

Kite Games

Kite games are designed to be fun, rather than contests with lots of rules. Here are a few to get you started:

Kite Parade: Kite parades are simple, colourful and fun. Everyone can participate and no one loses. This is a great way to finish a kitemaking workshop and show off for parents and friends. It is also a great way to finish if the wind and/or weather will not allow flying.

Line everyone up and have them hold onto their kites (not flying them, but actually carrying them), then march them around the kite field or hall. Funny hats and costumes can add to the atmosphere.

Altitude Sprint: This contest is designed to see which competitor can let out flying line the fastest without crashing their kite.

Everyone gets a fixed length of time to let line out - usually about 1 minute. A whistle is good for announcing the start and stop, then give the kites a few moments to stabilize and reach their maximum height. The judges then decide which kite is highest. (Remember that N.Z. has a maximum height limit of 150 metres/400 feet)

The main criteria is how fast contestants can let line out, not how fast the kite can actually climb.

Highest Flying Angle: This contest is designed to see which kites flies at the highest angle.

Contestants launch their kites together and fly them to whatever height they like (usually judges set a minimum and a maximum line length, say 5 - 30 metres). At the end of a set amount of time judges determine which kite is flying at the highest angle, using a protractor.

The main criteria is how well a kite flies in a particular wind. Other factors include height (since winds differ at different low altitudes) and flying line (since line weight creates sag and drag on the kite).

Miscellaneous Contests – Here are a few other simple contests and games:

- Smallest Kite (under say 12 inches) – remember the kite must fly!
- Largest Kite
- Most Complex Kite
- Most Unusual Kite that flies
- Strongest Pulling Kite – a spring gauge may be needed for finalists
- Most Beautiful Kite
- Funniest Kite
- Longest Tail