

# **North American Power Kiting Association Safety Guidelines**

## **These guidelines cover Kite Buggying, ATB/Kite Land boarding, Kite Skating, Dirt Surfing**

When practiced in a responsible manner, traction kiting is a safe and enjoyable sport. If practiced recklessly, like most things, traction kiting can be a dangerous activity to participants and bystanders. As of now, traction kiting is relatively unregulated and allowed in most public places with few restrictions. In order to keep it this way, we encourage the practice of safe, responsible traction kiting, placing participants and bystanders at minimal risk.

### **Site Assessment**

All members must make reasonable endeavors to establish that the site with which they wish to use conforms to the following:

- That use of the site does not constitute an illegal act.
- That the site is suitable for the activity with which they plan to participate.
- That in participating in the activity they are not causing distress to either livestock (farmed animals) or specifically horses whether ridden or not or people enjoying the use of the site.
- That they will not cause any damage to the site or properties around the site.
- That they will not endanger any adjacent roads or vehicle access points such that drivers, cyclists and horses/horse riders will be given cause for alarm which may lead to a possible accident.
- Please be aware that whilst you may feel that you are far enough away from a roadway, path or right of way a horse may still panic if a kite looms into view. Please be vigilant.

### **Safe Participation**

- Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the participant in the activity has an acceptable level of control over the equipment in use.
- Should any difficulties arise a suitable area must be available at all times to allow recovery of any difficulties that may be incurred.
- It is advisable to wear appropriate safety equipment such that any minor incidents do not cause any personal injuries.
- Where possible do not participate alone in any activities.

### **External Influences**

- Should the weather change in such a manner that may result in injury (thunderstorm, high wind) it is advisable to desist in the activities until the condition has passed.
- If requested by an official representing the owners or authorities of the site in use to leave the site please comply. If possible request their name, who they represent and who the main contact would be so that the club can lease with the owners/authorities to secure a mutually acceptable strategy to gain future access to the site.
- Should you or your equipment be damaged due to undue care of any other member of the public please do not become confrontational. If possible note any car registration details and report the matter to the local police stating dates, times and incident. Also, if possible take a photograph of the perpetrator and report them to the local authority/landowner etc.

### **Newcomers**

- If any newcomers are attempting to participate in the use of the site inform them of these guidelines.
- Ask any newcomers if they carry any insurance. Also point out that this insurance may need to be proven and that appropriate paperwork may need to be presented.
- Encourage all newcomers to join the North American Power Kiting Association.

### **General**

- Always stay clear of other vehicles. Drivers don't always know what you are going to do next. Give them room to get around you.
- Never fly upwind of a stationary object
- Always stay clear of overhead wires. High voltage power lines can really ruin your day and your kite. Remember you may have to let go of the kite.
- Always be sure to have a safe downwind recovery area. If you need to release your kite in an emergency so the kite won't get tangled.
- Always Keep fit. Fit people have fewer injuries.
- Always observe local rules and regulations before participating in your activity.
- If you are unsure of any aspect of your equipment ask others for advice.
- If you are new to the sport please ensure that you are not trying to participate in conditions that would outweigh your capability.

- Learn in light to medium steady winds. Steady winds provide predictable conditions when learning.
- Avoid gusty and variable winds. These conditions are counter-productive when starting out and can be frustrating.
- Avoid areas with obstacles. It is helpful when the area you traction kite in is clear of ditches, logs, and other obstacles.
- Always check to make sure the area you plan to traction kite in is clear of hidden obstacles.
- Avoid certain areas. There should be no buggying in the stage-in or camp area, except to park your buggy and kite.
- Use caution around spectators or innocent bystanders. Approach them with caution and give them the right of way, since they are unaware of the actions of power kites.
- Ensure that an appropriate adult supervises any children under 12 years old.
- Avoid other kite lines. Running into other kite lines can damage not only your lines, but also other lines and kites.
- When you are not flying your kite put it away so that the space may be used for others.
- Always check your equipment before each use, bridles, lines, wheels, nuts and bolts may be damaged or have become loose.
- Have consideration for other beach users, stick to the areas permitted for use and if there is no room to safely conduct your activity, due to tourist, the tide etc, wait for the appropriate conditions before you engage in your activity.
- Never let an unknown person try your buggy or land board etc, as they may not be able to handle it safely.
- Safety is important. Teach other traction kites the importance of safety through your actions, as well as words.

These guidelines should be followed when participating in any form of traction kiting