

As posted on www.fighterkitecentral.com forum on 8/6/2008 by Scott Bogue, NAFKA's president.

**FIGHTER KITE LINE-TOUCH
2008 WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**

Sponsored by

Washington State International Kite Festival

&

North American Fighter Kite Association

RULES, GUIDELINES & FLYER INFORMATION

The Fighter Kite Line Touch World Cup Championship is THE premier line touch event in the world. Part of the reason for its premier position is the fun enjoyed by the World Cup participants. Fun is what World Cup is all about! The increased level of fun is the result of each participant operating with honor and integrity and showing the highest level of respect for all opponents and judges. The Fighter Kite Line Touch World Cup is a high-energy exciting competition and is a game in which we all are proud to participate!

WHEN AND WHERE:

The 2008 Line-Touch Fighter Kite World Cup Competition will be held at the Washington State International Kite Festival in Long Beach, Washington. The World Cup will begin PROMPTLY at 9:00am on Friday, August 22. Assuming the number of fliers and weather conditions are appropriate, the competition will conclude the same day. Should circumstances warrant it, a plan for extending the competition into Saturday will be agreed upon at the Thursday evening gathering immediately following the Mad Mary Marathon. The competition will be held on the fighter kite fields designated by the WSIKF organizers, usually the two southernmost ones best reached from Sid Snyder Rd. (aka 10th St.).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER:

The World Cup is an open competition and any experienced flyer is eligible to enter.

ENTRY FEE:

None! This event is sponsored by WSIKF and NAFKA.

WORLD CUP 2008 COMPETITION FORMAT:

Details of the competition format will be announced at the Flyers' meeting, but in general terms it will include a Qualifying Round and then a Final Round. The Qualifying Round will be as nearly complete

a round-robin as is possible. Flyers emerging from the qualifying round with the highest winning percentage will compete in a Final Round to determine the 2008 World Cup Champion.

CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

As a contestant in the World Cup you will serve two roles, one as a competitor and one as a judge or an assistant. **AS A COMPETITOR** you have the responsibility to use your very best efforts to win each point, to respect calls made by judges, and to promptly acknowledge when winning touches have been made against you. **AS A JUDGE** you have the responsibility to pay close attention to the competing flyer's lines, and to honor the judging guidelines. **AS A GHOST FLYER** you are expected to use your very best efforts to win each point. Assistants help flyers re-launch their kites.

FLYER INFORMATION

FLYERS' MEETINGS AND REGISTRATION:

Friday, beginning at 9:00 AM there will be a flyers' meeting to register, receive a score card, learn field locations, discuss rules and have questions answered. The Flyers' meeting will be held on the beach near the southeast corner of the fighter kite flying fields which are on the south end of the stretch of beach between the Bolstad and Sid Snyder Rd. (aka 10th St.) beach approaches. The best way to get to the fields is via the Sid Snyder Rd. beach approach, where there are usually plenty of parking spaces available in the morning. **PROMPTLY, AT 9:05 AM, WE WILL COUNT THE NUMBER OF COMPETITORS PRESENT AND REGISTRATION FOR THE 2008 WORLD CUP FIELD WILL BE CLOSED.**

TIMELINESS:

Competitors not present and ready to fly their matches at the time they are called will be replaced by a ghost flyer and will score zero for the missed match. The scorekeeper is responsible for starting matches according to schedule and will not delay the competition waiting for an absent or tardy competitor. **Arrive early to ensure you do not miss the opportunity to compete.**

DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

The Starter judge of a match has the final word about any dispute or immediate scoring issue. The Starter judge's decisions are final and points will be scored accordingly. However, if a flyer has specific proof of a flyer or judge not following the World Cup rules and guidelines, the flyer should bring the specific proof to the attention of the event directors. The event directors will make the final determination about the appropriate action required, if any.

THE INCLEMENT, EXTRAORDINARY, OR UNFORESEEN

The event directors have the authority to adjust World Cup rules or scheduling if inclement weather,

extraordinary conditions, or unforeseen circumstances threaten the integrity of the competition

EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

KITE GUIDELINES:

- a. Only single line kites are permitted.
- b. No sharpened protrusions are allowed.
- c. The kite's skin or covering must be readily visible in the sky. Any kite with disputed visibility will be put to the 75% test. If 75% of the flyers that must compete against the kite allow it, it will be allowed. Otherwise, it will not be allowed.
- d. Cutting devices of any kind are prohibited from being used in the competition.

FLYING LINE GUIDELINES:

Any non-cutting flying line of the flyer's choice (e.g., cotton, dacron, spectra, etc.) is permitted. Kevlar, Manjha, or any cutting type line is not permitted.

FLYING AREA

COMPETITOR'S "FOOT AREA":

Circles made of plastic pipe approximately 12' in diameter will mark the boundary of each competitor's "foot area". The circles will be positioned so that the closest part of the 2 circles is 15' apart and as equal to the wind as is possible. A 15' long rope will be tied to each circle and will determine the correct separation distance. A streamer "wind indicator" will be placed between the foot areas to identify wind direction. If the wind shifts during a match, the starter judge will ensure the circles and DIVIDER be repositioned so that they again are equal in wind position for each flyer. Once positioned, flyers can not move their foot areas.

The circles define the competitor's "foot area" within which they may move their feet during a point. If your foot or your shoe touches the ground outside of the "foot area" while a point is in progress you will be called for "foot fault" and will lose the point. A flyer can touch the ground outside of the flying area with any part of their body except for their feet or shoes.

THE DIVIDER:

A rope called the DIVIDER will lie on the ground equidistant from each flying area and parallel to the wind as determined by the wind indicator. **The DIVIDER is the base or footprint of an “invisible vertical wall” separating the two competing flyers' starting zones. This wall extends in unlimited dimensions behind, above and in front of the flyers.** The DIVIDER rope will be highly visible and at least 30 feet in length.

FLYER’S STARTING ZONE:

A flyer's **starting zone** is the space on his or her side of the divider out to field-ropes that determine the boundaries for the entire flying field.

FAIRSTART:

FairStart is a dual electronic random time generator. When the Starter judge activates FairStart, it will randomly determine when it will sound off and, independently, it will also randomly determine which of two sounds it will emit. When it does sounds off, it will emit either **a steady tone indicating a 'TOP' point, or a beeping sound, indicating a 'BOTTOM' point. REMEMBER... TONE is for TOP -- and -- BEEP is for BOTTOM!**

FairStart has 4 selectable maximum delay times. For World Cup, the maximum delay will be set at 10 seconds.

COMPETING FOR POINTS

RIGHT OR LEFT SIDE:

Scorekeepers will have a short and a long straw (or similar device) which flyers will draw in advance of their match. The flyer drawing the shortest straw will fly on the left. Alternatively, pairing sheets that pre-assign flyers to their side may be used.

STARTING A POINT:

Soon after launching, flyers will maneuver their kites to their respective starting zones and keep them in their starting zones until FairStart sounds off. When the Starter judge determines both competitors are ready to compete, the Starter judge will ask "Are Flyers Ready?" Flyers must respond by yelling, “READY” or “NO”. If one or both flyers say “No”, the Starter judge will allow a short amount of additional time and then repeat the question. Soon after both flyers answer, “READY” the starter judge will yell “SET”.

THE “SET”:

The starter judge will announce the activation of FairStart by yelling, “SET”. **The moment the starter judge yells “SET” THE POINT IS IN PROGRESS. Flyers must keep their kites aloft and in their starting zones until the FairStart sounds off.**

“BREACHING” THE DIVIDER:

If a flyer's kite leaves its starting zone (e.g., by crossing the divider) after the Starter judge has yelled 'SET' but before FairStart's sound off, that flyer has 'BREACHED' the divider and will lose the point. The Starter judge's position, and eyes, will be directly in line with the DIVIDER from the time the Starter judge yells “SET” until FairStart sounds off. If a BREACH occurs, then the Starter judge will yell 'BREACH' and award the point to the flyer whose kite did not breach. The starter judge is the ONLY judge that identifies and calls a BREACH.

GROUNDING AFTER “SET” IS CALLED:

If a flyer's kite is the first kite to make contact with the ground ANYTIME after the starter judge has yelled, “SET” and before the point is awarded, the flyer loses that point.

Remember, the announcement of “SET” means that THE POINT IS IN PROGRESS. FairStart's sound off indicates the direction of the point and marks the moment when the kites can first leave their starting zones to engage.

TOP/BOTTOM DETERMINATION:

FairStart will determine whether a point is a top or bottom point when it sounds off. A steady tone indicates TOP and the beeping tone indicates BOTTOM. Because some flyers may have difficulty hearing or distinguishing the tones, **the Starter judge will announce the point by yelling “TOP” or “BOTTOM” immediately upon hearing the tone from FairStart. Remember TONE is for TOP -- and -- BEEP is for BOTTOM!** If the starting judge incorrectly announces the point (e.g. yelling “top” after the FairStart beeps indicating a bottom point should have been called) the point will be immediately stopped and restarted.

FLYER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LOST POINT:

In keeping with NAFKA's model of expecting the highest level of **RESPECT, HONOR AND INTEGRITY** from each flyer; **when a flyer knows their line has been touched by their opponent's line they should call the loss of point to the judge** and the judge will then award the point to the other flyer.

AWARDING LINE TOUCH POINTS:

There will be a Starter judge and up to two other judges for each match. The judges will identify the line touches and call out the point winners unless a point loss is first called by the flyer that has been touched. **Any judge can award a point to the first flyer whose kite line or bridle touches an opponent's flying line or bridle from the called direction of the point in a manner that makes the touch visibly noticeable to the judges AND the kite making the touch remains airborne until the touch is called.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FLYERS:

Only when a judge **SEES** a line touch as defined in the JUDGING GUIDELINES

AND DEFINITIONS will it be called a '**TOUCH**' and a point awarded; and it will only be called if the kite making the touch is airborne at the time of the call. Because most flying lines are invisible, or nearly invisible, identifying a touch can be difficult. **IT IS THE FLYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THE TOUCH OBVIOUS TO THE JUDGES.** This may require extended periods where your line is in contact with your opponent's line. Obviously, highly visible line makes it easier for the judges to see the touch at the moment of contact! (*Read the JUDGING GUIDELINES AND DEFINITIONS for more details about the definition of a line touch*)

ONLY JUDGES OR THE TOUCHED FLYER IDENTIFY AND CALL TOUCHES:

Even if you believe you have won the point by touching your opponent's line in the called direction, you **cannot** announce the touch to the judges. Instead of calling to the judges, your responsibility is to maneuver your kite to make the touch visible to a judge. **Even when you think, or know, your line is touching your opponent's line; it is not a score until a judge SEES one of the line touch conditions and makes the call OR when the flyer whose line has been touched acknowledges the touch.**

THE “KAMIKAZE” TACTIC: A “kamikaze” is an attempt to earn a top point by diving your kite over your opponent’s line in such a way that a crash (of your kite) is unavoidable. It is virtually impossible for judges to see and call a kamikaze touch before the crash, while the crash itself is easy for all to see (and for the judges to call). For this reason, “kamikaze” attacks almost always fail under World Cup rules. Flyers should NOT expect judges to call kamikaze touches.

WRAPPED LINES:

If opponents' flying lines become wrapped when a line touch occurs, the point immediately ends. In other words, line wraps are considered proof that a winning touch occurred. Un-wrapping the lines by a judge can help determine who won the point. If, while un-wrapping the lines, it is determined that the winner of the point is different from a judge’s call, if there was a judge’s call, **un-wrapping the lines may reverse the awarding of that point.**

STOPPING A POINT IN PROGRESS:

Due to the current trend towards using relatively fine and very strong synthetic flying lines, the potential for flyer and observer injuries is a concern. For example, if your flying line is in contact with your opponent or an observer during a point and you continue pulling and maintaining tension in the line so your kite will remain competitively flying; you could seriously injure your opponent or an observer with your line.

Once a point is in progress, the point remains in progress until the point is awarded, or for safety reasons, a judge stops the point. Flyers are strongly encouraged to promptly notify judges when they believe that the safety of the other flyer, the judges, or observers is threatened, **but only a judge can stop the point.** When the situation becomes safe again, the point will be restarted.

YOU WILL LOSE A POINT DURING A MATCH IF:

- a. **Your kite line or bridle is touched by an opponent's flying line or bridle from the called direction of the point.**
- b. **Your kite is the first kite to contact the ground after "SET" has been announced and before a touch is scored.**
- c. **Your foot or shoe touch outside of your foot area during a point.**
- d. **You lose possession of your kite because of broken line before the point is called.**
- e. **Your kite is the first kite to fly beyond the boundary of the flying field during a point.**
- f. **A person assists you with your line or reel during the flying of a point.**
- g. **Your kite breaches its starting zone during the time between the starter judge yelling "SET" and prior to the FairStart tone.**
- h. You intentionally physically interfere with an opponent's flying line causing the opponent's kite to ground.
- i. You use anything other than your flying line to maneuver your kite. You can not handle the bridle of the kite or the kite itself to maneuver or fly your kite.
- j. After the starter judge positions your foot area for a point, you move it without the starter judge's authorization.

POINTS WILL BE RESTARTED IF:

- a. **Both kites hit the ground simultaneously as called by the judge.**
- b. The starter judge determines there is Unresolved Confusion on the part of the judges regarding the scoring of a point.
- c. **Any judge determines there is a concern about the safety of a flyer or an observer.**
- d. **The starter judge makes an error in yelling the point direction i.e. the starter judge yells "TOP", but the FairStart beeped, indicating the call should have been "BOTTOM".**

KITE TUNING, REPAIRS and ADJUSTMENTS:

Kites are to be tuned and ready to fly when a competitor enters the foot area. **Once a kite is launched at the beginning of the first point of the match, it will be flown without adjustment until the first point is scored.** Once the first point is awarded, kites may be adjusted between all remaining points. **However, once a kite has been adjusted between points and is re-launched, no further kite adjustments will be allowed until after the next point has been scored. No test flying will be permitted between points. Repairs, adjustments and tuning must not delay the match.**

CHANGING KITES DURING A MATCH:

The kite you fly for the first point of a match is the kite you must fly for all points in that match unless it is lost because of broken line or damaged during a point of the match.

DAMMAGED OR LOST KITES DURING A MATCH:

If your kite becomes damaged during the flying of a point, the point will continue to completion. If your kite is lost from broken line prior to the awarding of the point, you lose the point provided your opponent did not ground their kite before your line broke. If it wasn't the last point of the match then your damaged or lost kite may be replaced before the next point begins. Your opponent will also have the option of changing kites. Competitors will not be permitted to chase their lost kite unless the loss occurred on the last point of a match.

CHANGING LINE DURING A MATCH:

The flying line a flyer uses at the start of a match must be the same line used for the entire match. Simple tangles in a flyer's line can be undone between points, but large tangles should be spliced out so that the match is not unduly delayed.

TIME OUT:

A competitor may not call for a "time out" during a point. Only judges can stop points for safety reasons.

GHOST FLYERS:

A ghost flyer is a substitute flyer used to ensure all competitors are afforded the opportunity to fly an equal number of points and will be used:

- a. As a substitute for a disqualified flyer.
- b. In lieu of a flyer absent when the match is called to start.
- c. If there is a shortage of flyers to complete a flying group.

When you fly against a ghost flyer, **the points you earn from the ghost flyer are scored for you.** Points won by the ghost flyer are not scored for any flyer. **Ghost flyers are expected to compete to the best of their ability.**

DISQUALIFICATION

YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE WORLD CUP IF YOU:

- a. Give points to other flyers.
- b. Attempt to trade flyer identification numbers and/or points with other flyers.
- c. Use cutting line or cutting devices of any kind.
- d. Are not present and counted in the flyer count at the flyers' meeting immediately preceding the competition.

SCOREKEEPERS

In addition to accurately keeping score, the scorekeepers maintain the pace of the competition. The scorekeeper will call the flyers who are **next** to compete and have them draw straws (or use a similar method) to determine which side they will fly on. In order to complete the World Cup within the allotted time, the flow of matches must be smooth and continuous. The scorekeeper is the person who facilitates the smooth flow of matches. **It is all flyers' responsibility to fully cooperate with the scorekeeper by being prepared to compete and by being within easy listening distance of the scorekeeper's voice during the entire heat.**

The scorekeeper will also have a set of the current World Cup rules and extra batteries for FairStarts.

JUDGING

JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS:

Judges may include non-competitors, flyers from groups with a bye for the current round, or members of competing flying groups. Above all, it is important that each flyer, while competing, has the benefit of at least three judges watching the lines. Judging assignments are as follows:

The Starter Judge will be positioned in line with the divider just behind the two foot areas at the start of the point. Once the Fairstart has sounded, the Starter Judge should move to a position where line touches will be most visible. The Starter Judge checks and verifies wind direction versus foot area locations and makes changes if needed, makes sure the DIVIDER is properly located, asks flyers if they are ready, activates FairStart and yells "SET", watches for and calls breaching of the DIVIDER before FairStart sounds off, yells "TOP" or "BOTTOM" based on FairStart's sound off and watches for line touches and other faults.

Assistant Judges should be positioned behind or beside the foot areas so that they have the best view of the lines where touches are likely to occur. Assistant judges will be responsible for closely watching the flyers' lines and feet and honoring the judging guidelines below.

Field Judges will be positioned in the field primarily to assist flyers re-launch kites. However, Field judges can call a point anytime they clearly see a line touch even if it was not visible to the Starter Judge or Assistant Judges.

JUDGING GUIDELINES AND DEFINITIONS

A judge's responsibility is to call points and faults based on the following guidelines and to be consistent in their calls from match to match.

Identifying Line Touches:

Judges have the responsibility to attentively watch the flying lines of both competitors. To their best abilities, judges will identify and call line touches **IMMEDIATELY** after SEEING either of the conditions listed below. **When a line touch is identified, a judge will immediately yell, “TOUCH”.**

Any of the following four conditions constitutes a line touch:

***Line touch condition A.* Actually seeing the point of contact of the two lines, a line and a bridle or bridle to bridle.**

***Line touch condition B.* Seeing a line with a distinct change of angle or nick. This abrupt change in line angle indicates one line is in contact with the other line causing a break in the natural curve or sag of the line.**

***Line touch condition C.* Hearing a flyer acknowledge that he or she has been touched.**

***Line touch condition D.* Seeing that the two flying lines have become wrapped.**

JUDGES REMINDER: Because a kite must remain airborne after a winning touch has occurred it is imperative that judges call a “TOUCH” the instant they determine a touch has occurred. A judge is NOT to guess about a touch. If a judge has any question or doubt whether a touch actually occurred or if the judge only thinks a touch occurred then IT IS **NOT A TOUCH**. The judge must be **CERTAIN** that one of the four conditions above exists before calling a touch.

IMPORTANT JUDGING REQUIREMENT:

In order to see the lines and the line touches, judges will have to frequently move around. **Judges have a responsibility to the flyers to obtain an observation position with the BEST flying line visibility based on the light conditions and line angles at the moment.**

Foot Faults:

Judges have the responsibility to look for potential **foot faults**. **A flyer whose foot or shoe touches the ground anywhere outside of their foot area has created a foot fault which will cause that flyer to lose the point.** If a foot fault occurs, the judge will notify the flyers and the point will be awarded to the flyer that did not have a foot fault.

Repositioning of Foot Areas:

Judges have the responsibility to identify and make the call when a flyer moves or repositions their foot area without the authorization of the starter judge. When a flyer repositions their foot area, without the starter judge's authorization, they lose that point.

Flying Using the Bridle or Kite:

Judges have the responsibility to identify when a flyer grabs the bridle of their kite or the kite itself in order to fly their kite. A flyer will lose the point if using anything other than flying line to maneuver or fly the kite.

Kite Grounding:

The first kite that makes any contact with the ground AFTER the starter judge yells 'SET' and BEFORE a touch is called is considered grounded and the flyer of that kite loses the point. Contact between the **kite line** or **bridle** and the ground is **not** considered a grounding and no call will be made. In cases where a kite makes only momentary contact with the ground, the grounding call can only be made by a judge or the flyer of the kite that grounded.

Flying Out of Bounds:

Judges have the responsibility to identify when a flyer's kite is beyond the roped boundaries of the flying field. The first flyer whose kite goes beyond the flying field's roped boundary loses the point in progress.

Breaching the DIVIDER:

The starter judge's position, and eyes, will be directly in line with the DIVIDER from the time FairStart is activated and the starter judge yells 'SET' until FairStart's sound off. If a Breach occurs the starter judge will immediately yell "Breach" and will award the point to the non-breaching flyer. The **STARTER JUDGE is the ONLY judge that can call a Breach.**