

Guideline For Kite Surfing / Kite Boarding/Wind Surfing – Water Based Adventure Tourism Activities

For Registration with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

1. INTRODUCTION

Kitesurfing/Kiteboarding is an action sport combining aspects of wakeboarding, skateboarding, snowboarding, windsurfing, and paragliding into one extreme sport. A kite boarder harnesses the power of the wind with a large controllable power kite to be propelled across the water and land with or without foot straps or bindings.

Kiteboarding is an individual sport.

Kiteboarding is dependent on the wind conditions. With precaution, awareness & strong safety standards could maintain minimum accident & incident rate.

2. BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURES / GUIDELINES

2.1. OPERATIONS

- a) A thorough weather check for current session must be conducted & displayed before commencing any activity.
- b) All Kiteboarding activities must begin with a thorough safety briefing. The briefing must highlight the equipment used, do's and don'ts, demarcation of the boundary for the activity, rescue and emergency procedures & current weather conditions.
- c) All participants must sign a liability waiver form, clearly highlighting the risk involved, and prior to the commencement of the activity. Participants with any medical condition making them unfit for participation in the activity must be informed prior to the commencement of the activity and not allowed to participate.
- d) Lessons should only be given to students who have prior skill of swimming in open waters.
- e) The Kiteboarding instructor should do the first pre-flight check & launch any kite for lessons or rentals.
- f) Kite rentals should only be given to experienced independent riders who can ride upwind.
- g) Kite trips should only be organized for experienced independent riders who can ride upwind.

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- h) Kite lessons, rentals or trips cannot be conducted in offshore wind conditions unless accompanied by a safety boat. In this case, the safety boat must be on the water prior to commencement of lessons & the availability of a backup boat for safety / rescue must be available in the immediate vicinity (within visual distance) for prompt deployment with personnel duly qualified to operate/ carry out rescue operations if training in open waters.

2.2.

- a) All Kiteboarding Operators must maintain and update a Standard Operating Procedure for their operations.
- b) Besides covering the methodologies that are adopted by the agency in organizing the activity, such as assessing of members medical condition and experience, procedures for conducting the activity, avoidance of injury, safety precautions, communication, weather, procedure for emergencies, casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting, feedback mechanism the following must be included in the SOPs:
 - i. An Emergency Action Plan should be in position and advance arrangements must be known for medical help. Advance arrangements must also be made for evacuation assistance in case of an emergency.
 - ii. Advertising must give a true picture of all the difficulties and dangers involved, and avoid promising the impossible. All students should be sensitized that Kiteboarding is a sport, which has to be learned under the guidance of a qualified instructor.

2.3.INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

- a) Inspections and maintenance require a sound knowledge of the system and equipment and therefore must be carried out by qualified personnel. As a minimum the inspector must be a qualified guide/ instructor. Basic inspections must be carried out before every use with complete and detailed inspections carried out on a regular basis in accordance with their operational procedures and risk assessments.
- b) Communication devices must be carried by Kite Instructors, helpers & rescue boat at all times.

3. MINIMUM STANDARDS TO RECOGNITION OF OPERATORS

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The Kiteboarding operator must maintain, at the minimum the following documentation:

- a) Details of all Instructors including copies of certifications, record of experience and feedback from clients.
- b) Copies of all Permits and Permissions required for operations.
- c) Copies of identification documents, emergency contact details of next of kin for all participants & instructors.
- d) Copy of SOP. e) Current list of emergency contact numbers.

3.1.MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RECOGNITION OF OPERATORS

All Kitesurfing operators should follow the following minimum standards to receive recognition: Kitesurfing Operators, owner or employees must be experienced & certified in the sport. The following points are most essential to be considered for recognition.

- a) Certified Instructors & Guides
 - i. Qualification from a Recognized National or International body for Kiteboarding and a certificate from the operator that the individual "has experience of 3 years in assisting in the particular activity and is independently capable of teaching, assisting, leading trips and carrying out rescue operations".
 - ii. A valid first aid/CPR certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.
 - iii. A powerboat license certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.
 - iv. An open water lifeguard certificate provided by a recognized and qualified Provider.
- b) Location Map & Briefing
 - i. The kitesurfing location map with "safe" and "hazard zones" should be clearly displayed to all participants.
 - ii. A detail safety briefing must be given to all participants & key points must clearly displayed at the operation base.
- c) Lifeguard & Rescue Boat

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- i. If training in open waters, boats for safety/rescue must be ensured to be available in the immediate vicinity for prompt deployment with personnel duly qualified to carry out rescue operations.
- d) Operations & Maintenance Manual
 - i. A copy of the manual must be maintained on location including details of Standard Operating Procedures, Emergency Action Plan & Equipment Checklists.
 - ii. Manual must be updated annually.
- e) Quality equipment
 - i. Equipment used for teaching, trips or rentals must be maintained in excellent operating condition.
 - ii. The kitesurfing operator should have kits of all sizes to suit the wind conditions in pairs & smaller size trainer kites for land drills. Bars with short lines are mandatory for training beginners.
 - iii. Life-jackets/PFD's, harnesses & helmets should be accessible in pairs in all sizes.
- f) The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

4. MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

- a) Leading Edge Inflatable (LEI) kite /Foil kite depower capable & water launch Kites with adequate stock in a variety of Kite sizes to cater to current wind conditions.
- b) Kite-Bars to match with kite sizes with short lines for teaching & long lines for experienced riders.
- c) Kite-Boards with adjustable foot straps for beginners without board leashes.
- d) Harnesses with safety leash & helmets in various sizes to suit participants.
- e) An anemometer to check wind strength before commencing lessons.
- f) Life jackets or Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's): must meet the minimum buoyancy requirement, be appropriate for the intended activity and be certified/ approved by recognized authorities.

5. SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1.RISK MITIGATION

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- a) No kiteboarding activity should be undertaken without wearing a lifejacket/buoyancy aid throughout the time spent in water. The life jacket/buoyancy aid must have adequate buoyancy, should be fastened properly, and checked by the instructor prior to commencement of the activity. The lifejacket must be of the appropriate size for the intended user.
- b) No Kiteboarding activity should be conducted without the presence of trained lifeguard/s & instructors.
- c) Alcohol/drugs during the activity and at least six hours prior to the activity is strictly prohibited.
- d) Sign boards with rules clearly mentioning that no kiteboarding activity is to be undertaken unless supervised to be displayed.
- e) No Kiteboarding activity should be conducted in the dark and preferably finish an hour before dark.

5.2.EMERGENCIES AND RESCUES

- a) Adequate first aid medical equipment must be available with the operator.
- b) Evacuation routes must be identified and known to participants, guides, and instructors.
- c) A detailed and documented evacuation/ Emergency Action Plan must be available with the party along with closest available emergency services, which can be called upon as required.

5.3.SAFETY BRIEFING

- a) A clearly & documented safety briefing must be given including:
 - i. Equipment Safety Systems.
 - ii. Surrounding Environmental Awareness.
 - iii. Probable Hazards at location.
 - iv. Minimum fitness requirement for the sport.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

6.1.TRAINED MANPOWER

It is imperative that personnel responsible for conducting Kiteboarding lessons are certified Kiteboarding Instructors with skills to a high level in conducting lessons, rescue and life saving techniques, powerboat handling and First Aid/C.P.R.

6.2.GUIDES/INSTRUCTORS

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Instructors for Kiteboarding should, hold the following minimum qualifications.

- a) Qualification from a Recognized National or International body for Kiteboarding and certificate from the operator that the individual "has experience of 3 years in assisting in the particular activity and is independently capable of teaching, assisting, leading trips and carrying out rescue operations".
- b) A logbook/e-book containing authenticated records of Kiteboarding lessons.
- c) A valid first aid/CPR certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.
- d) A powerboat license certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.
- e) An open water lifeguard certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.

6.3.MEDICAL CONCERNS

- a) Instructor must ensure that the participant can swim in open waters comfortably.
- b) instructor must ensure that the participant is medically fit to learn or participate in the activity.
- c) A signed declaration from the participant is essential if there is any suspicion of prior injuries or medical concerns.
- d) Those with a weak heart condition, epilepsy, spinal issues, recent surgery or any other medical condition of concern should not be taken for kiteboarding.
- e) Expecting mothers should avoid kiteboarding.