



# GKA FREESTYLE KITE WORLD CUP NEOM 2022 SAUDI ARABIA 18.10.-23.10.2022

It is a pleasure to announce the second event of the GKA FREESTYLE WORLD TOUR 2022

which will be held in Neom, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The dates will be from the 18<sup>th</sup> of October to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022.

This is a 5-Star GKA Kite World Tour event and the competition is sanctioned and governed by the 2022 GKA KWT Rulebook.

#### **Entry procedure and Registration**

All competitors planning to enter a KWT event shall pre-register through the registration link on the dedicated event page on the GKA Kite World Tour website:

https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/register/

or via email to <a href="mailto:tom@global-kitesports.org">tom@global-kitesports.org</a> or by other means to be specified by the KWT Sports Commission, no later than the published closing date for entries for that specific event.

Ultimately it is the competitors' responsibility to pre-register or to apply for an entry for an event and to ensure that the application has been received timely and correctly.

According to rule 11.2, fines and/or having their next events applications cancelled may be handed out to a pre-registered and / or qualified competitor who, without advanced notice fails to show up at an event.

Complete and signed entry forms for event registration must be signed and complete by the time stated in the Race Notice. Exceptions can only be granted by the KWT Representative.

If a competitor is unable to complete registration at the published time and place in the Race Notice for reasons beyond their control, then the competitor should contact the KWT Representative with details of their delay, and must gain consent for their registration period to be extended. Evidence must be supplied to support reasons showing that the circumstances were out of the competitor's control. Failure to comply with the above will prohibit a competitor from entering the event.

All riders must preregister for the event through the online registration form by 23.59h of the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022.

The registration does contain:

- Full Name:
- Nationality:





- Hometown:
- Date of Birth:
- Federative License Number:
- Sponsors:
- Passport number:
- Telephone/Whatsapp:
- Facebook page:
- Instagram account:
- Email:
- Name of Caddy:
- Food specifics:

All attending riders need to have a valid membership with the GKA and be members of a national NATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION and/or WORLD SAILING and have to be insured via the NATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION and/or WORLD SAILING.

Cost of entry is 125.- Euro and fees need to be paid via credit card through the online link when receiving the entry confirmation.

Every competitor needs to hold a valid GKA membership. The GKA membership needs to be obtained before or at the same time when confirming participation for an event and can be paid via the online payment link. The membership includes athletes' insurance for accident and third party liability during the competition.

All entry fee and GKA membership payments must be made before the 5th of October 2022 via credit card payment through the online registration tool.

#### **Entry restrictions**

linscription fee payments must be made no later than the end of the inscription-time at the respective event. In the case that the full amount of the inscription fee is not paid by the end of the announced inscription-time, the rider will not be allowed to compete. For certain exceptions approved by the tour management, payments can be made in cash at the inscription at the respective event. Cash-payments will only be accepted in Euros or USD currency!

In order to enter the event, parental consent / authorization must be received for all competitors who are under the age of 18 years old at the registration date.

# Eligibility

A competitor is eligible for any KWT event if he meets the following conditions:

- (i).He is a member of his Official National Kiteboarding Federation or Association. A valid membership card or certificate, or other satisfactory evidence of identity and membership may be requested.
- (ii). He has a personal medical insurance with worldwide coverage. A valid membership card or certificate, or other satisfactory evidence of worldwide medical coverage may be requested.
- (iii) The competitor cannot hold the KWT, the GKA or the event-organizer responsible for any claims for damages as a consequence of the competitor not having sufficient personal medical insurance.
- (iv) The competitor cannot hold the KWT, the GKA or the event-organizer responsible for any legal liabilities and/or any claims for damages by third parties caused by the competitor.
- (v). He complies with World Sailing Federation Regulation, Eligibility Code
- (vi). He holds a valid competitor's membership with the GKA Kite World Tour





#### **Entry allocation**

There is a maximum number of 28 male competitors and 28 female competitors entering this event. Entries into KWT events shall be allocated according to the following table:

	Kite Surf & Freestyle Discipline				
CATEGORY	28 Riders 14 Riders				
TOP 22	1-22	1-11			
GKA Wildcards	23-24	12			
Video Wildcards	25-26	13			
Organizer Wildcards	27-28	14			

- For GKA wildcards the KWT Sports Commission will select competitors based on their participation in past events as well as their kite merits.
- For riders aiming for Video wildcards, the athlete needs to submit a Wildcard Video application through the following online form:
- <a href="https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/wildcard-video-applications/">https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/wildcard-video-applications/</a>
- Wildcards will be seeded based on their KWT ranking whenever available. If this is not possible, they will be distributed in the KWT ladder according to rule 18.1.1.(ii)
- If any ranked competitor cannot compete in one KWT event due to an injury or other reasons, the empty spot will be given to the next highest ranked competitor. If this is not possible, the KWT Representative may grant exceptionally the available entry to another competitor prior approval from the KWT Sports Commission.
- The GKA will publish the GKA wildcard allocation on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2022, one day after the preregistration period closes. The number of injury wildcards to be granted according to rule 17.3. remains unknown until then.
- Wild card enquiries need to be done via mailing to tom@global-kitesports.org

#### **Equipment**

There are no restrictions on equipment.

# Seeding

	MALE			<u>FEMALE</u>	
1	Carlos	Mario	1	Mikaili	Sol
2	Arthur	Guillebert	2	Rita	Arnaus
3	Maxime	Chabloz	3	Bruna	Kajiya
4	Jeremy	Burlando	4	Estefânia	Rosa
5	Posito	Martinez	5	Claudia	León
6	Juan	Rodriguez	6	Pippa	van Iersel





7	Gianmaria	Coccoluto		7	Nathalie	Lambrecht
8	Valentín		-	8	Suami	Carvallo
		Rodriguez	-			
9	Adeuri	Corniel	-	9	Katie	Potter
10	Guilherme	Costa		10	Karolina	Winkowska
11	Luis Alberto	Cruz		11	Hannah	Whiteley
12	Robin	Goetgebuer		12	Luiza	Crispim
12	Lorenzo	Calcano		13	Paula	Novotna
13	Carlito	Martinez		14	Alexandra	Torres
14	Manoel	Soares		14	Holly	Keenan
15	Louka	Pitot		16	Nina	Font
16	Karim	Mahmoud		17	Helena	Brochocka
17	Ewan	Jaspan				
18	Erick	Anderson				
19	Manuel	Soares				
20	Nelson	Gomez				
20	Finn	Flugel				
22	Valentin	Garat				
23	Joselito	Del Rosario				
24	Pierfrancesco	Rizzelo				
24	Andrés	Qintero				
24	Daniel	Pereira				
24	Paul	Serin				
28	Matteo	Dorotini				
29	Oswald	Smith				
30	Jonas	Ouahmid				
31	Alex	Neto	1			
31	Matheus	Mendez	1			
33	Duvan	Macías	1			
33	Renzo	David				
35	Julian	Krikken	1			
36	Davi	Ribeiro				
36	Jack	Rieder	1			
38	Manu	de Pfyffer	1			
38	Christophe	Tack	1			
40	Luca	Seer	-			
40	Michele	Berti Esclapon	-			
40	Romain	Giuliano	-			
40	Jerome	Cloetens	$\dashv$			
44	Carlos	Magno	-			
44			-			
	Tom	Seager	-			
46	Nicolas	Franco	-			
46	João	Lucas	-			
48	Ramiro	Gallart				1





#### Injury wildcard

- To be entitled to an injury wildcard, a competitor must be ranked top 16 in the KWT ranking at the time of the injury.
- In order to apply for an injury wildcard, an official medical certificate must be delivered to the KWT Sports Commission and there must be evidence that the competitor missed at least 33% of the current year events or combined two years events.
- The maximum period to be granted an injury wildcard will be 365 days from the date of their injury or until the start of next scheduled event after the 365 days.
- A rider who has received an injury wildcard will be seeded in accordance with the following when returning from injury, until the start of next scheduled event after the 365 days from the date of their injury, except if they improve their ranking:
  - A. If ranked in the top 4 on the KWT Rankings before the injury, the rider will be seeded 5.
  - B. If ranked in the top 8 on the KWT Rankings before the injury, the rider will be seeded 9:
  - C. If ranked in the top 16 on the KWT Rankings before the injury, the rider will be seeded 19.

#### Discipline

There will be only one Official Discipline in this KWT event: Twintip Freestyle (mixed format)

#### Divisions:

- Pro Men: any age (minimum 14 years old in the year of competition)
- Pro Women: any age (minimum 14 years old in the year of competition)

#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

- Competitors have to wear the official lycra at all times when proceeding to the water also during training – for optimal recognition above the harness.
- Competitors will get their names printed on their personal lycra.
- Each rider will get one competition riders' vest at the registration. Each rider is responsible for his competition riders' vests. In case of loss a replacement is not possible!
- Competitors shall wear the event advertising lycra vest supplied by the Event Organizer over all other clothing, including harness on the water at all times during the event and one (1) board sticker to be placed on the top or on the bottom of the board.
- All competitors are required to abide by the advertising rules as laid out in the Rule Book.
   Competitors breaching these rules may be warned in writing for the first offence and may incur
  a fine at the second offence of not more than \$ 500 for each violation. Repeated offenders may
  be disqualified from the Event and/or Series.
- All rider meetings and opening/closing ceremonies in the schedule are mandatory to all riders.
   Please be on time and ready. There will be free lunch snack (sandwiches and fruits) and water provided for all competitors.
- Each rider is entitled to register one caddy. Caddies will not have free access to the Riders Lounge! Caddies will only have access to the launching area and the equipment tent, to help their fellow riders with their kite equipment, starting and landing.
- The Riders ID-Strap authorizes you to enter the equipment storage container. You will receive the Riders ID-Strap personally and only at the registration.
- Riders are not permitted to publicly associate their names in non-authorized parties/autograph sessions.





• There will be a social event-calendar for each event that all riders have to join via social media and share.

# **Equipment storage**

There will be equipment storage during the event at the competition site from the 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October. **Travel info:** 

THE GKA RIDERS, COMPANY AND STAFF HAS ACCESS TO NEOM TERRITORY ONLY FROM THE 16<sup>TH</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER. PLEASE DO NOT TRAIN ON THE WATER BEFOREHAND IN THE NEOM TERRITORY.

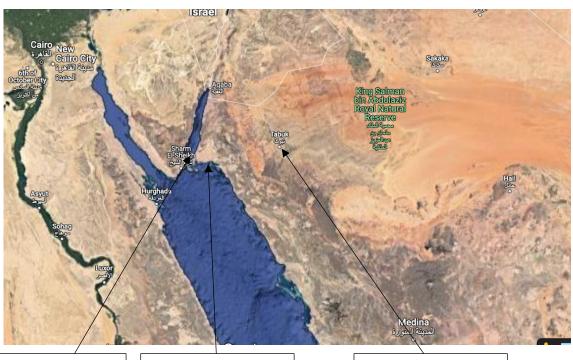
# Airport:

TABUK Airport is where riders should fly into. From Tabuk there will be a free shuttle bus to the Neom Beach Athlete Village site for both riders and anyone riders choose to bring.

# **Organiser Contact:**

Joshua Caird, +966 53 915 9644, <u>Joshua.caird@neom.com</u>

# **Location map:**



COMPETITION SITE

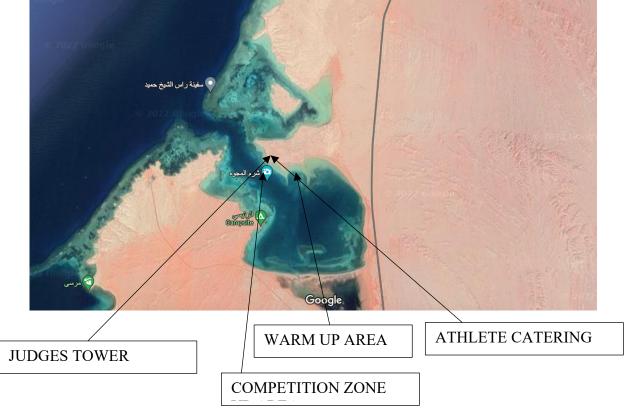
ATHLETE'S VILLAGE

TABUK AIRPORT









# Visa:

- Self-application via online platform. Previous experience shows visas received within 1 working day
- No proof of vaccination or pre-flight COVID test required for entry to KSA
- Personal Medical Insurance is mandatory, we recommend:





- Coverage of your medical expenses abroad up to €300,000, including in the event of illness linked to an epidemic / pandemic
- Coverage for repatriation
- Support for additional costs following the extension of the trip in the event of quarantine

For more visa info please email: tom@global-kitesports.org

#### Accommodation for competitors and company:

Athletes' village and the competition area is where **ALL** competitors and company will have free accommodation and free food from the 16-24<sup>th</sup> October. Lunch, Snacks, fruit, sports drinks, tea and coffee will also be served in Athletes Lounge at the GKA venue. If you want to bring someone, please let Tom know as soon as possible - tom@global-kitesports.org

There will also be a free airport shuttle from the airport to Neom. All athletes will stay in Athletes village in cabins of 2 which is roughly 30 minutes from the competition site. There will be daily free shuttle bus runs to and from the village to take competitors to the competition site.

Other perks of athlete's village include;

- Beach front desert camp, natural location with mountain views.
- Check in & out desk.
- Luxury, double occupancy, ensuite cabins.
- Concierge Desk (reporting issues, damage, key code resets etc.)
- Premium, communal catering.
- Relaxation area.
- WiFi.
- Housekeeping and laundry services.
- Medical and sport massage.

#### Weather:

Neom in October has a hot dry climate. The air temperature during day can be between 31°C the highest temperatures and lowest of 20°C. The water temperature of the sea is around 25°C.

The wind has a tendency to be stronger in the mornings so we will plan to run competition during the mornings.

# Wind direction

NNE wind 15-25 knots daily.

# **Event Schedule**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Optional Training Day

Monday 17th October

Optional Training Day

Tuesday 18th October

- Final warm up day
- 14.30 16.00: Inscription
- 17.00: First briefing and opening ceremony





# Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

- 6.00-7.00: Breakfast

- 8.00: Riders Briefing

- 8.30: First possible start

# Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

- 6.00-7.00: Breakfast

- 8.00: Riders Briefing

- 8.30: First possible start

# Friday 21st October

- 6.00-7.00: Breakfast

- 8.00: Riders Briefing

- 8.30: First possible start

# Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

- 6.00-7.00: Breakfast

- 8.00: Riders Briefing

- 8.30: First possible start

# Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

- 6.00-7.00: Breakfast

- 8.00: Riders Briefing

- 8.30: First possible start

- 19.00: Ceremony and prize giving

Be aware that times of competition can change and will depend on weather conditions. Skippers Meeting for the following day will always be communicated at the end of the previous day!

#### **Prize money**

The prize money for the GKA KITE-SURF WORLD CUP 2022 held in Neom, Saudi Arabia will be **40.000 Euro.** The prize money is paid cash by the organiser to the competitors in line with the Rulebook.

If there is 16 or more competitors in one gender and less than 16 competitors in the other gender then the prize split will be as followed:

- 40% of total prize money are split between Top 4 women
- 40% of total prize money are split between Top 4 men
- 20% of total prize money are split between Positions 5-8 of the gender with more than 16 competitors (4 riders in equal 5th place)

gender w	vith 16 or more	gender with less than 16			
position	percentage (%)	position	percentage (%)		
1	15	1	15		
2	10	2	10		
3	8	3	8		
4	7	4	7		
Total 1-4	40	Total 1-4	40		
5	5,5				





5	5,5
7	4,5
7	4,5
Total 5-8	20

If there is 16 or more competitors in both genders the prize split will be as followed:

- 50% of total prize money are split between Top 8 women
- 50% of total prize money are split between Top 8 men

16 or	more women	16 or more men			
position	percentage (%)	position	percentage (%)		
1	14	1	14		
2	9	2	9		
3	7	3	7		
4	6	4	6		
5	4	5	4		
5	4	5	4		
7	3	7	3		
7	3	7	3		
Total	50	Total	50		

If there is less than 16 competitors in both genders the prize split will be as followed:

- 50% of total prize money are split between Top 4 women
- 50% of total prize money are split between Top 4 men

Less th	an 16 women	Less than 16 men			
position	percentage (%)	position	percentage (%)		
1	19	1	19		
2	14	2	14		
3	10	3	10		
4	7	4	7		
Total	50	Total	50		

https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/rulebooks/2022/GKA%20Kite%20World%20Tour%20Rulebook%202022.pdf

#### Scoring

- There shall be no more than 1 dingle elimination at each KWT event.
- The minimum number of elimination series to constitute a valid score at an event and in order to distribute prize money is one (1) KWT elimination ladder where the fleet has been eliminated to the top eight riders with a 28 riders Dingle or four riders with a 14 riders Dingle.





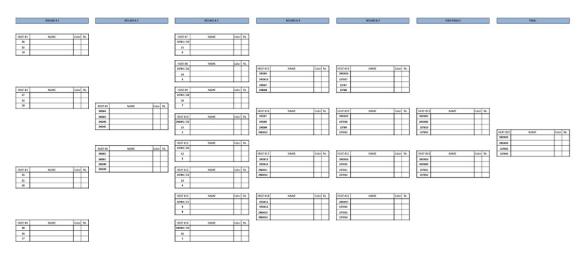
- Finishing positions in Dingle Elimination shall be scored as listed in the rule book depending on number of participants.

# The elimination procedure shall be.

- Competitors' names shall be entered on the appropriate elimination ladder according to the event seeding and the heat distribution table below.
- "Byes", if any, shall be positioned so that they are allocated to the most highly ranked competitors.
- If a majority of the heats of the first round have Byes, the Race Director and Head Judge may position competitors in the next rounds based on their seeding.
- Competitors shall ride one against one, or in groups of up to 4. The declared winners shall advance on the elimination ladder.

# **Elimination ladders**

# KWT 28 Riders Dingle Elimination



# KWT 14 Riders Dingle Elimination



KWT 6 Riders Dingle Elimination.





	ROUND#1			ROUND #2		]	FINAL		l			
HEAT#1	NAME	Rk.										
2											Rk	NAME
3			HEAT#3	NAME	Rk.	1	HEAT#4	NAME	Rk.		1	
6			2ND#2			1	1ST#1				2	
			3RD#1			1	1ST#3				3	
			2ND#1			1	1ST#2				4	
HEAT#2	NAME	Rk.	3RD#2			1	2ND#3				5	
5						•				•	5	
4												
1												

#### **Heat Progression**

- In those dingle eliminations the winner of the first round advances to the third round, whilst the second and third advance to the second round.
- The winners and second placed rider of the second round advance to the third round, whilst the third and fourth placed riders are out of competition.
- The winner of the third round advance to the fifth round, whilst the second and third placed riders are re-seeded into the fourth round.
- From the fourth round on, the winner and second placed rider of the heats advance to the next round, whilst the third and fourth placed riders are out of competition, until the final.

For more information on eliminations please read the GKA rule book by following the link here: https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/rulebooks/2022/GKA%20Kite%20World%20Tour%20Rulebook%

#### **Judging Criteria**

Ties in Freestyle Discipline heats:

In case of tie in the freestyle format, it will be broken in favor of the competitor with the highest single score. If a tie remains between two or more competitors, each competitor's individual scores counting towards the final score shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the competitor with the best individual score.

#### Freestyle Trick categories:

- The tricks repertoire has been broken down in a number of categories. The list of tricks
  included by category is not extensive, and not limited to the described tricks in appendix A but
  gives an indication about how different tricks are being categorized by the judges. The Head
  Judge has the final say when categorizing a new trick.
- In order to bring the variety criteria into effect, only the highest score per freestyle trick category will count towards the final heat score from each competitor.
- In the big air trick category, up to three highest scores per category may count towards the final heat score from each competitor. However, if a trick is repeated or if it is an evolution of the same trick, only the highest score from those will count towards the final heat score from each competitor.

Judging Criteria are applied to score the quality of the execution of each individual tricks. Each judge analyze the following major elements when scoring a trick:

(a) Height and amplitude – The combination of height and amplitude of the tricks completed during the heat. As the wind conditions increase, this aspect will exponentially become more and more into consideration, but only when the height and amplitude are achieved along with risk factor and technical difficulty.





- (b) Technical Difficulty The technical difficulty of tricks completed during the heat.
- (c) Power The power during the execution of the tricks. Power will be considered as a combination of speed into the trick to pop and speed out during the landing, kite position, height and amplitude during the trick.
- (d) Risk factor The risk factor is directly linked to the power, height, amplitude and technical difficulty of the jump, but also to the commitment of the competitor and physical challenge during the execution, duration of the critical moment, and energy on the execution.
- (e) Smoothness Smoothness and fluidity during the execution and landing of tricks completed during the heat.
- (f) Innovation Tricks that have never been landed in competition before.

CAN BE JUDGED ON BIG AIR IF THE WIND IS TOO STRONG

# FOR MORE INDEPTH INFORMATION REGARDING ELIMATION & JUDGING WE HIGHLY RECCOMEND EVERY ATHLETE READS THE GKA RULE BOOK.

#### Rulebook

The "GKA Kite World Tour Rulebook 2022" is available for download on the official GKA Kite World Tour website:

https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com/rulebooks/2022/GKA%20Kite%20World%20Tour%20Rulebook% 202022.pdf

#### **Covid-19 Pandemic Disclaimer**

Every competitor must be aware of the Covid-19 pandemic situation and its changing restrictions and regulations on travel protocols and event regulations. In case the event will be cancelled because of reasons not under the responsibility of the GKA, the GKA Event GmbH and/or the Organizer, neither the GKA, nor the GKA Event GmbH, nor the Organizer can be hold legally responsible for any financial losses.

The rider is aware about the global Covid-19 pandemic, which might cause travel restrictions, the changing of laws and custom-procedures worldwide on very short notice. Each rider takes part in the event at his or her own risk, which includes also all travels because of his or her participation at this event. Each rider is responsible for ensuring and fulfilling all relevant individual travel requirements as well as fulfilling all legal requirements for border controls, which are necessary for the participation in the event and for the return home. The GKA, the GKA Event GmbH and the event Organizer cannot be held legal and/or financial liable by the rider for damage and/or financial losses caused by travel restrictions, quarantine measures, flight changes or flight cancellations, tests required for entering or exit countries or because of any other regional, national or international measures associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

#### GKA Staff at the Kite-Surf World Cup Dakhla, Morocco 2022

Tour Manager: Tom Hartmann Race Director: Rui Meira Head Judge: Alvaro Onieva Judge: Dani Jimenez Judge: Paul Serin

Judge: Javo Sant Angelo Judge: Maxi Gomes Judge: Tom Schouten

Judge: Ignacio Del Aguila Gonzalez





Media Coordinator: Bernhard Ritzer Social Media: Rasa Iselionyte

Press: Jim Gaunt

Foto: Svetlana Romantsova

Video production: Mintautas Grigas

Commentator: Jo Ciastula & Lewis Crathern

Any question please contact our Tour Manager Tom Hartmann at tom@global-kitesports.org

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

The GKA Team