



Fighter Kite

Basic Line Touch Rules

With fighter kites you can create and play many different aerial games.....the most exciting and interesting to me is a game called 'Line Touch'.

It's called line touch because that's the way you earn points; by your flying line touching your opponent's flying line from a predetermined direction, either from the 'top' or from the 'bottom'.

the annual line touch world cup competition has rules that are as complete and detailed as i know exist for line touch. and they are posted on www.fighterkitecentral.com .

however, most flyers enjoy a much more casual approach to the game of 'line touch'. so here are some casual or what some may call 'park rules'. these rules are based on my experience flying 100's or rather 1,000's of line touch battles in all sorts of conditions, in all sorts of flying fields and with all sorts of opponents, all in a casual fun-spirited setting. often it would be me and a fighter kite friend, just the two of us flying battles all day long.....

when flying in one area of the country or another you may find variations of the following rules, there are many variations, all are fun games to play with fighter kites. in fact the more variations you learn, the more you'll enjoy the game, in fact make up your own variations. however, in all the variations i know, the underlying basic rules are very similar to what follows.

line touch has a very simple set of rules....and.....the most important of the rules is this:

that each participant operate at a very high level of integrity and honesty during the aerial battles that comprise the line touch game.

the game of line touch is played with two people flying their fighter kites at the same time doing aerial battle with each other's kites. a 'head to head' battle. here's how it's played:

- 1.both flyers agree to the distance they want to be separated from each other, usually around 12' to 18' is a good range. the closer the fliers are to each other, the faster the action of the game.
- 2.both fly with the wind at exactly the same relative position to each other.... the wind is blowing DIRECTLY on your backs. you are both facing directly downwind. when flying you must stay within a few feet of your original position. the reason is if you move much, you may have a significant wind angle advantage or disadvantage over your opponent. and the basis of the game is predicated on the fact both fliers have equal wind angles; therefore making their flying skill and differences in their kite the only differences in the battle.
- 3.both fliers launch their kites and keep their kites in the air and away from the air space between the fliers. as an example, the flier on the left would keep their kite to their left and visa versa for the flier on the right. you want both kites as far away from each other as is practical during this pre-game time.
- 4.one of the fliers asks the other if they are ready.....when they are both ready, one of them yells either



The word 'top' or the word 'bottom' and that starts the 'battle'. the word chosen to start the battle also determines the direction that each flier must touch their opponent's flying line to win the point. 'top' means from on top of the flying line, over the line.....'bottom' means the touch must occur from underneath the opponent's flying line. often one flier will make the starting call, then the next call is made by the opponent. each have a choice of which type of point they want to call, top or bottom.

5.each battle has the potential of earning 1 point for the winner. and often a best of 5 or best of 7 points, or any simple arrangement, is used for creating a 'match' from a series of 'battles'.

6.after the start of a battle, when/if a kite lands on the ground before a touch is called, the flier of that grounded kite lost the point for that battle. immediately, the fliers ready for a new 'battle' as above.

7.to earn the point from a battle a flier must have their kite's flying line touch the opponent's flying line from the designated direction as identified by the starting word of the battle. as an example, if the starting word is 'top', then the winning flier will be the first to have their kite's flying line touch the opponent's flying line from above or from on top of the opponent's flying line....what actually happens is the top surface of the opponent's flying line will be touched by the bottom surface of the winner's flying line at the time of the winning 'top' touch. and the reverse is true for a 'bottom' point.

8. when either one or both kites grounds or a touch is called, that ends that battle and the point is awarded. at the end of each battle, both fliers, reposition themselves, relaunch their kites and get ready for the next battle and point. sometimes a battle will last less than 20 seconds, others will go on and on.

9.the flier whose line is being touched is the one who is responsible to yell out the word 'touch' when they have noticed their flying line has actually been touched in the appropriate direction by their opponent's flying line.....the winner is supposed to keep quiet or might ask the opponent if they've noticed a line touch yet, if the flier who is attempting to touch the opponent's line thought there may have been a touch made before the call of a touch was announced by the opponent.

10.this arrangement of the 'touched' flier being the announcer that a touch occurred requires that both fliers play the game with a very high level of integrity and are honest about what they call and/or see or feel. the reason this is so important is that clearly seeing a line touch is often not easy because of the small diameter of the lines, the angle of the sun, the color of the background, etc., so making certain the touch actually occurred and was seen or felt is important in keeping the game on an equal opportunity basis for all who play. the flier whose line is touched would yell, 'touch', signifying the opponent won the point for that battle.

11. both fliers would then get ready for the next battle and the ensuing point.

additional info.....sometimes fliers who often fly a casual style of line touch may say to you, 'do you want to fly some points?' and what they mean is do you want to fly a few battles of line touch with them.

enjoy the fun of the line touch game!!

cheers&biggrins,
bruce

august 2009