



THE INTERNATIONAL KITEBOARDING CLASS ASSOCIATION

An ISAF International Class

2013 annual report from the International Kiteboarding Association to the ISAF Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Committee

Membership has grown in 2013 to 56 national class associations, representing all continents, with another 15+ in the pipeline to become members in the very near future. Interest is especially strong and continues growing in the Middle East, Asian and African area.

In a lot more nations the activities of kiteboarding are governed by the respective ISAF MNA directly without a national class association, these countries are not included in the above numbers.

Events have been held in all parts of the world, including continental tours in Europe and Asia, and continental championships in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Oceania will have a continental championship from 2013 (Perth, 10.-15. December 2013). The middle east will have separate "continental" championships from 2014 onwards. The class racing world championship will be held next week in Hainan/China with app. 160 competitors and the mens fleet being 50% oversubscribed due to quota limitations. All continental championships had excellent participation levels.

Successful World Championship Tours have been run for the disciplines of Freestyle, Wave Performance and Slalom.

The Speed discipline currently solely focusses on record hunting.

In 2014, the KiteFoil Gold Cup will be held in 5 venues around the world for the new KiteFoil Class (see below).

2014 will also see a dedicated youth and masters world championship for the Formula Kite Class.

Equipment has become very similar throughout the different brands. The new yearly registration system using plaque IDs works very well. Equipment inspection is enforced, the class has invested in high tech measurement tools to enforce even better quality control on side of the manufacturers to ensure that tolerances are limited to standard production variation and not to gain advantages.

Two new classes have evolved from the former "open" class rules, Formula Kite (IKA FK) and Twin Tip Racing (IKA TTR). A new development class with closed class rules in standard format has been introduced (Kite Foil) and will apply for ISAF class status next year.

Rules have proven to work in the past events as included in the RRS 2013-2016. Two urgent rule changes have been proposed for this years conference (re-implementation of standard rules 13 and 18). The board rules working party will propose more rule changes for the 2017 rulebook which will delete several "special" rules in order to return to standard RRS.

The development of the class certainly aims for a further expansion to the remaining parts of the world with continental tours and championships planned in Africa and the Americas.

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