

Right of Way

- When two kites (or kiter and windsurfer) are coming towards each other from opposite directions, the one on starboard tack (right hand forward on kite control bar) has right of way
- When you have right of way, stay your course
- If you don't have right of way, go downwind of other vessel so your kite lines are not in their way
- While passing another kiter who is down wind of you, fly your kite high; if you are the down wind kiter, fly your kite low
- Downwind kiter/windsurfer has the right of way (they can't see behind them)
- Keep clear of all beach goers, swimmers, and waders. They always have right of way
- Kiter should give way to other water crafts (kites can maneuver easily, others can't)
- Don't jump 150ft upwind of another water user
- Incoming kites should let launching kites go out first before landing
- Jump and transition at least 200ft outside shore break and swimming area
- Always yield to ALL other water users
- DO NOT COME WITHIN 200ft OF THE BEACH OR SWIM AREAS UNLESS LAUNCHING OR LANDING
- Avoid Collisions at all costs

Beach Etiquette

- Take responsibility for your safety and the safety and consideration of other beach users. Kiteboarding is an obtrusive sport – minimize your intrusion on other beach users
- For beach goers' safety, it is strongly recommended that you do not walk up the beach with your kite in the air.
- If you end up downwind, self land in the water and walk up the beach with kite in hand
- Park and sand your kite in the kite parking lot if not landing/launching
- Roll up your lines when not in use
- When launching, make sure that kite is free of sand before release (This is a courtesy to other beach users)
- Attach lines in designated launch area so other beach users, such as windsurfers or kayakers, can access waterfront without having to climb over your kite lines
- Help to Protect Kiteboarding Access – be a considerate and safe kiter

Disclaimer

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Voted "Best of the Bay"
SF Magazine 2004, SF Bay Guardian 2005,
Windsurfing Magazine 2006

Kiteboarding Safety Guidelines, Right of Way, & Beach Etiquette

Lessons - Rentals - Gear

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General Guidelines

- WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T GO OUT
- Use the buddy system, it could save your life
- Take responsibility for your safety and the safety and consideration of other beach users. Kiteboarding is an obtrusive sport – minimize your intrusion on other beach users
- Use a proper safety leash
- Wear a helmet, life jacket/impact vest, harness and wetsuit
- Don't kitesurf in off shore or straight onshore wind
- Before going out, read site specific guidelines and/or talk to other kites about water hazards, obstacles, land considerations, wind conditions, etc.

Pre Launch

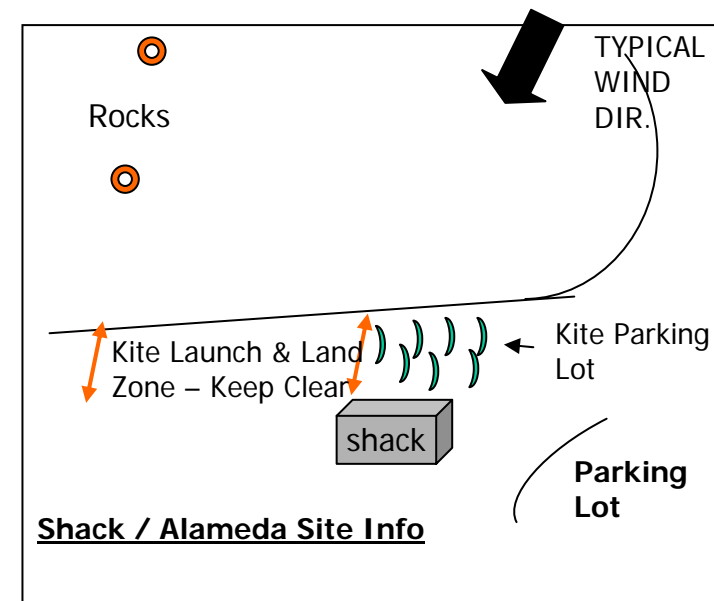
- Assure wind is steady and above 10mph. Launching in too light winds can result in crashing your kite on beach users
- Avoid gusty, strong winds (over 20mph)
- Use the right kite size. Check with other kites to see what size is appropriate for the wind conditions
- Inflate kite in kite parking lot
- Sand your parked kite to avoid it flying away
- Ensure that all safety systems are properly working
- Keep launch zone clear. Enter launch zone and attach lines when you are fully ready to launch
- When preparing to launch, MAINTAIN A SAFETY ZONE around you of a minimum of 200 ft (or approximately 2 kite line lengths at all times)

Launch

- Double check your lines before launch
- Consider having someone else check your lines before launch
- Attach kite safety leash
- Make sure that launch zone area is clear and there are no incoming kites.
- When launching, make sure that kite is free of sand before release (This is a courtesy to other beach users)
- Look in the launch area before signaling to be launched. Ask bystanders to "Please move out of the launch zone" before you launch
- Don't fly your kite at 12:00 over land.
- Whenever possible, launch toward the water, keep your kite low and go. Self launching is discouraged. Please ask for assistance
- Launch kites only from designated areas
- Leave the beach in a slow and controlled manner, but do not hesitate to get to the water
- Beginners should body drag 200ft out before water starting

While Riding

- Get offshore and stay there without delay after launch
- Danger to the rider and others is near shore, stay out 300ft until time to come in
- While riding, observe right of way with other water users
- Don't jump unless your downwind area is clear for 150ft
- Look to see coast is clear before you turn or jump



Landing

- If you are on the water and can't water relaunch, and you are drifting toward the beach w/swimmers or bystanders, perform a self rescue before your kite reaches them – 200ft Minimum
- If you have been taken down wind, do not ask beach goers to help land your kite; self land in the water
- Be sure that no one is launching as you come in
- Self landing is discouraged. Obtain assistance for landing your kite
- Roll-up your lines immediately after landing and move your kite out of the launching/landing zone
- Sand your parked kite to avoid it flying away