

# The Complete Guide to Orienting at Community Boating

*A few quick notes:*

*-Be sure you have notified the dock house that you are here to run orientation, and have them make an announcement for you.*

*-You are the first face that people will associate with CBI, so be sure to give a friendly welcome to your flock.*

*-CBI is a member-driven organization, make orientation your own! Convey accurate and thorough information, but feel free to add in your own experiences and anecdotes to make CBI your own.*

*-Emphasize events, volunteer interest groups, and the overall CBI community. No need to explain operations in detail unless people ask.*

*Start at the American Flagpole*

## **Flagpole:**

- Welcome members and prospective members!
  - CBI is the oldest and largest community sailing center in the country, operated in partnership with the DCR to offer Sailing For All.
    - Incorporated in 1946 as an organization to get working-class west end youth sailing
    - The American Flag is our open/closed sign.
      - Program opens fall/spring weekdays 1pm to sunset, summer 3pm to sunset
      - All weekends and holidays 9am to sunset
      - Flag goes up at open, comes down at close
    - Wind flags indicate what the sailing conditions are like
      - Green Flag: Light Wind
        - Green rated sailors and above may go out in this wind.
        - You can get your green rating by passing a rigging test, for which

we offer the Rigging class, and a verbal test, for which we offer Shore School class.

- After you get your green rating you can sign up for
  - Mainsail classes: medium sized class for practicing the basics of sailing with other beginners
  - Guided sail: one instructor and two students focusing on comfort on the water and specific skill improvements
- Yellow Flag: Moderate Wind
  - Yellow rated sailors may go out in this wind.
  - You can get your yellow rating by passing the on-the-water yellow test.
  - After you get your yellow rating you can take Jib classes which are the classes for a second sail.
  - This is when you can take out guests!
- Red Flag: High Wind
  - Red rated sailors may go out in this wind.
  - You can get your red rating by passing the on-the-water red test.
  - After you pass the red test, you can take the classes for the more advanced boats that we will see later.

## **The Basin and The Dock:**

*Turn to face the Dock House*

- The Basin is our sailing area. We Sail between the Longfellow and Mass. Ave Bridge.
  - We share the basin with Harvard sailing, Charles River Yacht club, and the MIT Sailing Pavilion.
  - You also might see Duck Tours, Charles River tour boats, and Paddle Boston kayaks that use this area.
  - The Dock House is the base of operations for everything happening on the dock and on the water

- Here you can find a member of the dock staff at all times, and you get in touch with the Dockmaster here. This is also where you will go to sign out boats.
- The Dock House whiteboard lists a bunch of important information including the day's sailing restrictions. For example: wetsuits for cold weather, half river restrictions, or a change in operating hours.
- You can also find the day's full class schedule on the whiteboard, as well as the current dockmaster and sunset time.

*Begin walking down the dock towards the Hiper Dock.*

### **The slip and Hi-per Dock**

- This area of water enclosed by the dock is called the slip.
  - This area contains our fleet of over 60 Cape Cod Mercuries. These are the boats you will begin learning in. Most of our fleet consists of these centerboard variety.
- Beyond the slip is the front of the dock. This is where you will launch and land.

*Point out the windsurf shed as you pass by*

- We have a wide variety of boards and sails.
- You can begin intro windsurf classes after passing your Verbal test.

*Point out the Laser racks as you pass by*

- These are our Lasers; these are fast, light, single-handed high-performance boats.
- You will be able to take a Laser class after achieving your red rating.

*Point out the Kayaks and SUPs*

- We have a large assortment of single and double kayaks, as well as stand-up paddleboards.
- As a member, you may take a guest in a double kayak, or get 50% off the price of the

SECOND kayak/paddleboard. All other non-member paddle rentals are full price.

*At this point you should have walked down to the high-performance end of the dock. Point out the Keel MerCs*

- We also have a fleet of 20 Keel Mercuries, which are more stable and more spacious. You may be required to take one of these boats out due to the day's restrictions, or if the wind is outside your comfort zone.

*Point out the UAP slip*

- This part of the slip is where the Universal Access Program runs out of. The UAP seeks to eliminate physical barriers to sailing. Any sailor with a specific need not met by the Adult Program or Junior Program may sign up for one-on-one sailing sessions with the UAP program for personal instruction or for a recreational sail.
- This program runs in parallel with the Adult Program, as does the Junior Program, which serves over 1,000 kids ages 10-17. The Junior Program is the longest running program in CBI's history, and can get kids sailing in two week-long classes for as little as a dollar.

*Turn so that your group is facing the mooring field*

- This part of the dock is called the High-Performance end of the dock, as we keep our High-Performance boats in this area. Directly in front of you is the mooring field where we keep our larger keel boats.
  - The Ideal-18, with the open sterns, are our introductory keelboat. We have 6 in our fleet. You can take an Ideal-18 class to skipper Ideals after you earn your red rating.
  - The larger boats are our Sonars. We have 8 Sonars, these are our largest high-performance keel boats, measuring 23 feet LOA. They seat 8 people including the skipper. Upon earning your Ideal-18 yellow rating, you may take a

Sonar class.

*Point out the 420 dock*

- Over there on the floating dock is our fleet of 18 420s. These are double-handed racing boats popular with our highschool racers. You can take a 420 class after you earn your red rating.

If you are interested in taking any of these classes, the Laser, 420, Ideal-18, and Sonar classes are all advanced offerings, which means there will be a one-time fee of \$45 to take these classes. After you take the class, you will be automatically granted your green flag rating for that boat.

*Begin walking back towards the boathouse.*

## **Events and CBI Community**

*Lead your group into the main bay or under the pavilion. Tell the group about CBI events, groups, clubs, and emphasize the CBI community.*

- Throughout the season we have various events for members and guests including
  - Dock parties
  - A CBI beer garden (pop up bar)
  - Member night sails after sunset
  - 4th of July Sailabration
  - November Gala at the Liberty Hotel
  - Regattas
    - Ed Long un-regatta
    - All Boats on the Basin regatta
    - Halloween Night regatta

- All the different clubs and racing groups have channels in Slack. Ask guest services to add you to the CBI Slack channel. The official volunteer interest groups are:
  - Women's Sailing and Racing
    - Beginner to advanced women sailors can join to sail all different boats we have in our fleet including Mercuries, 420s, and Sonars.
  - High Performance Racing
    - Monday night 420 and Laser sailors come to race against each other.
  - Tiller Club
    - Competitive Mercury racing that hosts Sunday morning Racing and different regattas.
- A great way to develop your skills is by racing, as crew or as a beginner skipper we offer the following racing opportunities:
  - High-Performance 420 and Laser racing on Monday
  - Co-Abled Keelboat Racing on Wednesday
  - Womens Racing on Thursday
  - Informal Mercury Racing on Friday
  - Formal Mercury Racing with the Tiller Club on Sunday
- Members can sign up to become volunteers to teach classes and help out on the dock. Our volunteers are a fantastic and social community, have access to special events, are and are the backbone of the instruction system at Community Boating. It is because of their hard work that we can offer so much at CBI for such a minimal membership cost.

## **Front Office and Website**

*If your orientation group is any larger than a few people, lead them through the office out into the front yard. You don't want to have to talk over the FO staff.*

- Most of you have already been through the front office. This is where you can go to purchase, upgrade, and renew your membership.
- You can also sign up for classes here by either coming in in person or calling the front

office.

- You can also validate your parking here. If you park in the Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary parking lot, on a weekend or after 5 on a weekday, you can validate your parking for a \$9 flat rate. We cannot validate your parking if your ticket indicates that you entered the lot before 5PM.
- You can take care of a lot of front office business via the CBI website. Through the member portal you can renew and purchase your membership.
- The entire class schedule is available on the CBI website as well, under the Adult tab at the top of the front page.
- The current flag status is also on the website in the upper left corner. Please remember that the flag color may change while you travel to the boathouse, so we apologize in advance if you arrive and the wind has picked up to a point where you cannot sail.

## **Final Remarks**

- Community Boating is a volunteer-driven organization, if you have an interest in teaching or helping out at CBI, stop by the front office and inquire.
- This is the end of the orientation, thanks for coming down!
- If you have any further questions, feel free to ask any member of the staff. Adult Program staff wear red shirts and carry radios. The staff are here to help you, and would rather stop to answer your questions than see you have a bad day of sailing, so use them as a resource!

*Dismiss orientation, receive thunderous applause, and take questions.*

## ***Some things to consider while orienting***

- *Be sure that you are projecting your voice and that your entire group can hear you.*
- *Be sure that your group is not staring directly into the sun as they try to focus on you. You yourself may need to face the sun so that they have their backs towards the sunlight.*

- *Be sure to stop and ask for questions before moving on to the next part of the Dock.*