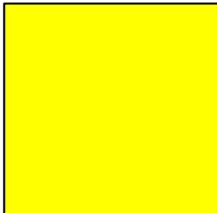
#### 4.4.3 Presence of competitors at the start

Competitors are responsible for:

- Keeping up to date on the courses they must take part in,
- Being present when the warning signal is given at the start of the courses they must take part in.

## 4.5 More courses after

To inform that more courses will run after the current one, the Q flag is raised. This flag is lowered during the starting proceeding of the last course.

| Signal   | Corresponding flag          | Sound signal            |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><b>More courses after</b></p>  | <p><b>Q flag raised</b></p> | <p><b>No signal</b></p> |

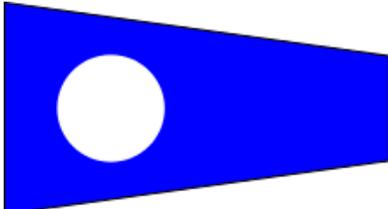
## 4.6 Finish

### 4.6.1 The finish line

The finish line is defined by:

- The finish line flag (usually on a boat),
- A buoy

Both moored at fixing positions.

| Signal  | Corresponding flag   |
|---|----------------------|
| <p><b>Finish line</b></p>  | <p><b>2 flag</b></p> |

Its position, limits, and crossing direction are defined and clearly shown by the competition director during the briefing, and stated on the official board.

### 4.6.2 Finishing proceedings

The finish line is officially crossed when the competitor's head crosses the line.

Competitors must cross the finish line with their kite in flight and with all their equipment.

### 4.6.3 Finishing order and ranking

The competition director ranks competitors by finishing order, using information from the timekeepers and judges of the course.

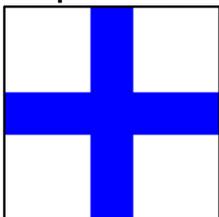
### 4.6.4 Closing the finish line

The finish line is closed 20 minutes after half the competitors starting the current round have finished.

Still, the competition committee may close the finish line when all the competitors of the current round have finished completely.

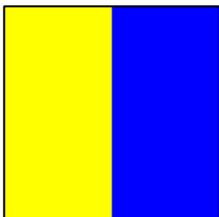
## 4.7 Stop the course

A course is called off with the cancellation flag and signaled by multiple sound signals. As far as possible, the competition committee should be able to signal cancellation at the front of the course (by the course opening boat, by timekeepers or judges at course marks).

| Signal  | Corresponding flag   | Sound signal            |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><b>Stop the course</b></p>  | <b>X flag raised</b> | <b>Multiple signals</b> |

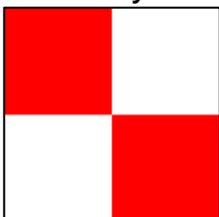
#### 4.8 Reach for information

If needed, the competition director can give new information asking competitors to reach a briefing.

| Signal   | Corresponding flag   | Sound signal    |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| <p><b>Go ashore for information</b></p>  | <b>K flag raised</b> | <b>1 signal</b> |

#### 4.9 End of courses for today

At the end of the competition day, the U flag is raised.

| Signal   | Corresponding flag   | Sound signal    |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| <p><b>End of courses for today</b></p>  | <b>U flag raised</b> | <b>1 signal</b> |

#### 4.10 Rounds

##### 4.10.1 Definition

A round is a course for which points are attributed, counting towards the final ranking of a trial.

##### 4.10.2 Validated round

A round may only be validated when at least one of the competitors have crossed the finishing line with their kites in flight, having completed the entire course in adequate wind conditions and in the allotted time (if any).

Minimum wind is at the competition director's discretion.

### 4.10.3 Round format

The competition director decides on the format of rounds after consulting the technical director and the competition committee, in light of:

- The number of registered competitors,
- The space available behind and on the start line,
- The competition course,
- Wind strength and direction,
- Security means.

### 4.10.4 Distribution of competitors

Competitors compete in different competition series and groups.

The different competition series and groups are scored separately, but can compete in a same round.

### 4.10.5 Number of points awarded for each validated round

After each trial, a ranking is established for each competition group with points awarded according to the following table:

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 0,7 points to the 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| 2 points to the 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| 3 points to the 3 <sup>rd</sup>   |
| And so on ...                     |

All unranked competitors in a round will be given the number of points equivalent to the number of registered competitors + 1.

Competitors not starting or not passing the first mark will be labeled DNS.

Competitors not passing at least one mark will be labeled DSQ.

Competitors crossing the start line in the final minute will be labeled OCS.

In all the above cases, the number of points given is the number of registered competitors + 1.

## 4.11 Trials

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### 4.11.1 Definition

A trial in the IFKO Kitesurf Course Championship is a sporting event with one or several rounds. For a trial to be validated, at least one round must be validated. It is compulsory for trials to run over a minimum of two consecutive days.

### 4.11.2 Maximum number of competitors per trial

Unless stated in the calendar, there is no fixed maximum number of competitors per trial.

### 4.11.3 Rounds counted in a trial

All validated rounds in a trial have the same value and count in a trial. Rounds have the same weight in the trial ranking.

Each competitor in a trial has their worst results for the validated rounds in their category discarded when the final rankings are drawn up, according to the following calculation:

| Number of validated rounds | Number of rounds discarded |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 to 3 rounds              | 0                          |
| 4 to 6 rounds              | 1                          |
| 7 to 10 rounds             | 2                          |
| 11 to 15 rounds            | 3                          |
| 16 rounds and more         | 4                          |

#### 4.11.4 Ranking

The trial's final ranking is announced by the technical director and the competition director at the end of the competition.

The trial's ranking is based on the total number of points obtained by competitors following all validated rounds.

#### 4.11.5 Number of points awarded in each trial

##### 4.11.5.1 Definition

Competitors in each category group in IFKO Championship trials will be awarded a number of points reflecting their rank and the number of competitors in that trial.

##### 4.11.5.2 Calculation formula

The number of points awarded to a competitor in a trial is calculated by applying the following logarithmic interpolation formula:

$$\text{Pts} = \text{Pts Last} + \text{Pts First} \times \text{Log} (\text{Number ranked} / \text{Place})$$

With:

- Place competitor's ranking in the trial
- Number ranked number of competitors ranked in the trial in the relevant category group
- Pts First 1000 points
- Pts Last 120 points

Class groups by trial: each of the category groups is separated for awarding points in a trial.

Examples of distributing points for competitions with 20, 30 or 50 competitors in the same category:

| Ranking | Points regarding the number of competitors |                |                |
|---------|--|----------------|----------------|
|         | 20 competitors                             | 30 competitors | 50 competitors |
| 1       | 1421,03                                    | 1597,12        | 1818,97        |
| 2       | 1120,00                                    | 1296,09        | 1517,94        |
| 3       | 943,91                                     | 1120,00        | 1341,85        |
| 4       | 818,97                                     | 995,06         | 1216,91        |
| 5       | 722,06                                     | 898,15         | 1120,00        |
| 6       | 642,88                                     | 818,97         | 1040,82        |
| 7       | 575,93                                     | 752,02         | 973,87         |
| 8       | 517,94                                     | 694,03         | 915,88         |
| 9       | 466,79                                     | 642,88         | 864,73         |
| 10      | 421,03                                     | 597,12         | 818,97         |
| ...     |  |                |                |
| 20      | 120,00                                     | 296,09         | 517,94         |
| ...     |  |                |                |
| 30      |  | 120,00         | 341,85         |
| ...     |  |                |                |
| 40      |  |                | 216,91         |
| ...     |  |                |                |
| 50      |  |                | 120,00         |

##### 4.11.5.3 Points awarded for a non-run trial

If no round is validated in a trial, each participant present for the trial is awarded 100 participation points.

##### 4.11.5.4 Managing ties

In case of ties between two competitors when the final ranking is drawn up:

- First, their ranking will be recalculated with all the rounds run in the trial (without discards),
- If the tie remains, it is the result of the last round run in the event where the two ties are separated which will fix the ranking.

## 5 Competitor conduct

The rules in this chapter apply to all competitors who ride in or near the competition area, and intend to compete, compete, or have competed. However, a competitor who is not in a round cannot protest or ask for compensation.

When a competitor who rides under these rules meets a competitor who is not subject to them, they must respect the IRPCS - International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Collision Regulations 1972 - ColReg72) or the governmental rules of priority. However, in this case, an alleged breach of these rules shall not be grounds for a claim or a claim for compensation.

### 5.1 Safety speed

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Competitors must maintain a safety speed at all times so that they can take appropriate and effective measures to avoid a collision. In case of non-compliance with this rule, the competitor may be disqualified from the round.

### 5.2 Priority rules

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A competitor has priority when another competitor is required to keep clear of the competitor, and let him/her evolve with his/her kite without risking a collision.

However, some rules limit the actions of a priority competitor:

- When a competitor by his/her action acquires a priority, he/she must first let the other competitor time and space to keep clear.

The **downwind side** of a competitor is the side comprising the kite with respect to the axis of the trajectory.

The **place** is the space necessary for a priority competitor to pass on its normal trajectory, it includes the space between a competitor outside and a mark or an obstacle integrating the space to change tack if this constitutes a normal part of the maneuver.

The following rules are directly derived from the IRPCS - International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Collision Regulations 1972 - ColReg72).

#### 5.2.1 Avoid contact

A competitor must avoid contact with another competitor if this is reasonably possible. However, a priority competitor:

- Does not need to act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other competitor does not stand apart or give room, and
- Shall not be penalized under this rule unless there is contact that causes injury or damage.

When two competitors approach each other in such a way as to cause a collision to be feared, one of them must deviate from the other's route according to the following rules.

#### 5.2.2 Converging paths

When the paths of two competitors converge, the competitor on the port tack must give way.

The windward competitor must put his kite high enough for the leeward competitor to pass by lowering his kite.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.3 Paths on the same tack**

When two competitors have the same hand in front (are on the same tack), the windward competitor must give way to the other.

The windward competitor must put his kite high enough for the leeward competitor to pass by lowering his kite.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.4 During a tack change maneuver**

When a competitor changes tack, he/she must keep clear of other competitors.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.5 Competitor conduct having to give way**

A competitor having to give way to another must not push through and must:

- Either slow down,
- Or stop,
- And keep their kite in the most favorable zone not to obstruct the other competitor.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.6 Kite position**

In the event of crossing or overtaking, the leeward competitor must lower their kite and the windward competitor lifts theirs. The overtaking competitor may position their kite in the most favorable zone.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.7 Overtaking**

As far as it is possible, an overtaken competitor should stay on the same path, unless avoiding an obstacle on that path. The overtaking competitor must not obstruct an overtaken competitor.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

### **5.2.8 Movement**

Competitors' movement over the course must happen exclusively via the traction kite and/or accumulated kinetic energy. Whatever the mode of movement, the kite must remain in flight.

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from the current round.

## **5.3 Outside help**

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During the starting phase and on the course, only competitors in the same race can help each other.

Except for safety reasons, no other form of outside help is permitted in the starting phase or on the course outside the technical preparation area.

Any outside help on the course leads to the competitor being disqualified from this course.

## **6 Competitor equipment**

### **6.1 Personal equipment**

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Competitors must wear helmets during training and rounds. Wearing supplementary safety equipment is highly recommended.

### **6.2 Kite security system**

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All kites must have a system allowing:

- 1) The power of the kite to be neutralized or sufficiently reduced (at the main holding point) in the event of a loss of control, while retaining a link with the kite to prevent a third party potentially being put at risk.
- 2) Breaking away completely from the kite (if, after this neutralization or reduction in power, the kiter is still or newly in danger).

Failure to do so is punishable by disqualification from all the rounds competed with the inappropriate equipment.

### **6.3 Equipment changes**

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Changing sliding or traction equipment is permitted at any time inside the preparation area.

### **6.4 Steering lines**

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Measured from the steering bar to the kite, the maximum length of lines is 30 meters. Kevlar and metallic cable lines are banned.

## **7 List of appendixes**

Appendix 1: Parental permission