

Position paper from GKA to KRU and all professional freestyle riders

Dear Freestyle Rider,
Dear KRU member!

From the point of view of the Executive Board of the KRU as well as the GKA, it would be very useful for the athletes, the organizers and the sponsors if the WKC Freestyle Tour and the GKA Kiteboarding World Tour (Air Games) were combined into a joint tour.

The benefits of a shared tour would be

- uniform and joint marketing, which is particularly important for “kite-sport-foreign sponsors”,
- identical position towards the event organizers,
- elimination of ambiguities for the media, spectators, sponsors
- avoiding of possible event overlaps,
- better predictability of tour-dates for the athletes,
- upgrading of the world championship title, since there is only one, and thus better marketing not only of the world champion, but the entire tour and the kite sport itself.

The GKA sees itself as the home of all kite-sport athletes and wants to develop the sport sustainably for the benefit of all. The interests of the athletes have to be considered as well as the organizers’, the sponsors’ and the one of the kite-enthusiastic spectators.

Considering all the different interests, the history of freestyle discipline and the desire to put a joint World Tour with all participants on a solid foundation, the GKA would like to propose to the KRU, its members and all professional Twintip athletes:

1. A common world tour from 1.1.2019 onwards.
2. 6 World Tour events guaranteed per year.
3. 2 World Tour events of the joint tour guaranteed as pure freestyle/wakestyle competitions. The format of the events can be the same or similar to the existing WKC event and WKC competition formats.
4. 4 World Tour Events under an amended mode of the current GKA Kiteboarding World Tour. Such amended mode could be as follows: On lighter to medium wind pure freestyle/wakestyle will be run in the competition. On medium to strong wind all three categories of the GKA Kiteboarding World Tour have to be shown (handle-passes, big-air, kitemans and combinations) with an increasing emphasis on big-air at strong to very strong wind.
5. At the end of the World Tour one World Champion will be announced. This World Champion is the best athlete on a twintip (best most complete rider).
6. Three World Tour events per annum will have guaranteed live streaming.
7. Minimum prize money per event 25.000,- Euro plus extra prizemoney for the top three riders at the end of the World Tour. (The prize money can be higher, lower prize money possible at an event in Mauritius.)
8. A safe World Tour for the next five years. It is the declared aim of the GKA to conduct their world tours in the long term and sustainably for all athletes, organizers and sponsors. It should be possible for the riders to plan their sports career on a solid ground.

9. Safe and reliable management of the tour through the GKA. It goes without saying that all riders are involved in the development of the sportive part of the tour, just as the GKA has been doing it since the beginning of the Kite-Surf World Tour.
10. The name of the joint tour should be *Kiteboarding World Tour* to address all twintip disciplines.

To start with a possible joint tour planning in time, a binding decision should be made until 29.11.2018.

Which way you ever might go, the GKA doors are gaping wide open for you!

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Kindest regards

Till Eberle <i>(Chairman)</i>	Max Blom <i>(Vice-Chairman)</i>	Klaus Warkentin <i>(Treasurer)</i>	Jörgen Vogt <i>(CEO)</i>	Robby Naish <i>(Honorable Chairman)</i>
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Preliminary Tour Calendar of the GKA Kiteboarding World Tour 2019:

March

25.3. – 30.3.: San Juan/Argentina: Kiteboarding World Tour; tbc

April

20. – 25.4.: Leucate/France: Kiteboarding World Tour; tbc

Mai

17.5. – 22.5.: Viana do Costelo/Portugal: Kiteboarding World Tour; tbc

June

11.6. – 14.6.: Dakhla/Morocco: Kiteboarding World Tour; confirmed

July

2.7. – 7.7.: Tarifa/Spain: Kiteboarding World Tour; confirmed

10.7. – 14.7.: *Gran Canaria/Spain: Kiteboarding World Tour; tbc*

22.7. – 28.7.: *Cabarete/Dom.Rep.: Kiteboarding World Tour (Air Games) ; tbc*

August

02.8. – 11.8.: Malmö/Sweden: Kiteboarding World Tour; confirmed

November

27.10. – 1.12.: Brazil: Kiteboarding World Tour; confirmed

(In negotiation: Mauritius)