

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SAFE KITE FLYING

North East Kite Fliers

THE LAW

There are a number of laws relating to kiting activities laid down by The Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence. (**Directorate of Airspace Utilisation**) Amendments to the laws were made in 1996. Relevant laws are: (Articles 55,56,76, 118 & 121 and Rule 14) The C.A.A. classifies kites as aircraft.

Full details are available on the Midland Kite Fliers website.

You must not: fly a kite more than 30 metres (100') above ground level within 5 kilometres (3 miles) of an airfield. You should avoid take off and landing flight paths.

Be aware of: low flying police - rescue helicopters, micro-light aircraft, hang-gliders and para-gliders.

You must not: fly a kite more than 60 metres (200') above ground level without special permission from the C.A.A. (Kite festivals usually get special permission to fly much higher)

Local byelaws: You must not fly a kite as to create a public nuisance, this includes noise.

Some public places, e.g., parks, campsites etc may have a ban on kite flying.

SAFETY

Avoid: overhead power lines at all times. **Electricity can kill!**

Avoid: flying near roads, busy footpaths, railways, canals & rivers:

Choose: an open, clear area for flying away from the public if possible. (Fast moving, diving or crashing kites and flying lines can hurt people.

Avoid: flying in stormy, thundery weather, particularly on beaches. (Lightning can strike or static electrical charges build up and run to earth down your line and through you, you may receive burns or worse))

Avoid: flying near trees, they can entangle your kite & lines, and your kite may be impossible to retrieve.

Avoid: flying too close to other kites to avoid tangled or cut lines, damaged kites and accidents.

Avoid: startling pets and livestock, particularly horses when being ridden.

Be aware of: the dangers of tethering your kite (this includes tethered inflatables) always see that your anchor is secure and clearly visible. Never leave a tethered kite unattended, always be ready to take control.

Be aware of: the pull, lift and speed of some large single line kites and many multi-line sport kites.

Be aware of: the inherent dangers in the use of glass coated flying line (Manja) for fighter kites

Do not: fly in winds that are too strong for those recommended for your kite, and make sure that all knots, clips, and spars are secure and that your line is suitable for the wind conditions. Do not fly in winds beyond your strength.

Do not: run with your kite unless absolutely essential and see that the ground ahead is clear and fairly level.

Never: leave any "waste" kite materials on the flying field: **Always:** pick up broken spars, clips, line etc, and take them home.

Supervise: inexperienced flyers and children, SEEK INSTRUCTION before flying stunt and sport kites.

Wear: gloves to protect hands, kite line can cut deeply and cause friction burns. Do not allow the line to wrap around fingers or limbs. Keep your feet clear of kite lines and tails on the ground.

Wear: sunglasses or peaked cap to protect eyes in bright light. Protect yourself from exposure to the sun.

Kite traction activities, e.g.; Buggy, Kite Jumping, Kite Water Activities, Kite Skiing etc: participants must be aware of the increased, special risks involved in these activities for the public and themselves.

Participants should take appropriate training and take all reasonable precautions to ensure safety at all times.

(CHECK ON YOUR PERSONAL INSURANCE COVER, AS YOU ARE NOT COVERED BY OUR CLUB'S INSURANCE)

Dropping objects from the sky: C.A.A have strict rules on this activity. Check with the club officers.

Be aware that: if your kite becomes entangled in power lines (apart from the serious dangers) you may cause power failures and receive a large bill for its removal.

Club members must follow the instructions of the CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SAFE KITE FLYING at fly-ins and public displays. When flying at a Festival, observe the organisers' instructions as to what you may fly, where and when. At Club displays, observe what has been agreed at the fliers' briefing meeting at each site.

Be aware that: if you cause an accident you, or the club, may be liable to pay out large sums of money in compensation. (In the event of any incident, you should make notes of what happened, take details of any witnesses and inform other club members.)

Reviewed and approved at the Club's AGM on February 6th 2000. Updated by the Committee, 24th April 2004