

2027 AKLU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Request for Proposal (RFP)

Official Host of the Competition

1. Introduction

This Request for Proposal outlines what AKLU will provide to the selected host, the requirements expected of hosting organizations, and instructions for submitting a bid to host. We look forward to reviewing proposals and partnering with a host that will help elevate the profile of kettlebell sport nationwide.

2. Background

The American Kettlebell Lifters Union (AKLU) is proud to announce the opening of the bidding process for the 2027 AKLU Championships, our premier national competition showcasing excellence in kettlebell sport. As the governing body dedicated to advancing the standards, visibility, and integrity of kettlebell lifting across the United States, AKLU seeks qualified event organizers who share our commitment to athlete experience, technical accuracy, and community growth.

The 2027 Championships will bring together athletes from across the nation to compete under unified rules, certified judging, and world-class conditions. We are inviting established competitions, clubs, and event organizations to submit proposals to host this prestigious event. Selected hosts will work closely with AKLU to deliver a competition that reflects the highest standards of professionalism and embodies the spirit of kettlebell sport.

3. Scope for Hosting

The host organization for the AKLU National Championships is responsible for delivering a high-quality, nationally recognized kettlebell sport competition that meets all AKLU standards for equipment, judging, athlete experience, and event presentation. AKLU will partner closely with the selected host to support branding, judging, sponsorships, and competition oversight to ensure a successful championship event.

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4. Host Requirements

Branding & Standards

- All promotional materials and medals must prominently include AKLU branding.
- AKLU-approved lifts, kettlebell weights, and ranking tables must be the primary focus. AKLU affiliate organization lifts and ranks may also be included.
- Full compliance with AKLU national competition standards(see addendum).

Equipment & Venue

Hosts must provide:

- Kettlebells that meet AKLU specifications.
- Professional-grade platforms, certified competition timers, and judges tables.
- Adequate warm-up area with sufficient space and kettlebells.
- Water stations, food options, chalk, and venue support for athlete needs.
- Reliable livestream capability for full event coverage
- Discounted registration for AKLU members

Officials & Staffing

- Use of AKLU-certified judges (host may supply or request AKLU assistance).
- Trained staff or volunteers for scoring, logistics, setup, and athlete support.

5. AKLU assistance

Financial & Material Support

- \$500 minimum contribution toward co-branded signage and medals.
- Access to AKLU sponsor network for podium prize opportunities.
- Access to sponsor Virus Intl for production of official event merchandise.
- Access to AKLU medal vendor discount

Governance & Technical Support

- Assistance in securing AKLU-certified judges, as needed.
- Use of the official AKLU ranking tables and competition standards.
- Oversight and support to ensure adherence to all AKLU national competition rules.

Branding and Promotion

- Official AKLU branding assets (logo files, brand guide, templates).
- Promotion of the event across AKLU social channels and communication platforms.

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6. Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested hosts must submit a proposal including:

1. **Organization Information**
 - Name of hosting organization
 - Primary contact person and contact details
 - Summary of prior competition experience
2. **Proposed Venue**
 - Location, capacity, layout description (warm-up area, platforms, audience space)
 - Equipment inventory (kettlebell brands, weights, platforms, timers)
3. **Event Plan**
 - Proposed event dates (between Jan–Dec 2027)
 - Staffing plan and availability of AKLU-certified judges
 - Livestreaming plan and technical setup
 - Safety, first-aid, and logistical procedures
4. **Marketing Approach**
 - Plan for integrating AKLU branding
 - Expected promotional strategy and audience reach
5. **Budget Summary**
 - Estimated budget and financial plan
 - How AKLU's contributions will be utilized
6. **Additional Information**
 - Any unique benefits or features the host organization can offer

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7. Timeline

Milestone	Date
RFP Release Date	April 1, 2026
Deadline for Questions	June 1, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	July 31, 2026
Vendor Selection and Notification	Aug 31, 2026

8. Submission Guidelines

Submission Deadline: *July 31st 2026*

Proposals should be submitted electronically as a PDF to:
kimf@aklu.net

Hosts may be contacted for follow-up questions or a virtual walkthrough of the venue.

Final selection will be made by the AKLU Board, with announcements expected within 30 days after the submission deadline.

9. Contact Information

For questions or clarifications regarding this RFP, contact:

Name: Kim Fox

Title: President, AKLU

Email: kimf@aklu.net

We look forward to receiving your proposals and partnering with an exceptional organization to deliver a world-class 2027 AKLU Championship.

— AKLU Board

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Addendum 1: AKLU Recognized lifts

Ranked Lifts

AKLU recognizes the following as ranked lifts:

- Snatch (Single) (S1)
- Jerk (Single and Double)(J1 or J2)
- Long Cycle (Single and Double)(LC1 or LC2)

Event Descriptions

Single Lift: A single lift consists of one lift repeated for a prescribed period of time. The event begins on a start command and continues until such time as time expires, the lifter forfeits, or the platform judge terminates the set.

Biathlon: Biathlon consists of double bell jerk and snatch. Each lift is performed for a prescribed period of time with a rest period between the lifts. The event begins on a start command and continues until such time as time expires, the lifter forfeits, or the platform judge terminates the set.

Triathlon: Triathlon consists of double bell jerk, double bell long cycle, and snatch. Each lift is performed for a prescribed period of time with a rest period between the lifts. The event begins on a start command and continues until such time as time expires, the lifter forfeits, or the platform judge terminates the set.

Military Snatch: Consists of snatch repeated for 12 minutes with multiple hand switches. The event begins on a start command and continues until such time as time expires, the lifter forfeits, or the platform judge terminates the set.

Half Marathon: Consists of one single arm lift repeated for 30 minutes with multiple hand switches. The event begins on a start command and continues until such time as time expires, the lifter forfeits, or the platform judge terminates the set.

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Addendum 2: AKLU Equipment Standards

Kettlebells

Competition kettlebells may be of any brand and should generally adhere to the following dimensions and standards:

Height: 270-290mm. Outer Diameter: 190-220mm

Window: 600-700mm/sq. Handle: 33-35mm. Untreated, uncoated steel free of burrs or significant defects.

Weight Tolerance: Within 200g of posted

Markings: Clearly marked in KG. If painted, it should generally follow international color norms.

Platforms

A square lifting area built of 1.5" thick plywood topped with $\frac{3}{4}$ " (18mm) of rolled or sheet rubber. American platforms may be placed over carpet, turf, or other cushioned indoor flooring provided there is less than $\frac{1}{8}$ " downward deflection when any point on the platform is loaded with no less than 140kg of standard plate weighting. American platforms will provide a lifting area of 48" x 48" and may or may not include an apron.

Timers/Counters

May be commercial timers, tablets with large-font timing apps, or external displays of timing apps (i.e., monitors or TV's). Stopwatches, wristwatches, and other timing devices not fully and clearly visible to both the judge and the lifter are prohibited. A timer may be shared by multiple platforms provided it is placed so as to not cause any lifter strain to see the display.

Counters may be analog or digital counters, display board LCD counters, or apps with clear displays. National events must use counters clearly visible to both the judge and the lifter at all times. Counters must display a fixed result at the end of the event for the lifter to confirm the count with the judge. Counters must support at least three digits and must be capable of counting from 0-500 without a reset.

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Addendum 3: AKLU Lifter Support

Hosts must provide a well stocked chalk bucket and adequate space to apply chalk to kettlebells. A sponge sanding block and wire brush, water, spray cleaner (i.e., Windex) and paper or cloth towels are strongly recommended for kettlebell preparation. Each platform area should be provided with a small chalk bucket for lifters to apply hand chalk. Chalk must be formulated from calcium or magnesium carbonate only. Solid chalk may be block or powder. Liquid chalk may include water, isopropyl alcohol, and non-adhesive emulsifying agents only. Kettlebells may be chalked with any of these formulations provided no other chemicals or non-commercial additives are used.

Hosts are encouraged to provide a stretch and warm up area near, but not adjacent to, the lifting platforms. Items to consider making available include, foam rollers, massage balls, pullup-style bands, and hip circles. Should these items be reasonably available from an AKLU federation sponsor, AKLU will seek to assist hosts facing challenges in providing them for their event.

Fresh, cold water must be near the event space for lifters to access at no cost. This may be in the form of water bottles or bottle filling systems. Unless cost prohibitive, a variety of post-event snacks (fruits, donuts, electrolyte drinks) is commonly provided in the lifter preparation area. These are customarily included in the event fee and provided to the lifters at no cost.

Seating should be provided on site within a reasonable distance from the lifting platforms as a lifter lounge. Flight schedules, snacks, water, and recovery support equipment should ideally be placed in that area.

All publicly accessible venues must have safety equipment on site that complies with local regulations. This includes fire extinguishers, automated external defibrillators (AED), first aid kits, disinfection supplies, and biohazard clean-up.