



ABYC EDU-3 July 2022

Product Interface Division Standard

On-Water Education Project  
Technical Committee

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## **ABYC EDU-3**

# **ON-WATER RECREATIONAL BOATING SKILLS – SAIL**



### ***Origin and Development***

EDU-3, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills – Sail*, was first published by ABYC in 2017 as *Skills-Based Sailboat Standard*. The 2022 revision is the work of the On-Water Education Project Technical Committee.

### ***On-Water Education Project Technical Committee***

*This list represents the membership at the time the committee was balloted.*

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Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of ABYC or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

This standard, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards and is intended to provide minimum performance requirements. 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.

ABYC's Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings are open to the public. All inquiries regarding standards activity, interpretations, or meeting attendance should be directed to the ABYC Technical Department at [comments@abycinc.org](mailto:comments@abycinc.org).

ABYC and its committees do not "approve" or "endorse" any item, construction, or proprietary device.

### ***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 that might affect it becomes available to the PTC. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the committee for reinterpretation.

### Summary of Revisions

*This list indicates revisions to the standard when compared with the previously published version. It is not intended to be used independently of the standard. It should be used for informational purposes and as a guide to the official requirements contained in this standard. It is the responsibility of the user to read and understand the complete standard.*

The main changes in this revision of EDU-3, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Sail* as compared with the previous edition dated 5/2017, are:

- Title was changed
- Layout was updated
- Foreword was added
- Scope and Purpose were combined
- Units of Measure section was added
- Definitions section was added
- OPERATION #8 was added

#### DISCLAIMER

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## ON-WATER RECREATIONAL BOATING SKILLS – SAIL

Based on ABYC's assessment of the existing technology, and the problems associated with achieving the goals of this standard, ABYC recommends compliance with this standard no later than July 31, 2023.

### FOREWORD

This consensus-based standard is designed to support course providers and raise the overall level of quality, availability, and consistency of on-water, skills-based instruction in entry-level recreational sailboat operation. It functions within a national system of standards for recreational boat operation. This standard (ABYC EDU-3, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Sail*) is designed to help course providers: a) determine what skills to include in an on-water entry-level course curriculum, and b) develop student assessment approaches for determining successful completion of an entry-level course or auditing courses.

Course providers who want to design, deliver, or evaluate an on-water course aimed at developing the skills identified in this standard should use [ABYC EDU-4, \*On-Water Instruction Standard\*](#). EDU-4 defines the elements of the instructional approach and will assist education providers in ensuring that their courses will produce students who can perform the skills identified in EDU-3. Education providers are also encouraged to use the technical support documents (TSDs) developed by the US Sailing Association that accompany EDU-3 and EDU-4 to support the design and implementation of on-water entry-level instruction.

In addition, it is recommended that course providers use NASBLA 100, *Basic Boating Knowledge - Core* and NASBLA 102, *Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Sailing* (or most current equivalent) and its accompanying technical report to align knowledge and on-water skills-based course content. NASBLA 100 and 102 define the fundamental knowledge elements (e.g., navigation rules, aids to navigation, required equipment, trip planning, and preparation, safe boat operation, emergency preparedness, etc.) referred to in EDU-3 that entry-level recreational sailboat operators must possess as an integral part of safe boat operation.

The standard is organized as follows:

- Individual skills are organized within eight boat operations for ease of reference. Each skill can be applied to other operations.
- Each skill is described in two parts, following a leading stem phrase "*The operator is able to...*".
- The first part (Part A) is the skill, and the second part (Part B) is the condition, or 'proficiency,' associated with the successful performance of that skill.
- Numerical identifiers assigned to each skill are for ease of reference only, and do not imply any sequential process for learning or performance, or that the skill only applies to that boat operation.

### SCOPE

This standard defines the entry-level skills students are able to demonstrate upon successful completion of on-water entry-level courses of instruction in recreational sailboat operation.

The skills are intended to apply to a sailboat with these characteristics:

- small keelboat or sailing dinghy (including daysailers, centerboard/daggerboard boats), or small multihulls;
- maximum length 26 ft;
- tiller steering;
- no auxiliary power in operation.

under the following conditions:

- wind 10 knots or less with maximum 12 knot gusts;
- waves two feet or less;
- daytime with no restricted visibility or threatening weather.

For recreational boat operations where the boat is underway, individual skills 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.

## **UNITS OF MEASURE**

Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate.

## **REFERENCES**

The following references form a part of this standard. Unless otherwise noted the latest version of referenced standards shall apply.

ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 613 Third Street, Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460. Fax: (410) 990-4466. Website: [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org)

### [ABYC EDU-4, On-Water Instruction Standard](#)

NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, 1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513. Phone: (859) 225-9487. Website: [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

NASBLA 100, *Basic Boating Knowledge – Core*  
NASBLA 102, *Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Sailing*

US Sailing Association, 1 Roger Williams University Way, Bristol, RI 02809. Phone: 1-800-877-2451. Websites: [www.usnows.org/assess-and-update](http://www.usnows.org/assess-and-update), and [www.ussailing.org/](http://www.ussailing.org/)

### *Technical Support Documents:*

*Using American National Standards to Design and Deliver On-Water, Skills-Based Instruction for Safer Boating - Technical Support Document for the Instructional Approach Standard*

*Using the Sailing Skills American National Standard for On-Water, Skills-based Instruction for Safer Boating - Technical Support Document for the Sailing Skills ANS*

## **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply.

Beginner - a novice who has begun a course of instruction or is learning the fundamentals.

Entry-Level - the proficiency reached by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate amount of beginner instruction, or has achieved a sufficient level of experience, to be ready to pursue (or 'enter' safely into) recreational boating.

On-Water Instruction - a course or program of instruction that is boat-based and on the water for skills development and assessment. Instruction takes place primarily in the natural setting of the boat with experiential/active learning as the primary method of delivery used by instructors.

Proficiency - a description of the behaviors and actions that demonstrate the level of competence, accomplishment, or skill in operating a recreational boat.

Skill - the learned capacity, aptitude, or ability to do something.

Underway - when a boat is not at anchor or made fast to the shore, or aground.

## 1 OPERATION #1: PREPARE TO DEPART

The operator is 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 serviceable, fits properly, and is appropriate for the boat/activity.
- 1.3 **A: Confirm all others on the boat put on their life jackets...** B: ensuring life jackets are serviceable, fit properly, and are appropriate for the boat/activity.
- 1.4 **A: Board and move about the boat...** B: maintaining balance while keeping the boat reasonably stable (e.g., minimal rocking) while boarding and distributing persons/gear appropriately.
- 1.5 **A: Inspect the boat...** B: by completing a predeparture checklist to confirm a safe platform, verify required equipment is on board, and all steering systems (e.g., rudder, centerboard) are operational.
- 1.6 **A: Rig sails and lines...** B: following rigging procedures for the 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 boat (and crew if applicable) for departure...** B: positioning the boat properly using lines/fenders (if applicable), considering wind and current, and communicating departure plan (if applicable).

## 2 OPERATION #2: LEAVE A DEPARTURE POINT

*NOTE: Departure point may be a dock, slip, mooring, ramp, shoreline, etc.*

The operator is 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 the 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 the boat in the appropriate direction, and coordinating sails and tiller adjustments to maintain control of the boat.

## 3 OPERATION #3: MANEUVER IN CLOSE QUARTERS

The operator is able to:

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

#### 4 OPERATION #4: OPERATE IN OPEN WATER

The operator is able to:

- 4.1 **A: Steer the boat 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° for 10 boat lengths.
- 4.2 **A: Place the boat 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 boat away from the wind...** B: adjusting sails and tiller and communicating to the crew if appropriate.
- 4.4 **A: Turn the boat toward the wind...** B: adjusting sails and tiller and communicating to the crew if appropriate.
- 4.5 **A: Slow and then accelerate the boat maintaining constant heading...** B: adjusting sails and tiller.
- 4.6 **A: Tack the boat...** B: using proper sail control, tiller movement, and body movement; and communicating to the 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 boat...** B: using proper sail control, tiller movement, and body movement; and communicating to the crew (e.g., 2-part command), if appropriate.

#### 5 OPERATION #5: ARRIVE AT A DESTINATION – MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT

*NOTE: Arrival point may be a dock, slip, mooring, ramp, shoreline, etc.*

The operator is able to:

- 5.1 **A: Ready the boat for arrival...** B: using appropriate boat position relative to arrival point (e.g., dock, mooring, shoreline, etc.), sail configurations, and dock lines/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 boat to a stop at a specified location...** B: checking for a clear approach, turning the 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 the boat correctly relative to the wind using appropriate sail lowering techniques and maintaining control of the boat and sails throughout.

## 6 OPERATION #6: SECURE THE BOAT (PREPARE TO LEAVE THE BOAT UNATTENDED)

The operator is able to:

- 6.1 **A: Secure the boat...** 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 boat to be left unattended...** B: stowing properly all equipment/gear, lines, and sails.
- 6.3 **A: Get off the boat...** B: keeping the boat reasonably stable (e.g., minimal rocking) while offloading persons and gear.

## 7 OPERATION #7: PERFORM GENERAL SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES

The operator is able to:

- 7.1 **A: Depower the boat quickly...** B: adjusting sails and tiller appropriately to control the boat.
- 7.2 **A: Avoid collisions...** B: by maintaining a proper lookout, assessing the potential risk of collision, and taking early and substantial action.
- 7.3 **A: Accept a single line tow...** B: maneuvering safely for at least 20 boat lengths.

*EXCEPTION: If towing is not possible due to limitations of the provider (e.g., no access to a towboat or no ability to tow), Part B becomes: preparing the boat to be towed. This exception does not apply to providers who tow boats as part of normal operations.*

*NOTE: The skill applies to towing procedures appropriate for the type of boat.*

## 8 OPERATION #8: PERFORM EMERGENCY PROCEDURES/MANEUVERS

The operator is able to:

- 8.1 **A: Return to man overboard (MOB)...** B: using a suitable method to maneuver the 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, half boat length for keelboat) in a reasonable time for the situation (i.e., boat size/configuration, wind/water conditions).
- 8.2 **A: Make physical contact with and secure man overboard (MOB)...** B: by taking action without injury to the person.

*NOTE: Mannequin or simulated MOB is recommended.*

- 8.3 **A: Recover a capsized boat...** B: using proper techniques to return the boat to an upright position, re-enter the boat, and ready the boat for sailing.

**NOTES:**

1. *This skill applies to boat types that allow for unaided capsized recovery and reboarding without assistance.*
2. *Persons with disabilities may require assistance to complete this skill.*

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