

Tricks Party Guidelines*

General Conditions

This competition format is designed for dual-line individual, pair, and team competitors.

Operations Organization

To centralize operations, display flight orders and results, and calculate scores, the organizer must furnish a tent or a defined area that meets the requirements of the judges, sound engineer, and announcer.

1 Registration

- Competitors must submit their registrations at least 15 days before the competition.
- The number of registrants is limited to 18.

2 Competition

2.1 Fields

- A practice field is optional.
- The competition field is a circle 80 meters [about 260 feet] in diameter. The boundary is marked by one line (line or plastic ribbon), which is referred to as the “red line.” To help the fliers position themselves, the field includes a circle [also marked by a single ribbon] at the center that is 5 meters [about 16 feet] in diameter.
- Stage-in and stage-out areas are defined according to the wind direction and the available adjacent areas.

2.2 Required Staff

- *Two line judges*, who judge if a competitor or the competitor’s kite crosses the “red line.”
- *One field director*, who announces to the competitor (if so desired) the tricks that are integrated in the competitor’s ballet, as well as the remaining time. The field director also informs competitors when the judges are ready, communicates with the sound engineer to start the music for ballet, times the performance, checks wind speed, and monitors the competitor’s position on the field throughout the performance.
- *Three judges*, who judge the competitor’s performance according to the established point system. At the end of the competition, the judges calculate final scores and establish the ranking of competitors.

* Translated/clarified from the Tricks Party web site (www.tricksparty.com) by Stephanie Hiebert, May 2005. Any added or significantly altered text is enclosed in square brackets. Last revised **1 September 2005**.

9 June 2005 changes: In Section 7.1, corrected and clarified scoring for both ballet and imposed tricks.

16 June 2005 changes: In Section 7.1, added alternate name for K2000 in Ballet Scoring Guidelines table. In Section 7.2, added clarification of out-of-bounds timing.

13 July 2005 changes: In Section 5.4, added clarification of IN and OUT. In Section 7.1: (a) Reorganized the Ballet Scoring Guidelines table, and added clarification about the pancake and the flic-flac. (b) Added clarification about the use of percentages in the scoring system (new section “Calculating the Final Score”). (c) Added tiebreaker guideline.

18 July 2005 changes: In Section 2.1, corrected English equivalent of metric measurement for inner circle.

1 September 2005 changes (*upon consultation with Roger Tessa-Gambassi, R-Sky Forum*): In Section 7.2, changed the free amount of time allowed for the pilot’s first out of bounds from 20 seconds to 15. This change simplifies the timing of out-of-bounds penalties for the field director and line judges.

3 Flight Conditions

3.1 Maximum Wind Speed

35 km/h [21.7 mph]

3.2 Minimum Wind Speed

0 km/h

3.3 Wind Monitoring

Competitors may ask the field director to check the wind speed during the first minute of their performance—by saying, “Wind check.” If the request for a wind check is made during a performance, the competitor must continue flying while the field director checks the wind speed. The field director checks the wind for 15 seconds and announces the mean wind speed to the competitor. If the wind speed is not within the prescribed range, the competitor may choose to stop the performance, in which case the field director will ask the competitor to land the kite(s). Competition is then suspended until the wind conditions improve.

3.4 Extreme Conditions

In extreme conditions—such as continuous rain, thunder, or wind out of the allowed range—competitors may decide, by a show of hands, whether to continue the competition.

4 Competitors' Preparation

- Competitors must be ready to take the field at least three competitors ahead.
- Flight orders are determined randomly before the start of competition. The list is provided to the judges, the field director, and the announcer, and a copy is posted for the competitors.
- Competitors are responsible for taking the field on time, even in the absence of a “regulator.”

5 Competitor's Responsibilities

5.1 Program

- At the time of registration, each competitor must submit a form stating the order and names of the tricks that will be performed during his/her ballet.
 - Individuals must submit a minimum of 6 tricks and a maximum of 12.
 - Pairs [and teams] must submit a minimum of 6 tricks and a maximum of 9.
- A trick may not be listed more than twice on the program. During the ballet, however, a trick may be performed as many times as the competitor wishes. All tricks will be taken into account in the scores for style and legibility [clarity].
- During ballet, only the first attempt at a trick appearing on a competitor's program is taken into account by the judges.
- Ballet duration:
 - Individuals: 2–3 minutes
 - Pairs [and teams]: 2–4 minutes

5.2 Discipline Briefing

- Each competitor signs an attendance sheet.
- Trick forms are turned in.
- The flight order is announced.
- Music tapes and CDs are collected.
- Judges are introduced.
- Competitors' questions are answered.

5.3 Ground Crew

Competitors may have as many ground crew as they like, and they may position their crew wherever they want.

5.4 Setup Time

- Once on the field, competitors have 90 seconds before starting their performance.
- During the setup time, competitors may change two of the tricks in their program.
- If a competitor does not start the performance within the required time, the field director will inform the judges, who will assess a penalty. Thereafter, the competitor will have 45 seconds additional time before being disqualified. The music will not be started until the competitor asks for it to be started.
- [In ballet,] the stopwatch will be started at "in" and stopped at "out." [If "in" and "out" are not called, the competitor is considered IN and OUT with the music.]

6 Equipment

- Competitors may use any type of dual-line kite.
- Given the field dimensions, all competitors are advised to make their lines no longer than 38 meters [125 feet].
- Each competitor is allowed 45 seconds during a performance to fix or change broken lines or to exchange a broken kite with one of the same model.
- A competitor whose equipment fails during the first 30 seconds of a performance is allowed 1 minute to replace or fix it, and then may restart the performance from the beginning.

7 Scores and Judging Criteria

7.1 Scoring System

BALLET

- The ballet score is calculated from a technical score (which is based solely on the quality of the tricks) and a style score—which takes into account diversity, risk taking, fluidity, artistic feeling, and legibility [clarity]. [60% of the technical score is combined with 40% of the style score to determine the overall ballet score.]
- [60% of the ballet score is combined with 40% of the imposed tricks score to determine the final score (see below).]

- [The elements of the ballet are scored as follows:]

[Ballet Scoring Guidelines]

TECHNICAL			
<u>Group 1</u>			
<i>axel • coin toss • half axel • insane • pancake* • turtle [backflip] • twist [Sleeping Beauty launch]</i>			
BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
0	2	4	6
<u>Group 2</u>			
<i>360 • cascade • dead launch • double axel • fade • pinwheel [helicopter] • refueling [docking] • rolling Susan [snap lazy] • rolling-up • stop [stall] • two-point landing</i>			
BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
0	3	6	9
<u>Group 3</u>			
<i>540 • flapjack • flic-flac* • insane (right-left) • kombo • lazy susan • sideways [slide] • slot machine • spike [tip stab] • torpille • yo-yo</i>			
BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
0	4	8	12
<u>Group 4</u>			
<i>backspin • comète • Jacob's ladder [ours des prairies] • K2000 [superstart] • Lewis • multilazy • rolling cascade • wap-doo-wap • yo-yo takeoff</i>			
BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
0	5	10	15
<u>Group 5</u>			
<i>backspin cascade • crazy copter • yo-yo multilazy</i>			
BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
0	6	12	18

STYLE [0–20 points per element]				
	BAD	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT
<i>Diversity</i>	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20
<i>Risk Taking</i>	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20
<i>Fluidity</i>	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20
<i>Artistic Feeling</i>	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20
<i>Legibility [Clarity]</i>	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20

[* The French and American definitions of the **pancake** and the **flic-flac** are different. The American pancake is a flared landing; the French pancake is the same as the American flic-flac. The French flic-flac is what would be called a flip-flap in the United States. The tricks named here refer to the French versions. [For descriptions of these two tricks in American competition, refer to the separate document titled "Definitions of Tricks for Tricks Party USA".](#)]

IMPOSED TRICKS

- On the day of competition, the judges will choose 4 of the 8 selected tricks on the basis of the wind conditions.
- Each trick receives a score from 0 to 10 points. A competitor may make two attempts at each trick. The first attempt is worth 100% of the score it receives from the judges; the second attempt is worth 80% of the score it receives. The higher of the two values will be taken.
- The imposed tricks must be flown in the order announced at the briefing. After setup, individuals have 2 minutes to fly all 4 tricks; pairs [and teams] have 3 minutes.
- [40% of the imposed tricks score is combined with 60% of the ballet score to arrive at the final score (see below).]

[CALCULATING THE FINAL SCORE

- The final score consists of 60% of the ballet score plus 40% of the imposed tricks score. *Note:* None of the scoring components (imposed tricks score, ballet technical score, ballet style score) are normalized. Therefore, there is no fixed percentage relationship between the ballet technical score and the ballet style score, or between the imposed tricks score and the ballet score.
- *Tiebreaker:* In the unlikely event that two or more competitors have the same final combined score, the Imposed Tricks scores will determine the final ranking.]

7.2 Penalties

- [Specific point deductions:]
 - *Briefing delays:* 5% deduction on a competitor's final combined score for each delay. For pairs and teams, only one member must be present at the briefing.
 - *Gound touches:* 1-point mandatory deduction for each instance that is seen by a majority of the judges.
 - *Crashes:* 2-point mandatory deduction for each instance.
 - *Improper ending:* 3-point mandatory deduction.
 - *Exceeding setup time:* 3-point mandatory deduction.
- The different penalties will be deducted from the technical score.
- [Crossing the boundary:]
 - An individual competitor or his/her kite may cross the red line a first time for a maximum of 15 seconds [if the amount of time out of bounds in this first instance exceeds 15 seconds, a penalty of 1 point will be assessed for each additional 15 seconds out of bounds]. For all subsequent times that the boundary is crossed, a penalty of 1 point will be assessed for each 15 seconds spent outside of the flying area.
 - Pair and team competitors or their kites may cross the red line twice for a maximum of 15 seconds [each]. For all subsequent times that the boundary is crossed, a penalty of 1 point will be assessed for each 15 seconds spent outside of the flying area.

7.3 Grounds for Disqualification

- Being late on the competition field.
- Failing to start within the maximum allowed setup time (90 + 45 seconds).

7.4 Protests

Competitors may file a protest, in written or verbal form, with the judges immediately after the incident in question. After consultation, the decision will be announced to the competitors before the end of the competition.

8 End of Competition

8.1 Debriefing

- The competition debriefing will take place one hour before the awards are presented.
- The final ranking will be announced and the results posted.

8.2 Awards

- Competitors ranked in the top three places are invited to the awards podium with their kites.
- The time of the awards presentation will be determined by the event's organizer(s).