1.) Introduction

Congratulations! You have just purchased a Best kite with an excellent warranty. We at Best Kiteboarding appreciate your confidence in our products and services. Great care has been taken to get this kite and all of its parts to you in perfect order. Please contact us immediately if your order does not meet your satisfaction. With proper care, this kite will provide you with much enjoyment.

It is imperative that you read and understand everything in this manual before making any attempt to fly your kite. While this manual may show you how to use this kite safely, we cannot stress enough that nothing replaces proper instruction from a certified instructor. There is a complete list of schools in your area available at www.bestkiteboarding.com. It is essential to be fully aware of the risks that come with kiteboarding, and to know that there is a potential for danger, not only to yourself, but to those around you. By disregarding any of the instruction in this manual, you risk bodily injury and even death. It is your responsibility to avoid beachgoers, and non-kiters. Best Kiteboarding strongly urges you to take lessons from a certified instructor.
2.) Safety first

**General**

Kiteboarding is a dangerous sport. Always check the local wind conditions prior to launching any kite. Use the international kiteboarding signs; spoken words could be confusing. Be sure to keep a safe distance from all downwind objects and stay clear of all obstructions such as trees, power lines and seawalls.

A high degree of physical conditioning is necessary when participating in this sport, so practice with extreme caution. Improper, incorrect or careless use of this equipment can cause serious injury or death. Best kites are not parachutes, paragliders or personal floating devices, and are not to be used as such. Do not kiteboard under the influence of alcohol or mind altering drugs.

**The safety of others and yourself**

You are responsible for ensuring that your equipment and actions don’t endanger other people and yourself.

- Do not fly or ride where your kite and lines have a chance of hurting other people.
- Only fly the kite over unobstructed water.
- Ensure that a semi-circle extending 100 meters downwind and to each side from your flying position is clear of people and obstructions.
- Use a kite leash that permits you to keep the kite under control under all circumstances.
- When kiting, do not fly over people or animals.
- Do not kiteboard so far away from the shore that you are not able to swim back in an emergency.
- Never ride alone or without a rescue craft on hand.
- Do not fly your kite close to cars, airports, railways, power lines, buildings and trees.

**Primary danger of kiteboarding**

Always use extreme caution when using this product. Misuse of this product can cause serious injury or death to yourself.

The kite or its lines may do the following under certain circumstances:

- pull you into the air and drop you on the ground
- pull you into an obstacle
- drag you along the ground
- drag your into deep water and cause you to drown
• pull you into road traffic
• hit power lines and electrocute you

Weather conditions
• Do not kite in an offshore wind.
• Never ride in conditions that are too extreme or winds that are too strong for your skill level or your equipment.
• Never kiteboard if you can not handle the power of the kite. Use a smaller kite or wait for lighter wind.
• Do not kiteboard in thunderstorms or at night.

Equipment
• Always check your equipment for wear and tear before going out onto the water. Never fly your kite with damaged lines or equipment. Replace or repair damaged equipment immediately.
• Always kite with appropriate safety equipment:
  1. Helmet
  2. Coast-guard approved personal floating device
  3. Knife to cut flying lines
  4. Protective eyewear
• Never attach yourself permanently to the kite.
• Kite lines and bridles under tension can cut like a knife and can cause serious injury or death. Always keep your lines away from people and animals.
• Do not allow inexperienced kiteboarders to use your equipment.
• Remember: You are always responsible for the safe operation of your kite, board, equipment and the safety release systems. Use common sense.
3.) The Wind

Before going out on the water, it is important that you have a basic understanding of the wind as well as the terminology used in describing the different conditions. You will find that these terms are frequently referred to in warnings and instructions, so please take some time to get familiar to them.

Conditions

**Side-shore wind** is blowing from the left or from the right, parallel to the shore. This is an ideal wind direction for kiteboarding.

**On-shore wind** is blowing from the water, directly or to a great extent, toward the land. This is an extremely dangerous wind condition in which to kite, and it is not recommend that you go kiting in this wind direction.

**Side-on shore wind** is blowing from either the left or the right, and from the water toward the land. This is a combination of onshore and sideshore wind. Use caution when operating your kite in or near water in this wind direction.

**Off-shore wind** is blowing from the shore, directly or to a great extent, out to the water. Do not operate your kite in or near water in this wind direction.

**Side-off shore wind** is blowing from either the left or the right, from the shore out towards the water. This is a combination of offshore and sideshore wind. Do not operate your kite in or near water in this wind direction.
**Terminology**
The drawing below describes the possible courses, or directions, a kiteboarder can ride according to the wind.

The courses depend on the performance of the kite, the rider and the board.

**Downwind:** When you end up at a point below your point of entry into the water, you are travelling downwind. This is the direction you will naturally take when first learning to kite, until you can learn to stay upwind. Travelling downwind will require you to exit the water and walk back up to your original point of entry.

**Reach:** Going out and returning to your exact point of entry into the water is called reaching. This requires the ability to “stay upwind” ... the holy grail for all new kiters.

**Upwind:** When you end up at a point above your point of entry into the water, you are travelling “upwind.”
Wind Window

With the wind at your back, the wind window is the large imaginary quarter sphere in front of you, in which your kite can be flown. The size of the wind window is defined by the length of your lines.

You (the person flying the kite) are the fixed point at the center of the window. Straight above your head, and directly out to the sides (and the entire “edge” along the sphere) is called the “neutral zone.” Positioned anywhere along this edge, the kite will generate the least amount of pull. Using clock hand positioning, the top, or zenith, of the window would be 12:00 o’clock, and the areas out to your left and right would be 9:00 and 3:00, respectively [see below illustration]. The edges of the window, where there is less pull, are used for launching and landing the kite.

Down, in front of you, is called the “power zone.” As you drop your kite closer to the horizon, your kite will have an increasing amount of power, and will generate an increasing amount of pull. While kiting, you will rarely fly your kite in the darkest, most solid area pictured in the illustration below. More often, you will be flying your kite closer to the edges of the window, where there is less (or, a more manageable amount of) power.

Before flying your Best kite, we recommend that you fly a trainer kite for several hours to familiarize yourself with the wind window. Your best bet will be taking a lesson with a certified instructor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force</th>
<th>MPH</th>
<th>Knots</th>
<th>KPH</th>
<th>Metres/sec</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>At Sea</th>
<th>On Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>0-0.2</td>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>Smooth as glass</td>
<td>Calm; smoke rises vertically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>0.3-1.5</td>
<td>Light Air</td>
<td>Ripples with no appearance of scales; no foam crests</td>
<td>Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>1.6-3.3</td>
<td>Light Breeze</td>
<td>Small waves; crests of glassy appearance</td>
<td>Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>12-19</td>
<td>3.4-5.4</td>
<td>Gentle Wind</td>
<td>Large waves; crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps</td>
<td>Leaves &amp; small twigs in motion; light flags extended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13-18</td>
<td>11-16</td>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>5.5-7.9</td>
<td>Moderate Wind</td>
<td>1-4-ft waves; numerous whitecaps</td>
<td>Leaves &amp; loose paper raised up; flags flap; small branches move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>30-38</td>
<td>8.0-10.7</td>
<td>Fresh Wind</td>
<td>4-8-ft waves; many whitecaps; some spray</td>
<td>Small trees begin to sway; flags flap &amp; ripple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>25-31</td>
<td>22-27</td>
<td>39-50</td>
<td>10.8-13.8</td>
<td>Strong Wind</td>
<td>8-13-ft waves forming whitecaps everywhere; more spray</td>
<td>Large branches in motion; whistling heard in wires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>32-38</td>
<td>28-33</td>
<td>51-61</td>
<td>13.9-17.1</td>
<td>Near Gale</td>
<td>13-20-ft waves; white foam blown in streaks</td>
<td>Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>39-46</td>
<td>34-40</td>
<td>62-74</td>
<td>17.2-20.7</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>13-20-ft waves; edges of crests beginning to break; foam in</td>
<td>Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind (again)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>47-54</td>
<td>41-47</td>
<td>75-86</td>
<td>20.8-24.4</td>
<td>Strong Gale</td>
<td>20-ft waves; sea begins to roll; dense streaks of foam</td>
<td>Slight structural damage occurs; shingles blow from roofs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>55-63</td>
<td>48-55</td>
<td>87-101</td>
<td>24.5-28.4</td>
<td>Storm</td>
<td>20-30-ft waves; white churning sea; rolling is heavy; reduced visibility</td>
<td>Trees broken/uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.) Kite setup

In kiteboarding, there are different methods for setting up your kite. Best recommends that you start with the following steps.

Step 1: With the wind at your back, unroll and position the kite with the outer surface to the ground (struts facing up).

Make sure that the area where you place the kite is free from obstacles.

Angle the kite so that one wingtip runs perpendicular to the wind, and the leading edge runs parallel to it.

Step 2: Secure the kite from flying away by placing sand or a gearbag on the one wing tip in the most upwind position.
Step 3: Inflating the kite.
Inflate the struts first, starting with the strut closest to the wing tip in the most upwind position.

Work your way downwind until all the struts are inflated. Do not over inflate the struts.

Note: it is very difficult to inflate the struts once you’ve inflated the leading edge, so make sure you inflate the struts first.

Step 4: Pinching the valves.
Remove the pump hose with one hand and use the other hand to pinch the valve closed. If there is a stopper ball in the valve, you will not need to pinch the valve. The ball will close the valve automatically.

Insert the valve cap securely into the valve, and fasten the velcro over the cap. Do not push the valve so that it disappears into the strut.
**Step 5:** Connect the pump leash to the nose of the kite:

Slip the plastic ball on the end of the pump leash through the leash attachment loop on the kite. The leash attachment loop is located at the center of the leading edge, near the inflation valve.

This will enable you to pump up the kite using both feet and hands, without having the kite fly away.

**Step 6:** Pumping up the leading edge.

Start with your back to the wind. Position the kite so that the leading edge is running perpendicular to the wind direction. (When pumping up the struts, the kite was laid lengthwise in relation to the wind direction. Now, turn the kite, so that the leading edge is laying across the wind.)
Put both feet on the pump to secure the pump on the ground. Use both hands to pump up the kite, to avoid bending or damaging the pump shaft.

Pump up the leading edge so that it is firm, but do not over inflate. The kite should keep its shape and not fold in on itself as you turn it over.
**Step 10:** Flip the inflated kite over with the leading edge facing the ground and the center strut facing directly into the wind. (Always handle the kite by the leading edge.)

**Step 11:** Secure the kite with sand to prevent it from blowing away.

Make sure that the nose of the kite (the point where the center strut meets the leading edge) is facing into the wind. The arrow in the picture shows the wind direction.

Place sand in the indentations on both sides of the center-most strut. Too much sand is better than not enough sand, especially on high wind days. Be careful not to put anything on top of the kite that could potentially rip it.
Step 12: Unwind the bar (downwind method):

Stand next to the kite, facing downwind. Hold the bar in the center, and begin to unwind the flying lines, laying the ends of the flying lines next to the kite, on the ground.

Walk straight downwind, away from the kite, and continue to unwind your lines.

Do not drag the lines along with you (the ends of the lines should remain next to the kite), and do not twist the bar as you are unwinding, as this will put unnecessary twists into the lines.

Step 13: Once the lines are completely unwound, place the bar on the ground, upside down.

Placing the bar upside down is a critical part of setting up using the downwind method.

If your bar is color-coded (so that red is on the left in normal flying position), when you place the bar on the ground, the left/red side should now be on the right.

Tip: Always mark the left and right side of your bar.
**Step 14: Walking out your lines:**

First, stand in between your lines, so that the two center lines are between your legs and the two back lines are on either sides of your legs.

The Best flying lines are marked with B (for backline) and F (for frontline, which is also referred to as centerline).

Now, walk back towards your kite, straightening any twists and tangles in your lines, to ensure proper setup.

When you get to the end of the lines, place the lines on the ground exactly like you’ve walked them out, with the center lines in the center and the outside lines on the outside. They will look like the picture below. It is critical that all lines are laid out straight, with no twists or crosses.
5.) Attaching the flying lines to the kite (downwind method)

Warning: If lines are not attached correctly, the kite will not fly properly, and may be uncontrollable.

Before you can attach your lines, there are a couple of things you will need to know: 1) how to tie a Lark’s Head Knot, and 2) how the Best “kook proof” attachment system works.

The Lark’s Head Knot
A lark’s head knot is used to connect the flying lines to the kite. This knot is used universally in kiting.

**Step 1:** Insert thumb and forefinger into the loop.

**Step 2:** Pinch your thumb and forefinger together, over the sides of the loop.

**Step 3:** This will create a “cinch,” which can be slipped over the knot on the point of attachment, and then tightened.
Attachment System

One of the Best features is the “kook proof” attachment system, which helps you connect the flying lines to the kite without making a mistake. Front lines are equipped with loop extensions, which can only be attached to the fixed-knot pigtails on the leading edge of the kite. Back lines, on the other hand, are equipped with fixed knot extensions, which can only be attached to the loop pigtails on the trailing edge of the kite. Using this system, it is impossible to accidentally attach the back line (a knot) to the leading edge of the kite (on which there is also a knot). And vice versa.
**Note:** There are four line attachment points on the kite, two on the leading edge and two on the trailing edge. The center lines are attached to the leading edge (front/inflated edge) of the kite, and the back lines are attached to the trailing edge (back) of the kite.

Below is the position of the kite **in the air** with the lines properly attached. (Note: this is not the position of the kite on the ground during setup.) The center lines go straight to the leading edge, and the outside lines go to trailing edge. There are no crosses or overlaps between the front and back lines.
Step 1: Connect the front lines to the leading edge:

Continuing from Step 14 above: Face upwind, towards the inflated kite (which has been laid with its leading edge on the ground, nose to the wind).

Pick up the center lines. Create a lark’s head knot on the lines, by pushing the body of the line through the end of its loop.

Attach the left center line to the left side of the leading (inflated) edge, and the right center line to the right side of the leading edge.

On the Best system, there will be fixed-knot attachments on the kite’s leading edge: slip the loop on the lines over the knots on the leading edge, and tighten.
**Step 2:** Connect the back lines to the trailing edge:

The lark's head loop is now on the kite’s trailing-edge attachment point, not on the back lines (kook proof). Create a lark’s head knot on the trailing edge pigtail, slip it over the fixed knot of the line, and tighten.

Make sure that the back line is laying above the front line. If the front lines, at any point, overlap the back line, there is a twist in the lines, which you will need to fix.

---

**Step 3:** After connecting the lines, check that the lines have been connected properly.

To do this, walk back to your bar while holding the two back lines, and make sure that all of the lines are free from crossing each other.

**Note:** Before launching your kite, you will need to flip your bar over so that the red side is back on the left side, in proper flying position.
6.) Tuning the kite

**Knot 1:** Your kite will be slightly de-powered when your arms are outstretched. For more de-power, you will have to push the bar further away from your body. The kite will be fully powered when the bar is close to the chicken loop.

**Knot 2:** In this position the kite will fly with full power when the bar is a few inches away from the chicken loop. This allows a more comfortable riding position.

**Knot 3:** This position allows for you to ride the kite at full power with the bar pushed all the way out. If the bar is pulled in at this setting it will over sheet the kite, causing the kite to flare and fly incorrectly. This setting does not allow the rider to de-power the kite, so the kite should be flown with caution.
Using the De-Power strap:
The Best Control Bar is equipped with a De-Power strap that allows you to partially depower the kite by shortening the length of the center lines. This is done by pulling in on the red loop with the fish logo. With the red strap pulled all the way in, your kite will be de-powered. For safety, launch your kite with the red power strap pulled all the way in, de-powered (picture on the right). To re-power your kite, pull on the grey (upper) loop. With the red strap fully let out, your kite will have maximum power (picture on the left).

Attachment points:
Best recommends that you use the front attachment point 1 and the back attachment point 1.
You can change the turning speed by using the back attachment point 2 (kite will turn slower).
If you want more power in your kite, use the front attachment point 2.
7.) Quick release
Do not, under any circumstance, operate your kite without a kite leash and at least one quick release system. The quick release needs to be tested and maintenance needs to be performed regularly to keep it in proper working condition. This quick release should be rinsed with fresh water after each use, and kept free of sand when storing. Your new Best Kite is equipped with a quick release on the chicken loop.

Best highly recommends that you practice using your quick release many times, as this needs to be second nature and an instinctive response in a critical situation.

To activate the release system, grab the red webbing loop with one hand and push it towards to your body, until the pin is releasing the chicken loop.

Put your fingers immediately out of the loop and let the release system go. The open part from the chicken loop will slide through your spreader bar.
Kite leash:
The leash allows you to let go of the bar without losing your kite. The kite leash is attached to one of your center lines, and is worn on your wrist. For most riders, it is instinct to hold onto the bar no matter what, but in an emergency situation, do not hesitate to let go of the bar. Letting go of the bar will totally depower your kite, causing it to fall out of the sky. Your kite leash will still be attached to both your wrist and the center lines, thus retaining your kite.

8.) Maintenance

- Avoid exposing your kite to direct sunlight for extended periods of time.
- Do not leave your kite inflated on the beach in wind. This will eventually damage it [like the ends of a flag]. Either deflate the kite until you ride, or pull it up off the beach out of the wind.
- Keep lines free of knots.
- Avoid getting sand into the bladders.
- Keep kite clean from tar, oil, and other petroleum products.
- Always rinse your kites, bar and lines in fresh water after use. Let the kite dry completely before storing it in its bag.
9.) Repairs
For any major tears or damage to struts or structure of the kite, please send it back to Best Kiteboarding. Your kite is warrantied against major manufacturer defects for 90 days. To repair any minor tears, rinse and dry the kite, lay it out on a flat surface. Use sail tape, (also known as Spinnaker tape), and apply to the tear on both sides of the kite. The tape should be applied to the area of the tear, and at least 3 centimeters beyond the actual tear.

**Bladder Repair:**
**Step 1:** Open velcro at end of strut

---

**Step 2:** Open velcro and remove stopper from valve connector
**Step 3:** Using a kite line, tie the line around the valve stopper (this will allow you to pull the bladder back when you done patching).

**Step 4:** Remove bladder by pulling it out of the strut.
Step 5: Untie the line from the valve, and make sure the line doesn’t go back through the strut.

Step 6: Inflate the bladder. Find the hole by submerging the bladder in clear water. Look for the tiny bubbles. Mark the location of the hole with a magic marker.

Step 7: Make sure the bladder is completely dry before patching. Patch the hole using your Best Repair Kit. (Detailed directions are included in the Best Repair Kit).

Step 8: Before you replace the bladder into the kite, it needs to be coated with baby powder or talcum powder. An easy way to do this is by putting the bladder into a plastic bag, pouring in some powder, and shaking the bag until the bladder is coated.
**Step 9:** Retie the kite line to the valve, and insert the bladder into the strut by pulling the kite line back through the strut. Make sure there are no twists.

**Step 10:** Re-inflate bladder to insure proper seal and position.
10.) Self Rescue Techniques:

If you have to rescue yourself during side- or on-shore conditions, you can use the kite as sail to bring you in (see picture below).

First, wind up the lines. To prevent your kite from accidentally relaunching, it is critical that you start by winding up only one line first. (By shortening one of your kite lines, you will prevent your kite from relaunching. If all lines are left to remain equal, your kite could relaunch off the water and take you for a ride).

When the one line is sufficiently shortened, continue winding up the other lines, along with the shortened line, until you reach the kite.

Secure the lines on the bar.

Hold the kite by the wingtips (struts on the end) and bring your body into bodydrag position. The wind will drag you to the shore.

If there is no wind, you can hold onto the leading edge of the kite with one hand while swimming to shore (the board is still attached to your ankle).
11.) Warranty policy

LIMITED WARRANTY 30-DAY PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE Best Kiteboarding warrants its products to the original purchaser in the form of a 30-day performance guarantee.

If you are not satisfied with any of our products, you may return the products for a full refund or exchange within 30 days of purchase.

This warranty is subject to the following limitations:
The warranty is valid only when a) the warranty card is properly filled out and returned to Best Kiteboarding within seven (7) days from the date of receipt, or b) the warranty form has been completed on our website at www.BestKiteboarding.com/warranty within seven (7) days from the date of receipt.

The warranty does not cover products used in rental or teaching operations. This warranty is void if any unauthorized repair, change, or modification has been made to any part of the equipment.

This warranty is void if in Best Kiteboarding's sole discretion Best Kiteboarding feels that the purchaser is taking advantage of this policy.

LIMITED WARRANTY #2 Best Kiteboarding warrants its products to the original purchaser to be free from major defects in material or workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase.

This warranty is subject to the following limitations: The warranty is valid only when a) the warranty card is properly filled out and returned to Best Kiteboarding within seven (7) days from the date of receipt, or b) the warranty form has been completed on our website at www.BestKiteboarding.com/warranty within seven (7) days from the date of receipt.

The warranty is valid only when the product is used for normal recreational activities, and does not cover products used in rental or teaching operations.

This warranty does not cover damage caused by misuse, abuse, neglect or normal wear and tear including, but not limited to, punctures, rigging with other than Best Kiteboarding components, damage due to excessive sun exposure, or damage due to over inflation of the bladders, damage caused by improper handling and storage, damage caused by use in waves or shore break, and damage caused by high speed crash or damage caused by anything other than defects in the material and workmanship.
This warranty is void if any unauthorized repair, change, or modification has been made to any part of the equipment. The warranty for any repaired or replacement equipment is good from the date of the original purchase only.

BestKiteboarding will make the final warranty determination, which may require inspections and/or photos of the equipment, which clearly show the defect(s). You can email pictures to make your claim to warranty@bestkiteboarding.com.

If necessary, this information must be sent to Best Kiteboarding at the address below, postage prepaid.

Best Kiteboarding  
Customer Service  
1305 Poinsettia Drive, Ste. 7  
Delray Beach, FL 33444-1251

This is the only warranty we make to you and is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied. We expressly disclaim any and all liability for bodily injury or death and for incidental and consequential damages to the maximum extent permitted by law.

This warranty extends only to the original purchaser of the Best product covered by the warranty, it does not extend to subsequent purchasers or third parties.

There are no warranties, which extend beyond the warranty specified herein. The duration of any implied warranties are hereby limited to the 90-day duration of our express warranty.