

Small Boat Certification

CLSA Small Boat Certification

CLSA members must be certified to check out and sail our club-owned sailboats unsupervised. Members ages 12 and older can become certified to use the CLSA Fleet boat by completing the following steps:

1. Must be a club member with an active (paid) membership status.
2. Agree to terms of waiver and release and agree to follow rules in member handbook.
3. Must have a boater safety card on file with the CLSA.
4. Must be a proficient small boat sailor and demonstrate basic sailing knowledge.
5. Successful completion of the on-the-water qualification assessment with an instructor. Do you have sailing experience or feel you are ready to take the certification test? Click here to request a [Qualification Assessment](#).

A boater safety card is not required to participate in supervised sailing activities such as small boat classes, Small Boat Tuesdays, and Family Fridays. Please visit the CLSA website for more information about our small boat classes and events.

Ready to take a small boat qualification assessment? Request an assessment by [completing this form](#).

Rules for using CLSA Fleet Boats:

- Sailors must update the log book in the shed before and after every use.
- For 2025, the CLSA Fleet Boats are being stored at the Parnell Boat Access Area. Since this is a lower traffic area, sailors are required to use the buddy system while using CLSA Fleet Boats.

- Sailors need to stay in sight of the CLSA dock or CLSA pavilion unless sailing in a CLSA club race (see map below). For 2025, the recommended sailing area is on the eastern portion of the water near the Parnell Boat Access Area, indicated by the green oval. More experienced sailors can extend this sailing area to include the yellow oval.
- Everyone must wear a life jacket & whistle when sailing club boats.
- Don't take the boats out when there are white caps and immediately return to shore if white caps develop.
- Know your abilities and sail within your limitations.
- Be responsible for any repairs caused by damage during your sail by notifying the CLSA Harbormaster, Fleet Captain, or other designee of any needed repairs to boats and make note of it on the white board in the storage shed.
- Demonstrate courtesy to all boaters.



Rules for youth sailors, ages 12 to 18 years old using CLSA Fleet Boats:

Use of the Fleet boats by this age group is restricted further from normal by the following:

- The approved sailing area is immediately west of the CLSA and Clinton marina harbor to a distance of no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ way to the west side of the lake (unless registered for a CLSA race event). For 2025, the youth sailing area shall be the eastern portion (green oval) of the Parnell sailing basin.
- Members 12 to 18 years old may not use the club boats in a CLSA race event if whitecaps are present.

Ages 12 - 13 years as of 5/1

In order to use the Fleet boats the individual must be currently on the Approved Use List, and a parent or guardian over 21 years old must also be sailing a similar craft in a proximity that would allow for immediate aid.

Ages 14 - 17 years old as of 5/1

In order to use Fleet Boats the individual must be currently on the Approved Use List, and a parent or guardian over 21 years old must be present on CLSA grounds with a boat ready and have ability to assist as needed for the safety of the sailor during the sail. In the event the Parent or Guardian leaves CLSA grounds, the minor must return to the harbor and exit the boat until the Parent/Guardian returns. For 2025, the references to CLSA grounds will refer to the Parnell Boat Access Area.

On-the-water certification Checklist:

- Rig one of the club boats correctly
- Demonstrate bowline, figure-8, and cleat hitch knots
- Demonstrate proper way to wear a life preserver
- Leaving shore or Dock: Determine wind direction and discuss the best way to leave the harbor area. Discuss the best way to return to harbor and dock.
- Demonstrate tacking ability
- Demonstrate safety position
- Demonstrate jibing
- For all but the Ray Green: Demonstrate capsize recovery in deep water (greater than 5')
- Demonstrate ability to round two of the no wake buoys
- Demonstrate ability to return to harbor
- Demonstrate derigging a boat, including proper sail storage and equipment storage.