

## Rokkaku Combat FAQ

### What's going on?

Rok combat is a demolition derby with large Japanese kites!

Teams fight by smashing their six-foot-tall kites into the other kites, sawing through their opponents' lines or knocking the other kites over. Some pilots use finesse; others rely on gusto. Kite-on-kite violence isn't just allowed; it's cheered.

The team with the most points wins!

### Points?

1 point for each "kill."

More points for being among the last remaining in the air in each heat.

### Heats? How is the battle split up?

The whole battle is split into 3 heats, with short rest-and-repair breaks in-between. Every team mobs the field together. If you don't return in time for the heat, you miss it!

### How do kites fight?

**Tipping:** You hook your line on the corner of your opponent's kite and tip them over. You have to prevent them from recovering.

**Tipping Defense:** Let out line to escape the dive; try to turn & pull up.

**The Risks:** Good kiters recover easily. Strong wind makes recovering easier.

**Cutting:** You saw your kite line back and forth over your opponent's line and melt through it with friction. Both lines are synthetic (Dacron); whichever one doesn't move enough will melt!

**Cutting Defense:** Keep your line moving to spread the heat.

**The Risks:** You can cut yourself on their line, and they win the point for your poor attack!

**Stealing Wind:** You sit in front of another kite and block their wind, making them fall.

**The Risks:** Ineffective; frequently leads to death-spirals.

**Death Spirals:** You land on or crash into another kite, get stuck, and spiral into the ground.

**Death-Spiral Defense:** You're probably both going to die. Pull in line (speed up) or let out line (slow down) to die second and get the point for the other guy.

At some contests, any kites left on the competition field may be stomped on!

The above FAQ was written by The Midnight Squadron Kite Club, © 2011, version 2011b

### Who Should I Cheer For?

**The Midnight Squadron**, of course! The Squadron won DC's Rokkaku Challenge in 2009 and several times before. Our rok wins include kite festivals in Ocean City, MD & Wildwood, NJ, and at the 2009 American Kitefliers Association national convention. Midnight Squadron is based in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, while its members live all over the U.S. and one is stationed internationally.



#### The Midnight Squadron Kite Club

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#### Squadron Kites:



*Blue  
Logo Kite*



*#1 Stars &  
Stripes Kite*