

How are the fliers judged?

The judges you see on the field have prescribed criteria by which they judge competitors' ballet and precision performances. In the United States, competitors' scores from each competition count toward an overall season standing that may qualify them for national competition (by invitation only) at the American Kitefliers Association annual convention, which takes place each year in late September/early October.

What is "Unlimited"?

There is only one outdoor Unlimited sport kite discipline: **Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited (OIOU)**. Competitors of all levels may participate in OIOU. Unlike other forms of sport kite competition, Unlimited allows competitors to use multiple kites and props during their performance, and audience appeal is one of the criteria by which Unlimited competitors are judged.

Is there really such a thing as indoor kiteflying?

Yes, believe it or not, kites can be flown indoors. In fact, indoor kiteflying and competition are becoming more and more popular all the time. Many people think that flying indoors requires big fans to make wind for the kites, but in fact, indoor kitefliers want there to be absolutely no wind. Because indoor kites are very lightweight compared to their outdoor counterparts, the fliers can generate enough lift simply by moving -slowly!-backward. Indoor competition follows rules similar to those for outdoor competition, with some modifications. The officially recognized competitive discipline for indoor competition is called **Open Individual Indoor Unlimited (OIIU)**.

To find out more about kiteflying, two good internet resources are the Eastern League Sport Kite Association (easternleague.net) and the American Kitefliers Association (aka.kite.org)

Are there different skill levels?

Sport kite fliers compete in three different types of events—**individual, pair, or team**—and in three different classes: **Novice, Experienced, and Master**. In the United States, anyone who is a member of the American Kitefliers Association can compete at a sport kite competition; there are no other qualifiers or prerequisites.

Each particular event at a sport kite competition, such as Experienced Individual Ballet, is called a **discipline**. There are about 20 recognized disciplines, covering ballet and precision in each competition class and type. To keep things short, disciplines are usually abbreviated with three-letter designations when printed in programs. For example, the discipline just mentioned—Experienced Individual Ballet—is abbreviated EIB. The general scheme for abbreviations works like this:

First Letter	Second Letter	Third Letter
E = Experienced	I = Individual	B = Ballet
M = Master	M = Multiline	OU = Outdoor Unlimited
N = Novice	P = Pair	P = Precision
O = Open*	T = Team	T = Train

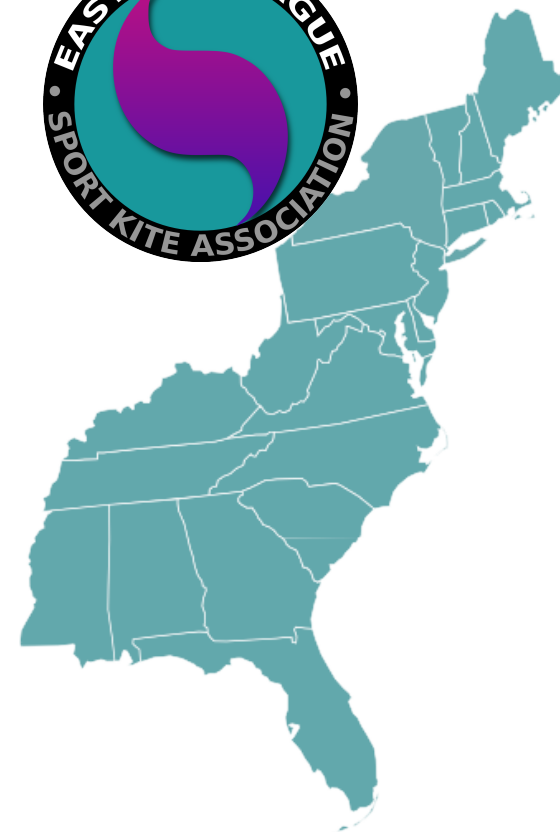
Examples: **NIB** = Novice Individual Ballet, **EPP** = Experienced Pairs Precision, **MMP** = Master Multiline Precision, **OTT** = Open Team Train

* Disciplines designated as Open are not divided by competition class, so competitors in these disciplines can range the gamut from Novice to Master.

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Spectator's Guide to Sport Kite Competition



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