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American National Standard

ANSI/NASBLA 102-2017 Basic Boating Knowledge – Sailing



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American National Standard (ANS)

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This list represents the panel membership at the time this draft standard was posted for final consensus ballot. It was drafted by a group of Subject Matter Experts which included both members and non-members of the Education Standards Panel. This document was accepted by the Panel and approved as a draft standard for public review and comment. This version is accepted by consensus balloting by the Education Standards Panel membership for submission as an American National Standard.

NOTE: Membership on a panel or committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) or any document developed by the panel or committee on which the member serves.

This standard was developed under procedures of essential requirements for American National Standards Institute. The Panel that approved the standard was balanced based on interest categories to ensure that individuals representing those with material interests in the standard 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 knowledge requirements.

National Boating Education Standards Panel meetings are open to the public. All contact regarding standards activity, interpretations, or meeting attendance should be directed to NASBLA ESP Staff at esp@nasbla.org.

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Upon written request, the Education Standards Panel 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 ESP in a manner in which they may be answered in a 'yes' or 'no' fashion.

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

REQUEST FOR APPEALS

Any directly and materially affected interest who believe they have been or will be adversely affected by a Standard, or by the lack thereof, shall have the right to appeal substantive or procedural actions or inactions of the National Boating Education Standards Panel per Part XII of the [Panel Rules](#) (latest version) posted at www.nasbla.org under *Education>Education Standards Panel*. As stated in the Rules, prior to the filing of a formal appeal, communication of the alleged actions or inactions, with mutual effort to informally resolve the dissatisfaction, shall be attempted and documented.

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ANSI/ NASBLA 102-2017

Basic Boating Knowledge – Sailing

- A) Scope:** This Standard applies to basic sailing knowledge education and proficiency assessment in the United States, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- B) Purpose:** This document establishes the national standard for basic recreational sailing knowledge with a primary focus on safety and mitigation of risks associated with recreational sail boating.
- C) Description:** This Standard contains the basic knowledge elements that a beginner (entry-level) operator should have in order to safely operate a small sailboat of less than 26 feet in length by day in light to moderate winds (up to 12 knots) and sea conditions. Auxiliary power knowledge is not included. On-water skills elements are not included.

1.0 Sailing Terminology & Wind Awareness

- 1.1 Identify and describe the functions of the parts of a typical small sailboat.
- 1.2 List and define directional terms relating to the sailboat.
- 1.3 List and define directional terms relating to the wind.
- 1.4 Describe visual and non-visual indicators that may be used to provide a sense of wind direction and strength.

2.0 Sailboat Features & Performance

- 2.1 Describe the purpose and functions of the tiller, tiller extension, and rudder, as well as the relationship between boat speed and rudder control.
- 2.2 Describe the functions of, and differences between, a ballasted keel and a centerboard or dagger board.
- 2.3 Define the basic force generated as air flows over a sail when sailing upwind and describe how this force propels the sailboat forward. Describe how the sail works differently when sailing straight downwind.
- 2.4 Describe what adjustments to the sails and rudder must be made to accommodate changes in wind direction and wind speed.

3.0 Points of Sail & Maneuvers

3.1 Describe and identify using diagrams the following points of sail and sailboat positions relative to the wind:

- Close hauled
- Close Reach
- Beam Reach
- Broad Reach
- Run / Directly Downwind
- By the Lee
- No Sail Zone/ In Irons

3.2 Describe the purpose and identify using diagrams the following course and tack changing maneuvers and their results:

- Heading Up
- Bearing Away
- Tacking
- Gybing (Jibing)

3.3 Describe the causes and risks associated with an accidental gybe and ways in which it can be prevented.

3.4 Describe methods of accelerating, decelerating, and stopping a sailboat.

3.5 Describe methods for getting the sailboat out of irons and under control onto a desired tack.

3.6 Describe how to place the sailboat in the safety position or how to heave-to, and the circumstances under which these maneuvers could be used.

3.7 Describe commands and responses for maneuvers such as heading up, bearing away, tacking, gybing, departure from and return to a dock, mooring, or shoreline, etc.

4.0 Trip Preparation

4.1 List all required equipment and examples of recommended equipment to be carried aboard a sailboat of less than 26 feet.

4.2 List the tasks that must be accomplished when setting up or rigging a small sailboat.

4.3 Describe critical preventive maintenance that should be performed periodically on a typical small sailboat.

4.4 List maintenance issues that, if found during a pre-trip inspection, would require cancellation of the trip if not corrected before departure.

4.5 Describe benefits and methods of stowing and securing gear and equipment properly aboard a sailboat.

4.6 List sources of local knowledge concerning weather, tides, currents, and hazards and provide examples of important local information to obtain.

4.7 Describe the purpose and contents of a Float Plan, to whom it should be submitted, and when it should be cancelled.

4.8 List important considerations for personal readiness before embarking on a daysail lasting several hours.

4.9 Provide examples of factors that would lead to a no-go decision and state the reasons why.

4.10 List all critical topics that should be included in a pre-departure safety briefing for crew/passengers and describe how the briefing could be delivered.

5.0 Seamanship and Safe Operation

5.1 Describe proper methods for boarding while keeping the sailboat reasonably stable.

5.2 Describe dynamic crew locations to help prevent capsizing a centerboard/dagger board sailboat and to enhance performance of a keelboat.

5.3 Give examples of actions to be taken when a temporary increase in wind speed occurs. Describe the actions to be taken if sustained increased winds appear imminent.

5.4 List items that must be checked periodically to avoid dangerous failures while sailing.

5.6 List important safe navigation responsibilities of a sailboat operator.

5.5 Describe the operator's responsibility for the safety of passengers/crew.

5.7 State the proper procedure for accepting a single line or side tow and safely maneuvering a sailing dinghy while under tow.

5.8 State the regulations to be followed when operating in the vicinity of military vessels.

5.9 Give reasons why boating under the influence of drugs or alcohol is unsafe.

5.10 Provide examples of suspicious activities that should be reported to proper authorities, and where to look for those activities.

5.11 Describe the purpose and usage of each of the following knots:

- Figure-8 knot
- Square/Reef knot
- Clove hitch
- Round Turn & 2 Half Hitches
- Cleat hitch
- Bowline

- Sheet Bend

6.0 Navigation Rules

6.1 Describe, using diagrams as appropriate, the applicable rules (steering & sailing, lights, and sound signals) for up to a 26 foot recreational vessel, as found in the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook (latest version).

6.2 Describe the duty to provide assistance at sea.

7.0 US Aids to Navigation System

7.1 Identify and state the purpose of lateral aids to navigation by color, shape & numbering, including preferred channel markers.

7.2 Identify and state the purpose of safe water, regulatory and information markers by color, shape & numbering.

8.0 Emergency Preparedness & Response

8.1 Describe why it is critical to wear lifejackets and know the location and correct operation of all safety equipment, particularly in an emergency.

8.2 Describe capsizing and how to prevent and recover from capsize.

8.3 Describe how to avoid running aground and recovery procedures from a grounding.

8.4 Describe the proper deployment of an anchor and rode and how to determine appropriate scope.

8.5 Describe means for prevention of, and procedures for recovering, a person in the water, e.g. Man Overboard (MOB), cold water immersion, etc. including how to maneuver the sailboat safely back to the person.

8.6 Describe when and how boating accidents must be reported.