



**EDU-3**

**On-Water Sail Standard  
On-Water Education Project Technical  
Committee**

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**EDU-3**

## **SKILLS-BASED SAILBOAT STANDARD**



## **ON-WATER EDUCATION PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

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This standard was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards. The Project Technical Committee that approved the Standard was balanced to ensure that individuals from competent and concerned interests have had an opportunity to participate.

This standard, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, is intended to provide minimum performance requirements.

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### **REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATIONS**

Upon written request, the On-Water Education PTC will render an interpretation of any requirement of the Standard. The request for interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. Requests should be presented to the PTC in a manner in which they may be answered in a yes or no fashion.

The committee reserves the right to reconsider any interpretation when or if additional information which might affect it becomes available to the PTC. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the Committee for reinterpretation.

## EDU-3 Skills-based SailBoat Standard

### National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation

**Title:** On-Water Recreational Boating Skills Standard – SAIL

**Purpose:** To establish the national consensus-based standard for use by course providers for course design and student assessment to raise the overall level of quality, availability and consistency of entry-level on-water, skills-based instruction in recreational sailboat operation.

**Scope:** This is the core voluntary standard designed to apply to entry-level SAIL on-water skills-based courses in the U.S. states and territories and District of Columbia and function within a national system of standards for recreational boat operation.

<b>SAIL</b>
<p><b>Domain of application</b></p> <p><b>Boat Characteristics:</b> Small keelboat or sailing dinghies to include daysailers, centerboard/daggerboard boats, or multihulls at a maximum of 26 feet with tiller steering and with no auxillary power in operation</p> <p><b>Wind/Water Conditions:</b> wind 10 knots or less; maximum 12 knot gusts; waves 2 feet or less</p> <p><b>Operation Conditions:</b> Daytime with no restricted visibility or threatening weather</p>
<p><b>Stages of entry-level recreational boat operation</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> For those recreational boat operations where the boat is underway, individual skill-based standard elements in this On-Water SAIL Standard are to be accomplished in accordance with any aids to navigation, navigational rules, and any regulations applicable to the location in which the skill is being executed.</p>

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## Operation #1: Prepare to depart

The operator will be able to:

- 1.1 **A: Determine suitability for departure...** *B: using information gathered about weather conditions, hazards to navigation and other environmental factors relative to departure time and duration of trip.*
- 1.2 **A: Put on a life jacket...** *B: ensuring it is appropriate for the boat/activity, sized correctly, serviceable, and adjusted to fit properly.*
- 1.3 **A: Confirm that all crew and passengers put on their life jackets...** *B: ensuring the life jackets are appropriate for the boat/activity, sized correctly, serviceable, and adjusted to fit properly.*
- 1.4 **A: Board and move about the sailboat...** *B: maintaining balance while keeping boat reasonably stable (e.g., minimal rocking) while boarding and distributing persons/gear appropriately.*
- 1.5 **A: Inspect the sailboat...** *B: using a pre-departure checklist to confirm a safe platform and verify required equipment is on board.*
- 1.6 **A: Rig sails and lines...** *B: following rigging procedures for specific boat, ensuring sail controls are operational, and using proper knots.*
- 1.7 **A: Communicate safety-related information to others on board....** *B: briefing passengers and crew prior to departure (e.g., location of safety items, key safety concerns, anticipated weather and water conditions, expected behaviors, rescue procedures, etc.).*
- 1.8 **A: Ready the sailboat (and crew if applicable) for departure...** *B: positioning boat properly using lines/fenders (if applicable), considering wind and current and communicating departure plan (if applicable).*

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## Operation #2: Leave point of departure (e.g., dock, mooring, shoreline, etc.)

The operator will be able to:

- 2.1 **A: Secure positions of rudder and centerboard (if applicable)...** *B: adjusting centerboard and rudder for departure, ensuring neither comes in contact with the ground or objects in the water.*
- 2.2 **A: Raise the sails....** *B: positioning boat correctly relative to the wind and conditions (e.g., current), using appropriate sail raising techniques, and maintaining control of the boat and sails throughout.*
- 2.3 **A: Get underway and start sailing...** *B: checking for clear departure, pushing or turning boat in appropriate direction and coordinating sails and tiller adjustments to get boat under control.*

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## Operation #3: Maneuver in close quarters

The operator will be able to:

- 3.1 **A: Turn the sailboat in a 360-degree circle...** *B: using proper tiller, sail, and weight positioning, and turning within a distance of four boat lengths.*
- 3.2 **A: Turn the sailboat out of a head-to-wind position (i.e., get out of irons)...** *B: getting boat sailing again on intended tack, properly adjusting sails and tiller.*

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## Operation #4: Operate in open water

The operator will be able to:

- 4.1 **A: Steer the sailboat in a straight line (hold a steady course)...** *B: using sail trim and tiller and adjusting the boat's heading for changes in the wind (speed or direction) to maintain course within +/- 10 degrees for 10 boat lengths.*
- 4.2 **A: Place the sailboat in the safety position (or heave to if applicable for boats with two sails) and then resume sailing on a specific tack...** *B: using proper control of sails and tiller.*
- 4.3 **A: Turn the sailboat away from the wind...** *B: adjusting sails and tiller and communicating to crew if appropriate.*
- 4.4 **A: Turn the sailboat toward the wind...** *B: adjusting sails and tiller and communicating to crew if appropriate.*
- 4.5 **A: Slow and then accelerate the sailboat maintaining constant heading...** *B: adjusting sails and tiller.*
- 4.6 **A: Tack the sailboat...** *B: using proper sail control, tiller movement, and body movement; and communicating to crew (e.g., 2-part command), if appropriate.*
- 4.7 **A: Sail the boat upwind (i.e., close-hauled or on a shallow close reach)...** *B: using proper sail trim and tiller control.*
- 4.8 **A: Sail the boat on a reach (across the wind; i.e., deep close reach, beam reach or shallow broad reach)...** *B: using proper sail trim and tiller control.*
- 4.9: **A: Sail the boat downwind (i.e., on a deep broad reach or run)...** *B: using proper sail trim and tiller control.*
- 4.10 **A: Sail directly downwind...** *B: avoiding an unintentional jibe for 10 boat lengths.*
- 4.11 **A: Jibe the sailboat...** *B: using proper sail control, tiller movement, and body movement; and communicating to crew (e.g., 2-part command), if appropriate.*

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## Operation #5: Arrive at destination (e.g., dock, mooring, shoreline, etc.) making first contact

The operator will be able to:

- 5.1 **A: Ready the sailboat for arrival...** *B: using appropriate boat position relative to arrival point (e.g., dock, mooring, shoreline, etc.), sail configurations, and docklines/fenders (if applicable), taking wind and current into consideration.*
- 5.2 **A: Secure positions of rudder and centerboard (if applicable)...** *B: adjusting centerboard and rudder for arrival, ensuring neither comes in contact with the ground or objects in the water.*
- 5.3 **A: Bring the sailboat to a stop at a specified location...** *B: checking for a clear approach, turning boat in the appropriate direction and using proper control of tiller and sails (if applicable) to arrive smoothly.*
- 5.4 **A: Lower the sails...** *B: positioning boat correctly relative to the wind using appropriate sail lowering techniques and maintaining control of the boat and sails throughout.*

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## Operation #6: Secure the boat (preparing to leave craft unattended)

The operator will be able to:

- 6.1 **A: Secure the sailboat...** B: using appropriate lines, knots, and proper fender positioning (if applicable), allowing for possible changes in wind, current and tide.
- 6.2 **A: Ready the sailboat to be left unattended...** B: stowing properly all equipment/gear, lines, and sails.
- 6.3 **A: Get off the sailboat...** B: keeping the boat reasonably stable (e.g., minimal rocking) while offloading persons and gear.

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## Operation #7: Perform general safety/emergency procedures/maneuvers

The operator will be able to:

- 7.1 **A: Depower the sailboat quickly...** B: adjusting sails and tiller appropriately to control the boat.
- 7.2 **A: Avoid collisions...** B: by maintaining a proper lookout, assessing potential risk of collision and taking early and substantial action.
- 7.3 **A: Accept a single line or side tow...** B: maneuvering safely for at least 20 boat lengths.
- 7.4 **A: Return to man overboard (MOB)...** B: using a suitable method to maneuver boat (e.g., Figure-8, Quick Stop, Quick Turn) and stopping the boat at a reasonable distance from mob (e.g., arms' reach for sailing dinghy; ½ boat length for keelboat) in a reasonable period of time for the situation (i.e., boat size/configuration, wind/water conditions).
- 7.5 **A: Recover a capsized sailboat...** B: using proper techniques to return the boat to an upright position, re-enter boat, and ready boat for sailing}.\*†

\*Note: This skill applies to boat types that allow for unaided capsized recovery and re-boarding without assistance

†Note: Persons with disabilities may require assistance to complete this skill

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*Origin and Development of EDU-3, Sail Boat Standard*

This is the first publication of EDU-3. It is the work of the On-Water Education Project Technical Committee.

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