



## CODE OF CONDUCT

Power/Traction kites generate a great deal of pull/lift and as such have their own inherent dangers. In recognising this, the SPKA has provided the following code of conduct and ask that all participants using power/traction kites adopt this code for the safety of them selves and all other members of the general public. It will also exhibit to any others the willingness of our participants to act in a safe and responsible manner.

- 1) Help to promote a safe practice of power/traction kite flying and its associated crafts. Wearing a helmet and other safety equipment is recommended.
- 2) Be aware that members of the public may not know of the potential hazards that can develop through the flying of power/traction kites.
- 3) Always conduct yourself within the guidelines of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. A summary of which can be found in appendix I.
- 4) When setting up make sure your kite is secured safely, preferably by means of an easily visible stake/peg inserted into the ground, do not leave it unattended and if it must be left out for a prolonged period anchor the trailing edge by placing sand, weights or even your board/buggy on it to prevent it inadvertently lifting off the ground.
- 5) It is recommended that only one kite is unpacked at any one time, even when 'run out' on the lines and left bagged they can become a potential tripping hazard.
- 6) Give way to others and always give livestock/pedestrians plenty of room by maintaining a safe distance from them.
- 7) Always be aware of where others are in relation to your self and direction of travel, particularly when you are intending to launch or change direction when under traction. A verbal or visual indication of your intention will always be a help to others around you.
- 8) A general rule has developed within power/traction kitting that suggests, when a 'head to head' collision is imminent, both parties should move to their right to take evasive action.
- 9) As a point of etiquette, it is advised that where possible, you should avoid running over others lines while they are on the ground.
- 10) Always carry proof of your current third party Power Kite Sports Federation insurance and allow inspection of it by any requesting party.
- 11) Remember to always allow room for access by emergency services should the need arise.
- 12) Follow the country code and remove all your litter, either into suitable bins or take it home with you. Leave the area clean and tidy for others to have their enjoyment too.



## Appendix I - ACCESS RIGHTS AT A GLANCE

### **Exercising access rights responsibly: at a glance**

You must exercise access rights responsibly and this part of the Code explains how you can do this. A summary of your main responsibilities is provided below.

- 1. Take personal responsibility for your own actions.** You can do this by:
  - caring for your own safety by recognising that the outdoors is a working environment and by taking account of natural hazards;
  - taking special care if you are responsible for children as a parent, teacher or guide to ensure that they enjoy the outdoors responsibly and safely.
  
- 2. Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.** You can do this by:
  - using a path or track, if there is one, when you are close to a house or garden;
  - if there is no path or track, by keeping a sensible distance from houses and avoiding ground that overlooks them from close by;
  - taking care not to act in ways which might annoy or alarm people living in a house; and
  - at night, taking extra care by keeping away from buildings where people might not be expecting to see anyone and by following paths and tracks.
  
- 3. Help land managers and others to work safely and effectively.** You can do this by:
  - not hindering a land management operation, by keeping a safe distance and following any reasonable advice from the land manager;
  - following any precautions taken or reasonable recommendations made by the land manager, such as to avoid an area or route when hazardous operations, such as tree felling and crop spraying, are underway;
  - checking to see what alternatives there are, such as neighbouring land, before entering a field of animals;
  - never feeding farm animals;
  - avoiding causing damage to crops by using paths or tracks, by going round the margins of the field, by going on any unsown ground or by considering alternative routes on neighbouring ground; and by
  - leaving all gates as you find them.
  
- 4. Care for your environment.** You can do this by:
  - not intentionally or recklessly disturbing or destroying plants, birds and other animals, or geological features;
  - following any voluntary agreements between land managers and recreation bodies;
  - not damaging or disturbing cultural heritage sites;
  - not causing any pollution and by taking all your litter away with you.
  
- 5. Keep your dog under proper control.** You can do this by:
  - never letting it worry or attack livestock;
  - never taking it into a field where there are calves or lambs;
  - keeping it on a short lead or under close control in fields where there are farm animals;
  - if cattle react aggressively and move towards you, by keeping calm, letting the dog go and taking the shortest, safest route out of the field;
  - keeping it on a short lead or under close control during the bird breeding season (usually April to July) in areas such as moor land, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore;
  - picking up and removing any faeces if your dog defecates in a public open place.
  
- 6. Take extra care if you are organising an event or running a business.** You can do this by:
  - contacting the relevant land managers if you are organising an educational visit to a farm or estate;
  - obtaining the permission of the relevant land managers if your event needs facilities or services, or is likely, to an unreasonable extent, to hinder land management operations, interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors or affect the environment;
  - talking to the land managers who are responsible for places that you use regularly or intensively.