



**NORTH**  
KITEBOARDING



USER MANUAL  
**REBEL KITE**  
ENGLISH



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## **WARNING: Kiteboarding is Dangerous**

- Always use extreme caution when using this product.
  - Only use this product if you are in good physical health.
  - For safety reasons you should only use the North Kiteboarding kites on or above the water.
  - Never act in a careless manner when using this product.
  - You are responsible for your own safety and the safety of others when using this product.
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# 1. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

## **Release Of Liability, Claim Waiver, Assumption of Risk.**

By assembling and/or using this North Kite product, you agree that you have read and understood the entire North Kiteboarding product owner's manual, including all instructions and warnings contained in that manual, prior to using the North Kiteboarding product in any way. You additionally agree that you will ensure any additional or subsequent user of your North Kiteboarding product will read and understand the entire North Kiteboarding product Owner's Manual, including all instructions and warnings contained in that manual, prior to allowing that person to use your North Kiteboarding product..

## **ASSUMPTION OF RISK:**

Use of the North Kiteboarding Product and any of its components involve certain inherent risks, dangers, and hazards that can result in serious personal injury and death to both the user and to nonuser third parties. In using the North Kiteboarding Product, you freely agree to assume and accept any and all known and unknown risks of injury to you and to third parties while using this equipment. The risks inherent in this sport can be greatly reduced by abiding by the warning guidelines listed in this owner manual and by using common sense.

## **RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS:**

In consideration of the sale of the North Kiteboarding product to you, you hereby agree to the fullest extent permitted by law, as follows:

*TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS*, that you have or may in the future have against Boards & More and all related parties resulting from use of the North Kiteboarding Product and any of its components.

*TO RELEASE* Boards & More and all related parties from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury or expense that you or any users of your North Kiteboarding product may suffer, or that your next of kin may suffer, as a result of the use of the North Kiteboarding product, due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence or breach of contract on the part of Boards & More and all related parties in the design or manufacture of the North Kiteboarding product and any of its components. In the event of your death or incapacity, all provisions contained herein shall be effective and binding upon your heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns, and representatives. Boards & More-related parties have not made and expressly deny any oral or written representations other than what is set forth herein and the North Kite product User's Manual.

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND SAFETY

At North we understand that you demand the most out of your equipment. We are riders just like you and we strive to develop gear that will deliver maximum performance and safety. Although technical, our products are user friendly and come ready to use straight out of the package. Plug and play. It's that simple! It is, however, important that you become familiar with your new 5th Element Bar before using it on the water. Please take the time to read, study and understand all of the following safety precautions and bar features in this manual for your own personal pleasure and safety.

Kiteboarding is a sport that takes place within the interplay of the elements. This sport involves great risks and can possibly be very dangerous. Therefore it is of utmost importance to assess yourself and your kiteboarding abilities.

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### We strongly recommend the following:

- If you are not yet able to kite or if you feel insecure, do attend a licensed Kiteboarding school to learn the basics of this fantastic sport.
- Get familiar with the safety precautions, which are indispensable for safe Kiteboarding.
- Kiteboarding creates a heavy strain on your body. You should only go kiteboarding if you are in good physical condition and suffer from no medical conditions that may prevent you from kiting.
- No risk, no fun ... but: be careful when practicing this sport. Caution always pays, as you should be able to enjoy the wind even at a "mature" age.

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### Dangers when Kiteboarding

When kiteboarding, the extreme powers of the elements may come into play. In rare cases, the kite or its lines may cause dangerous situations:

- The canopy can pull you into the air giving you involuntary "air time". Upon landing, there is a high risk of getting injured.
- When the kite gets out of control, you can collide with obstacles and objects in, on or off the water.
- In case of improper use, the canopy or its lines may get caught up with other people. Due to the enormous powers involved, this may lead to life-threatening situations.
- People who get caught in the lines of the kite may suffer from severe gashes or burns.
- Canopies coming down may injure onlookers.

**Risks Caused by the Kiteboard**

- If you bang your head against the kiteboard, there is a risk of severe head injuries.
- Feet, ankles and legs may also be injured by the board.
- Never use this kite as a flying object.

This list of dangers cannot be complete. The basic rules for kiteboarding correspond to those of common sense and are to be applied to all (outdoor) sports:

- (1) *Never put at risk the safety of onlookers in your surroundings.*
- (2) *Be aware of the risk you are taking and restrict this to a reasonable residual risk (according to your skills).*

**Threats to Onlookers**

It is within your responsibility to check whether uninvolved people or other athletes may be endangered or injured by your actions or your gear. Spots where onlookers may be injured are taboo for responsible-minded kites!

- Only fly your canopy over unobstructed water.
- When kiting, do not fly over people or pets.
- Ensure that a semi-circle extending 100 meters downwind and to each side of your flying position is clear of people and obstructions.
- Use a kite leash that allows you to keep the kite under control.
- Avoid flying the kite in the vicinity of other water users such as swimmers, kayakers, windsurfers, water-skiers and boats.
- When not in use, inflated canopies must be secured with sand or heavy objects. A canopy filled with air can fly away at any time, thus it may injure people and in extreme cases even kill them.

**Safety of the Kiteboarder**

- Fly this kite only over unobstructed water. Never on land!
- Fly this kite only if you are a strong swimmer and are wearing a Coast Guard-approved PFD.
- Use only bars with a safety system that you can open in emergency situations.
- Use a quick-release kite leash with which you can unhook your body from the gear in case of an unforeseeable emergency.
- Avoid power lines, telephone poles, airports, streets, buildings and trees.
- If you use a board that is leashed to your body, wear a helmet!
- Take into account the usual risks associated with water sports such as rocks, waves, sunburn, hypothermia, jellyfish etc.

### Threats through Kite Lines

- Never touch the kite lines when the kite is under wind load as these lines can become dangerously sharp when under tension.
- Never use kite lines with notches, nicks, cuts etc. They must be changed!
- Use only lines that have no knots in them, as knots can weaken lines by as much as 50%.
- Do not touch the lines of the canopy, unless the kite has been secured to the ground. An unsecured kite can re-launch unexpectedly, putting the lines dangerously under tension.
- Never tie lines around your arms or other body parts!

### Weather-related Dangers

- Avoid offshore wind.
- Be careful with onshore wind.
- Get information on tidal and sea current conditions at your kiting spot!
- Get information from both the weather report and the locals on prevailing weather conditions.
- Never use the kite with wind forces so strong that you are unable to maintain precise control.
- Do not use the kite when wind conditions are likely to change dramatically.
- Never use this kite when thunderstorms are nearby or when such storms have a good chance of developing (check the weather report!).
- Leave the water immediately when a storm is approaching. You are in acute life-threatening danger since you may be struck by lightning!

BFT	M/S	KM/H	MPH	Knots	Designation
0	0–0,2	0 – 0,8	0–0,6	0–0,5	Calm
1	0,3 – 1,5	0,9 – 5,5	0,7 – 3,5	0,6 – 3,0	Light Air
2	1,6 – 3,3	5,6 – 12,1	3,6 – 7,5	3,1 – 6,5	Light Breeze
3	3,4 – 5,4	12,2 – 19,6	7,6 – 12,2	6,6 – 10,5	Gentle Breeze
4	5,5 – 7,9	19,7 – 28,5	12,3 – 17,8	10,6 – 15,5	Moderate Breeze
5	8,0 – 10,7	28,6 – 38,8	17,9 – 24,0	15,6 – 20,9	Fresh Breeze
6	10,8 – 13,8	38,9 – 49,8	24,1 – 31,0	21,0 – 26,9	Strong Breeze
7	13,9 – 17,1	49,9 – 61,7	31,1 – 38,3	27,0 – 33,3	Near Gale
8	17,2 – 20,7	61,8 – 74,6	38,4 – 46,4	33,4 – 40,3	Gale
9	20,8 – 24,4	74,7 – 88,0	46,5 – 54,7	40,4 – 47,5	Strong Gale
10	24,5 – 28,4	88,1 – 102,0	54,8 – 63,6	47,6 – 55,3	Storm
11	28,5 – 32,6	102,1 – 117,0	63,7 – 73,0	55,4 – 63,4	Violent Storm
12	32,7 +	117,1 +	73,1 +	63,5 +	Hurricane

## 3. RIGGING THE KITE

### INFLATING THE REBEL

1. Lay the kite out on the sand, grass or a surface free of hard or sharp objects. Although the kite is engineered to withstand the enormous stresses of flying, it can easily be damaged by rocks, thorns, wood and other hard objects.
2. Turn the kite with its leading edge (front tube) facing into the wind, and the underside of the canopy facing upwards.



3. Place a weight, e.g. sand, gear bag etc. on one wingtip of the canopy.
4. Inflate the ribs. To inflate follow these steps:
  - a. Grasp the valve with one hand and insert the pump tip into the valve with the other hand.



- b. Pump air into the bladder until it is firm.
- c. Strut valves are all one way air valves, therefore there is no need to pinch them off after removing the pump nozzle. If the valve has been pulled in while pumping, you must completely deflate the rib again by pushing the small plastic stick into the rib valve.



After deflating you can pull the valve to the correct position.

- d. Quickly close the cap on the air valve and fasten the Velcro over the top. Do not push the valves into the bladder after inflating!
- e. Finally, inflate the leading edge bladder (front tube) until the correct pressure is reached. All Rebels perform well with 6 PSI of air pressure in the leading edges and 10 PSI in the ribs. Be sure to close the dump valve on the wingtip before inflating.



Pinch the valve with your fingers to prevent air from escaping as you remove the pump's tip from the valve.

### SECURING THE KITE ON THE BEACH

When the kite is not in use, it must be secured on the beach. Turn the kite around as shown in the illustrations. The leading edge must always point upwind and be secured with sufficient weight. As a general rule, more sand is better because if the canopy flies away it can become a dangerous flying object. If the leading edge is face down, the canopy is pushed to the ground by the wind pressure in addition to its own weight. When turning the kite around, make sure that there are no sharp objects lying on the ground. With changing wind directions, the canopy should be turned into the prevailing wind direction.



## 4. ATTACHING THE LINES

The Rebel gives you the option of tuning the power and turning speed of your kite to suit your liking. There are two attachments points for each back line on sizes 7 to 16.

The forward attachment point is for maximum power, maximum de-power and a firm bar feel. This setting is ideal for riders of all levels.

The back attachment point is for softer power, softer bar feel & quicker, easier turning. This setting is for riders who are seeking maximum turning speed for doing tricks like kite-loops or riders who just prefer easier turning.

The pigtail lengths come pre-measured so there is no need to make any adjustments on the bar when changing pigtail positions. Simply attach your lines to your desired attachment point and enjoy the ride!

These settings allow you to have a great range of use of your kite but remember that riding overpowered involves risk and that overextend range can be misleading. Make sure you are familiar with all your safety release systems.

One of the most common user errors in kiteboarding is mixing up steering and flying lines. North's Kook Proof System makes this error impossible and will help prevent you from becoming a kook.

Attach the knot on the end of your steering (back) line to the larks head loop on the kite's wingtips.



Connect the flying (front) line with larks head loop to the wingtip attachment with the knot.



Repeat for the opposite wingtip. Your kite lines are also color coordinated to match the kite pigtail attachments, ensuring that you connect the lines to the correct wingtip. The blue fifth line connects to the blue nose line attachment in the center of the kite.

The Kook Proof System is only compatible with North's 5th Element Bar and a North Kite.

## 5. KITE TUNING

Adjusting the line length has an impact on the performance of the kite. We recommend that all lines be the same distance from the control bar, this however does not mean that, even if the lines are the same length, every kite is perfectly tuned for all kiteboarders and wind conditions. Every kiteboarder, every kite and all spot conditions differ from each other, thus the recommendations can only be guidelines.

The kiteboarder must adjust the length of the lines before every flight, but also during the flight, using the “North Flight Control System” (or comparable systems).

E.g. Sit-harnesses require a longer basic depower setting than waist-harnesses.

The speed at which a kite responds to control input – its response rate – varies with the amount of tension on the kite lines. The greater the tension, the quicker the response will be. The tension on the lines varies in turn with the size and skill of the boarder.

For example, a kite used by a lightweight boarder in light wind will have low line tension and will respond relatively slowly, while the same kite used by a heavy-weight boarder in strong wind will have high line tension and will turn quickly. This means that the construction and the design of the kite control the response rate only to some extent and that there is no canopy that suits boarders of all different weights and skill levels. The response rate of the canopy can also be varied by the two different width adjustments of the bar. With a wide bar, the canopy reacts and turns faster than with a narrow bar adjustment.

North Kiteboarding recommends flying the larger size kites using the wide adjustment and using the smaller Rebels with the narrower adjustment. The kite is equipped with several attachment points and can thus be tuned in terms of its turning ability and de-powering qualities. The hare symbol stands for a fast turning canopy whereas the tortoise indicates a slower turning of the kite.

In order to trim the kite quickly, please turn to the illustrations below. These show an optimally trimmed kite and over-taut adjustment.



## 6. KITE CARE

- Avoid bringing the kite into contact with sharp-edged rocks, thorns, wood and other objects that may damage, puncture or tear the cloth.
- The canopy is often damaged in a way that is not obvious until the kite fails while flying. Careless handling on the ground usually causes such damages; for example, when a rock is placed on the canopy to secure the kite.
- The sun is one of the kite's worst enemies. Keep your kite out of intensive sun-rays as much as possible and avoid leaving your kite inside a hot car.
- Deflate the bladders if the kite is to be left unattended for any length of time.
- Avoid leaving your kite on the beach for extended lengths of time as small wind movements may quickly cause wear and tear to the cloth.
- Try to pack the kite into the kite bag with as few wrinkles as possible avoiding creases that may damage the cloth material.
- To carry a kite, turn it so that the leading edge is upwind and the underside faces upward. Grab the center of the leading edge tube. If the wind is blowing, it will hold the kite clear off the ground. Be sure not to drag the tips of the kite across the ground.
- A coating that results from using the kite in salt water will not damage the kite. However, rinsing in fresh water and drying doesn't hurt.
- Let the kite dry away from sun and wind.
- Failure to dry the kite after use or rinsing in fresh water can cause mildew, which is unsightly but will not affect the performance of the canopy.
- Be sure to prevent water, dirt and sand from entering the bladders when using or rinsing the kite.
- Failure to dry the kite after use or rinsing can cause bleeding of dye from one panel of cloth to another. Such bleeding is not covered under the North warranty.
- Keep sand and water out of the air pump.
- Make sure to remove the deflators from the rib valves after use!

## 7. BLADDER REPAIR

1. Lay the kite down flat on the ground with the ribs facing upwards and deflate all the ribs.
2. Tie a “reinstall” line to the bladders.



You will need to use this line to pull the bladder back into the tube after the repair is complete. When you repair the rib tubes, tie the line to the valves. When you repair the leading edge, tie a separate line to the bladder at both wing-tips.



The line should be about one meter longer than the rib. For the leading edge, each line should extend one meter more than the distance from kite tip to center.

3. Push the air valve entirely into the rib.



4. If you're repairing the leading edge bladder, open the zipper near the middle of the leading edge and pull the bladder out, first one side, then the other.



If you're repairing a rib tube, pull the bladder out of the rib from the trailing edge.

**OUR TIP:** It's best if someone helps you by holding one end of the leading edge or rib, ensuring that the bladder comes out of the tube smoothly.



- When the bladder has been removed from the kite, the reinstall line should pass through the tube and extend from each end.

5. Inflate the bladder and wipe it with a sponge soaked in soapy water or submerge portions of the bladder in a tub of water. Air bubbles indicate holes.

6. After you locate the holes, dry and clean the bladder with a towel, mark the hole (using a permanent black marker) and deflate the bladder again.



7. Use the sandpaper enclosed in the repair kit, lightly roughen the area to be repaired.

- For larger holes proceed as follows: Cut a round patch out of the enclosed tube material.

8. Spread the patch and the damaged spot with a thin layer of contact glue. Follow the instructions indicated on the contact glue tube and let both sides begin to dry. The first pressure exerted is the deciding factor for successful repairing.



- For small damages: Peel the backing off the repair patch and carefully press it on the bladder to cover the hole.



9. After all repairs are complete, close the valve and place the dry bladder in a plastic bag with a generous amount of baby powder. Close the bag and shake it until the air tube is completely coated in powder.

10. Before you begin to reinsert the tube, fold it like an accordion with the air valve in the direction of the valve opening.



11. Re-tie your re-insertion string to the bladder and have your assistant pull the line to insert the bladder into the tube. During this procedure you should keep the rib taut and make sure that the tube is inserted correctly without twisting.

12. As soon as the tube is completely inserted, make sure that the air valve is positioned correctly in the valve opening.

13. Pump air into the tube until it is half inflated. Check that the tube has been correctly inserted and look for wrinkles in the material. If you detect any irregularities in the air tube or if the valve is not positioned correctly, deflate and start over again to ensure that the bladder is inserted properly. Warning! If you fail to correct the mistake at this stage you risk serious damage to the bladder when it is fully inflated.

14. Roll up the excess bladder and Velcro the ends shut.



15. Once the Velcro ends are shut and you have made sure there are no twists in your bladder, it is safe to inflate to full pressure.

## 8. WINDRAGE AND KITE SIZES

Rebel kites are superbly easy to water re-launch and offer easy, predictable performance. Only a few knots of wind speed is required to fly these kites. Kiteboarding, however, generally requires more wind, depending not only on rider ability but also the size of kite, rider and board. The following table demonstrates the APPROXIMATE average wind speeds in which kites of different sizes can be used by kiteboarders of various skill levels and weights.

Riders who are significantly heavier or lighter should use, for a given wind speed range, kites that are one size bigger or smaller respectively. These represent a rough guide only.

Keep in mind that kiteboarding is a dangerous sport in any circumstance and that using any kite in any wind strength can result in serious injury or death.

- A novice has flown small trainer kites but has no experience with large kiteboarding kites.
- An intermediate rider can stay upwind while kiteboarding.
- An advanced rider can jump consistently and safely, without injury.
- An expert rider can perform aerial spins and flips while maintaining a safe level of kite control.
- These wind strength numbers do not represent gusts and lulls, but only average wind speeds at a height of 2 meters from the surface of the water in typical sea level atmospheric conditions.

REBEL '07	NOVICE/ INT	INT/ ADVANCED	EXPERT	AR	PROJECTED AREA
3				3.5	1.9
5	19-22	20-32	21-37	4.0	3.1
7	18-21	19-30	19-35	4.5	4.3
9	17-20	17-27	17-30	4.5	5.6
10	15-18	15-25	15-27	4.5	6.2
12	13-16	13-22	13-24	4.5	7.4
14	11-14	12-19	12-21	4.5	8.7
16	9-13	11-17	11-19	4.5	9.9

### Kite Size Information:

There are several ways of measuring a kite and even more ways of indicating kite size. This can be confusing. To be clear, North kites are named according to their actual surface area. For example, if you have a sheet of paper that measures ten cm wide by ten cm long, the area of this sheet of paper is 100 square cm. Each panel of fabric in the canopy of a North kite is precisely measured in this way, and the sum of the areas of all these panels is listed as the size of the kite.

Note: Surface area (or size) doesn't necessarily indicate power.

## 9. TIPS AND TRICKS FOR REBEL 07

### Safety and Relaunch With the 5th Element:

Whether you are throwing powered handle passes, jumping, spinning, learning to stay upwind or trying your first water re-launch, the 5th Element allows you to perform all the tricks with full safety functions. As soon as you activate your Iron Heart Quick Release, your bar will slide up along the fifth line completely de-powering the kite. The kite will drop safely to the water in perfect re-launch position. Pull the bar back to you, reload your Iron Heart and follow the simple re-launch steps below.

### Relaunch With the 5th Line:

The 5th Element permits you to water re-launch your kite without swimming towards the kite. Depending on which model kite you are flying and how it is positioned on the water, water re-launch requires different techniques. Keep in mind that these are to be used as general guidelines to re-launching with the 5th line. Please check your kite manual for more kite-specific instructions.

### The kite is lying leading edge down on the water:

Simply pull on one outside steering line. The kite will make it's way to the edge of the window, flip over and take off. The harder you pull, the deeper in the wind window the kite will re-launch so begin pulling slowly and steadily and increase the amount of line you are pulling as necessary.



**The kite is lying belly up on it's back:**

This technique is essentially requires you to do the same as when the kite is lying leading edge down. By pulling on one steering line the kite will flip over so that the LE is facing you lying face down on the water. As you continue to pull the steering line. The kite will turn 180 degrees so that it is now lying leading edge down filled with wind. Continue pulling the same steering line as the kite makes it's way to the edge of the window, flips over and takes off.



Tips: Never swim towards the kite at any time during re-launch. This may cause the kite to flip inside out!

**CAUTION: MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE NOT CAUGHT IN ANY LINES BEFORE RELAUNCHING YOUR KITE!**

### Self Rescue

Self Rescue Drag Handles are attached to the inner side of the wingtips and are helpful when self-rescuing in side or on-shore wind conditions. These handles facilitate holding the kite to body-drag back to the beach. If using the self-rescue handles is not possible you must swim with the kite. Swimming with the kite is easiest when you turn the kite around, the way you carry the canopy on the beach. Never (!) deflate the bladder while you are in the water since it can provide flotation and is clearly visible from the air.

### Packing The Rebel

Open the dump valve on the wingtip of the leading edge and empty all the struts. If you intend to return to the water you can leave the struts inflated. Begin rolling the kite from the wingtip opposite to the dump valve. Make sure to roll the kite up with the struts on top, expelling all the air from the leading edge as you roll.



When you reach the end fold the kite in half and put it in the bag. If you keep the struts inflated, you can use the bag extension and stow the kite without folding it.

### Cam Battens

Your new Rebel also has Cam Battens that enhance the profile of the entry. If one of these small glass fiber battens breaks it is easily replaceable with the leading edge deflated. Simply open the Velcro closure and remove the broken batten. Insert the new Cam Batten completely and close the Velcro. Four extra cam battens are provided in your kite bag. A broken batten does not substantially impair the kite's performance and therefore there is no need to replace a broken batten always and immediately.

## 10. WARRANTY POLICY

North Kiteboarding Warrants this Product to be free of Major defects in material or workmanship to the original purchaser for a period of six months from the date of purchase. This warranty is subject to the following limitations:

The warranty is valid only when **the product is used for Kiteboarding on water** and does not cover products used in rental or teaching operations.

North Kiteboarding will make the final warranty determination, **which may require inspection and/or photos of the equipment, which clearly show the defect(s)**. If necessary, this information must be sent to the North Kiteboarding distributor in your country, postage prepaid.

If a product is deemed to be defective by North Kiteboarding, the warranty covers the repair or replacement of the defective product only.

North Kiteboarding will not be responsible for any costs, losses or damages incurred as a result of loss of use of this product. The warranty does not cover damage caused by misuse, abuse, neglect or normal wear and tear including but not limited to, rigging with other than North Kiteboarding components, damage due to excessive sun exposure, damage caused by improper handling or storage, damage caused by use in the waves or shore break and damage caused by anything other than defects in material and workmanship.

**This warranty is voided if any unauthorized repair, change or modification has been made to any part of the equipment.**

**The warranty for any repaired or replaced equipment is good from the date of the original purchase only.**

**The original purchase receipt must accompany all warranty claims.**

The name of the retailer and date of purchase must be clear and legible.

There are no warranties that extend beyond the warranty specified herein.

### **Warranty Claims**

Warranty claims must be processed and be issued a return authorization prior to shipping to North.

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**PLEASE CALL OR WRITE FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING TO THE NATIONAL NORTH KITEBOARDING DISTRIBUTOR.**

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<b>ARGENTINA</b> Hard Wind / Tsunami S.A. Tel ++54-11-4733-3796 Fax ++54-11-4792-1133 info@hardwind.com	<b>CROATIA</b> Big Blue Sport D.O.O. Tel ++385-21678030 Fax ++385-21678031 bbsport@big-blue-sport.hr	<b>HUNGARY</b> FREE Time 200 Ltd. Tel ++36-1-2123866 Fax ++36-1-2123867 windsurf@mail.elender.hu	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b> Ultra Sport NZ Ltd Tel ++64-3-3845086 Fax ++64-3-3842604 sailboards@extra.co.nz	<b>SPAIN</b> SG Diffusion S.A. Tel ++34-9322-19412 Fax ++34-9322-19546 sgd@sgddiffusion.com
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