

WHAT AM I WATCHING?

A GUIDE TO SPORT KITE COMPETITION, PERFORMANCES, AND DEMONSTRATIONS

WHAT IS A SPORT KITE?

Sometimes called a 'stunt kite', these are kites that are maneuverable and can perform tricks or flying patterns with a certain level of precision. The most common versions are 'dual line' and 'quad line' kites. These kites require the flier to give continuous input, they are not the kind that you anchor to the ground and walk away.

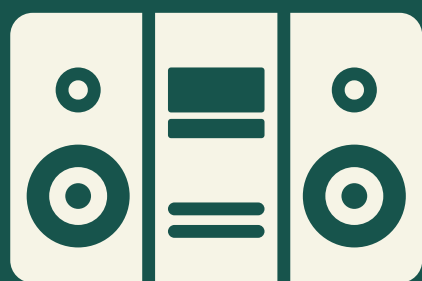
WHERE SHOULD I WATCH FROM?

Usually, the best place to watch a routine from is from directly behind the kite flier. In light wind conditions or indoors, you can get a good view from almost any angle!



WHY IS THERE MUSIC?

Sometimes kite fliers are flying to specially selected music. This is called a 'Ballet'. The kite flier is attempting to fly their best to the music much like a dancer would. If you don't hear music and see what looks like a competition, you might be watching a 'Precision Routine', or a 'Trick Out'. These type of competitions are showing off how well they can fly certain maneuvers, tricks, or patterns.



ARE THERE DIFFERENT SKILL LEVELS?

In most competitions, if there are enough competitors, there will be separate classes such as 'Novice', 'Experienced', and 'Master'. Some events will also split up competitors by the type of kites. Increasingly however, it is just one class: 'Open Class'.

Individual competitors only compete against other individuals, pairs against other pairs, and teams (3+) against other teams.



HOW ARE THEY JUDGED?

Depending on the type of competition, fliers are judged by:

- How well they perform (execution)
- The difficulty of what they are trying to do (trick competitions)
- How well it is in time with the music (choreography for ballets)
- Overall appeal

There are different kinds of stunt kite competitions with different rules, but most use a form of Ballet routines, or Precision tricks.

