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# Class Rules

## International Kiteboarding Association - Formula Kite



The IKA Formula Kite Class was adopted as a World Sailing international class in 2013

sport / nature / technology



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## IKA FORMULA KITE COURSE RACING COMPETITIONS

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# INTRODUCTION

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The IKA Formula Kite Class rules are meant to regulate the equipment used in kiteboarding course racing (“Formula Kite”) events.

The aim of the rules is to enable competitors of different weight and size to compete on sailing crafts that are regarded as “Formula Kite” to participate on an equal playing field. Development of equipment within the limitation of these class rules is encouraged.

Hulls not using foil systems foil systems and Kites shall only be manufactured by Licensed Manufacturers and shall be series production manufacture controlled with every item of the series built to the highest possible degree of uniformity in every performance related respect,

Equipment as above shall, after having left the manufacturer, only be altered to the extend permitted in Section C of these class rules.

*Owners and Crews shall be aware that compliance with rules in Section C is the responsibility of the competitor. Rules regulating the use of equipment during a race are contained in Section C of these class rules, in ERS Part I and in the Racing Rules of Sailing.*

*This introduction only provides an informal background and the International Kiteboarding Association Class Rules proper begin on the next page.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**CLASS RULES IN THIS CHAPTER ARE CLOSED CLASS RULES WHERE IF IT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT YOU MAY, THEN YOU SHALL NOT.**

COMPONENTS, AND THEIR USE, ARE DEFINED BY THEIR DESCRIPTION.

# PART I – ADMINISTRATION

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## Section A – General

### A.1 LANGUAGE

- A.1.1 The official language of the class is English and in case of dispute over translation the English text shall prevail.
- A.1.2 The word “shall” is mandatory and the word “may” is permissive.
- A.1.3 Except where used in headings, when a term is printed in “**bold**” the definition in the ERS applies, and when a term is printed in “*italics*” the definition in the RRS applies.

### A.2 ABBREVIATIONS

- A.2.1 WS World Sailing
- MNA WS Member National Authority
- FK IKA Formula Kite Class
- IKA International Kiteboarding Association
- NCA National Class Association
- RRS Racing Rules of Sailing
- ERS Equipment Rules of Sailing

### A.3 AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.3.1 The international authority of the class is the World Sailing which shall co-operate with the IKA in all matters concerning these **class rules**.
- A.3.2 The World Sailing or IKA, or its delegated representatives can accept no liability or legal responsibility in respect of these rules.

### A.4 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLASS

- A.4.1 The class is administered by the International Kiteboarding Association.

### A.5 WORLD SAILING RULES

- A.5.1 These **class rules** shall be read in conjunction with the ERS.

### A.6 CLASS RULES VARIATIONS

- A.6.1 At class events – see RRS 89.1.d) – World Sailing Regulation 10.5(f) applies.  
At all other events RRS 87 applies.

### A.7 CLASS RULES AMENDMENTS

- A.7.1 Amendments to these **class rules** are subject to the approval of the World Sailing in accordance with the World Sailing Regulations

### A.8 CLASS RULES INTERPRETATIONS

- A.8.1 Interpretation of **class rules** shall be made in accordance with the World Sailing Regulations

## Section B – BOAT ELIGIBILITY

For an IKA FK kite-board to be eligible for *racing* it shall comply with the rules in this section

### B.1 LICENSED MANUFACTURERS

#### B.1.1 Terminology

- (a) Foil System: Hull appendage primarily used to produce vertical lift and/or affect leeway, as described in C.8, may include a Mast, Front Wing, Fuselage and Stabilizer

#### B.1.2 Registration and Licensing follows the procedures described in the 'IKA Builder Agreement and Registrations Scheme'

#### B.1.3 **Kite-board hulls** not using foil systems, foil systems and kites shall compete in Formula Kite class events only with registered series production equipment, manufactured by licensed builders as selected according to B.1.4

#### B.1.4 Selection of Equipment

- (a) In November, three years before the next Olympic Games, Foil System models and **kite** models which comply with World Sailing regulations as well as World Sailings criteria for manufacturers of Olympic Equipment shall be selected by the IKA / World Sailing Technical Committee (as applicable) to be used in any class event.
- (b) Any equipment in B.1.4(a) shall be chosen from the IKA registered series production equipment list valid at the time of the selection.
- (c) Only the first five equipment models used by sailors in the World Sailing Rankings at the time of the selection shall be eligible for selection.
- (d) The chosen equipment shall remain selected until the day after the Olympic Games following the selection.
- (e) Separate equipment control and registration procedures may apply as agreed between World Sailing, the manufacturer and the class.
- (f) **Kite-board Hulls** may be provided for some of the events.

### B.2 HULL IDENTIFICATION

#### B.2.1 Production **Hulls** shall display either

- (a) IKA Logo + Manufacturer name + Manufacturer s/n or
- (b) IKA plaque + Manufacturer name

As applied by the manufacturer

### B.3 KITE IDENTIFICATION

- B.3.1 Production kites registered after September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 shall display the official IKA Registered Production Equipment Plaque and the manufacturers serial number as applied by the manufacturer.

#### **B.4 HULL APPENDAGE IDENTIFICATION**

- B.4.1 Production foil systems registered after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 shall display a unique manufacturers serial number on mast, fuselage, front wing and stabilizer (rear wing). The serial number shall be in a place visible without dismantling the foil system. Brand and Model/Size may be coded into the serial number. The serial number may be covered by clear coating applied by the manufacturer.

#### **B.5 EVENT INSPECTION**

(a) For the purpose of RRS 78, **crew** is considered to be the owner.

(b) The role of **Equipment Inspectors** at an event is to ensure compliance with these **class rules**. Where an **equipment inspector** determines that an item of equipment needs further investigation they shall use whatever inspection methods they deem appropriate, including comparison with a standard or a sample of other equipment presented for inspection. Should this comparison reveal deviation greater than the Inspector considers being within manufacturing tolerances, this shall be reported to technical representatives of World Sailing, IKA and Manufacturer for investigation and a decision on the legality of the equipment. If this investigation takes longer than the time available for inspection, the owner shall present alternative equipment for inspection.

#### **B.6 EVENT LIMITATION MARKS**

- B.6.1 All items of a **crew's** equipment which are subject to control, as per the schedule on the Regatta Equipment Registration Form, and which require **event limitation marks** shall be so marked.
- B.6.2 Some items of equipment may receive **two event limitation marks**, one in a readily visible position and a second in a position protected from wear and tear.

# PART II – REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

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The **crew**, **equipment** and the **kite-board** shall comply with the Rules in Part II when *racing*. In case of conflict Section C shall prevail

The rules in Part II are **closed class rules** as defined in the ERS. Equipment inspection shall be carried out in accordance with the ERS except where varied in this part

## Section C – Conditions for Racing

### C.1 GENERAL

#### C.1.1 LIMITATIONS

(a) Not more than either

- 1) one production **hull** and four production kites and two **fins** per fin box (if so prescribed by the Notice of Race) shall be registered for an event. When a hull, kite or fin has been lost or accidentally damaged beyond repair, a replacement may be made, only with the approval of the Race Committee. The Race Committee shall then attach an **event limitation mark** to the replacing item, or
- 2) One production foil system and a maximum of four production kites shall be registered for an event. When a foil system or kite has been lost or accidentally damaged beyond repair, a replacement may be made, only with the approval of the Race Committee. The Race Committee shall then attach an **event limitation mark** to the replacing item. Any **hull** may be used.

(b) Not more than one production kite shall be registered per size range:  
Large: Nominal Size of 15m or bigger  
Medium: Nominal Size of 11m to 15m  
Small: Nominal Size 11m or smaller  
X-Small: Nominal Size 9m and smaller

(c) From 1st September 2017, only kites displaying a registered equipment plaque shall be used at World and Continental Championships.

### C.2 CREW

#### C.2.1 LIMITATIONS

(a) The **crew** shall consist of one person.

#### C.2.2 MEMBERSHIP

(a) No **crew** is permitted to race at a National or International Regatta unless he/she is a member of his/her NCA. If there is no NCA, then the **crew** shall be a member of the IKA.

### C.2.3 AGE DIVISIONS

- (a) OPEN – Men and Women of any age
- (b) YOUTH (U19) - Boys and Girls under the age of 19 years on 31 December of the year of the event.
- (c) MASTERS (35+) – Men and Women above the age of 34 years on 1 January of the year of the event.
- (d) GRAND MASTERS (45+) – Men and Women above the age of 44 years on 1 January of the year of the event.

### C.3 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

C.3.1 **Personal equipment** does not have to be produced by a licensed manufacturer

#### C.3.2 SAFETY AND LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

- (a) A detachable kite leash shall be used. The Notice of Race and the Sailing instructions may change this rule.
- (b) In accordance with RRS 1.2 the following provision is made: The **crew** does not have to wear or carry on board a **Personal Flotation Device** unless RRS 40 applies or the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions specifies it. The **Personal Flotation Device** shall conform to the minimum standard of ISO 12402-5 and if prescribed, the **crew** shall wear it. Alternative or additional standards may be prescribed in the Notice of Race.
- (c) Any helmet may be used

#### C.3.3 OPTIONAL

In addition to food and personal effects to keep warm and/or dry, and/or to protect the body, the following may be carried on board:

- (a) Any harness.
- (b) Any buoyancy vest or jacket (which may be described as mandatory in the Sailing Instructions). If personal buoyancy is prescribed, every competitor shall wear a personal flotation device that shall conform to the minimum standard of ISO 12402-5 (Level 50).
- (c) Any container for holding beverages in accordance with RRS Appendix F 43.1(a)
- (d) Any electronic or mechanical timing device
- (e) Any heart rate monitoring device
- (f) Any electronic or mechanical compass

### C.4 PORTABLE EQUIPMENT

C.4.1 **Portable equipment** does not have to be produced by a licensed manufacturer.

#### C.4.2 OPTIONAL

- (a) any GPS tracking device. The Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions may change this rule.



- (b) Any camera recording equipment and attachments, where permitted by the Notice of Race and/or Sailing instructions, and removable for weighting

## **C.5 IDENTIFICATION**

Competitors shall comply with RRS F9

## **C.6 ADVERTISING**

### **C.6.1 LIMITATIONS**

Advertising shall only be displayed in accordance with the World Sailing Advertising Code.

## **C.7 HULL**

### **C.7.1 MODIFICATIONS/MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

- (a) The **hull** shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by these class rules.
- (b) Routine maintenance and repairs may be carried out provided such repairs are made in such a way that the essential shape, characteristics or function of the original are not affected. The serial number/s shall remain legible.
- (c) The deck grip may be partially removed to apply personal sponsor logos or may be restored to its original condition with a clear coating. The original hull designs shall remain identifiable.
- (d) A damaged fin box may be replaced only by the same 'type' of fin box and shall be positioned at the same position as the original.
- (e) Unused fin boxes must not be filled or sealed.
- (f) Any footstraps may be used
- (g) A damaged insert may be replaced and shall be positioned at the same position as the original. Inserts may be filled or sealed.
- (h) Footpads may be replaced or extended along the board with a similar type of material and as close as possible same thickness as the original, provided that the original hull design remains identifiable
- (j) Any adhesive tape may be used provided that the original hull design remains identifiable.

### **C.7.2 MAKERS MARKS**

For hulls registered after 01.01.2013, personal advertising as provided in the World Sailing Advertising Code may be applied provided that brand, make and size identification remains identifiable.

## **C.8 HULL APPENDAGES**

### **C.8.1 GENERAL**

- (a) If C.1.1 (a)(1) applies any **fin** is permitted. No other **hull appendages** are permitted to be attached to the hull.
- (b) If C.1.1 (a)(2) applies only one foil system is permitted to be attached to the **hull**.

- (c) Any adapter between the **hull** and mast of the foil system may be used. The shortest distance between the lowermost point of the adapter and the bottom of the **hull** shall not exceed 125mm.

## C.8.2 DIMENSIONS

If C.1.1 (a)(1) applies the shortest distance between the lowermost point of the **fin** or retractable fin when fully retracted and the bottom of the hull shall not exceed 500 mm.

If C.1.1 (a)(2) applies there shall be a minimum of 500mm between the lowest point of the foil system to its closest point to the **hull** shell.

## C.8.3 MODIFICATIONS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- (a) the foil system shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by these class rules.
- (b) Routine maintenance and repairs may be carried out provided such repairs are made in such a way that the essential shape, characteristics or function of the original are not affected.
- (c) Any existing screw holes may be filled and faired. The filling or fairing material may not extend beyond the screw hole and into the surface of the foil system.
- (d) Any gaps between the different components of the foil system (mast, fuselage, front wing, stabilizer) may be filled and faired, including the junction slot between the mast and the wings.

## C.9 RIGGING

### C.9.1 BARS

- (a) Any handle bar with a quick release system may be used.

### C.9.2 LINES

- (a) Any lines may be used.
- (b) Front lines shall have a depowering *device*.

### C.9.3 BRIDLES

- (a) Any bridles may be used.

### C.9.4 DIMENSIONS

The maximum distance measured from the lowermost point of the rigging to any part of the kite, when rigged, shall be 45000 mm.

	Maximum Diameter	Minimum Diameter
Front Lines		1.2mm
Back Lines		0.8mm

### C.9.5 MATERIALS

- (a) Flying lines shall be made of dynema or spectra or generic materials
- (b) Bridles if used shall be made of Carbon, Kevlar, Poly-aramid, dynema or spectra or generic materials.

## C.10 KITE

### C.10.1 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- (a) The kite shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by these **class rules**.
- (b) Routine maintenance and repairs may be carried out provided such repairs are made in such a way that the essential shape, characteristics or function of the original are not affected. Serial numbers/plaque ID's shall remain legible.

### C.10.2 IDENTIFICATION

If prescribed by the Notice of Race each **kite** shall carry nationality flags as instructed by the Notice of Race.

### C.10.3 SAILMAKERS MARKS

Personal advertising as prescribed in the World Sailing Advertising Code may be applied provided that model and size remains identifiable.

## Section D – Hull

### D.1 GENERAL

#### D.1.1 DIMENSIONS

	Min	Max
<b>Hull Length</b>		1900mm
<b>Hull Beam</b>	150mm	700mm

#### D.1.2 WEIGHT – For registered hulls

	Min	Max
<b>Hull weight (equipment registered before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012)</b> (included deckpads and excluded <b>fins</b> and footstraps)	4000 gr	
<b>Hull weight (equipment registered after September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012)</b> (included footpads and excluding <b>fins</b> and footstraps)	5500 gr	

#### D.1.3 MATERIALS

Any materials may be used

## Section E – Hull Appendages

Not in Use

## Section F – Rigging

Not in Use

## **Section G – Kite**

### **G.1 GENERAL**

#### **G.1.1 MATERIALS**

- a) The outside shell of the front tube (if any), the canopy, and the outside shell of the struts (if any) shall be made out of woven ply
- b) Reinforcements, battens, tapes may be made out of other material.
- c) Bladders shall be made out of TPU, PU or PVC materials

#### **G.1.2 SIZE**

The nominal size of a kite registered after 01.01.2013 shall be within +/- 0.5 sqm of the actual measured size of the kite (laid out area)

#### **G.1.3 SIZE DECLARATION**

For Kites registered after 01.01.2013 the nominal kite size shall be printed by the manufacturer on the outside (top side) of the canopy in a contrasting colour and clearly legible. Commercially available typefaces giving the same or better legibility than Helvetica are acceptable. The height of the characters shall be at least 150mm

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