

Jacomo Sailing Club

SAFETY CHECKSHEET: SKIPPER AND CREW

General

- It is a fundamental principle of maritime law that the skipper is responsible for the safety of his vessel and its crew.
- It is the skipper's responsibility to decide whether to start or continue a race.

Pre-season

- Inspect wire rigging. Check wire near crimps where breakage is most likely
- Check/replace running rigging (lines).
- Tighten screws and bolts
- Check for bent, damaged, missing components
- Grease/replace wheel bearings. Check tire pressure
- Verify operation of trailer lights
- Verify flotation: tanks airtight? Plugs in place? Any flotation foam missing? Consider adding extra flotation like air bags, closed cell foam, milk jugs, beach balls, etc
- PFD: condition and quantity

Equipment

- PFD (life jacket) One for each person plus and extra throwable
- Bailer (tie it on) windshield washer fluid or Clorox bottle with bottom cut out works well
- Paddle
- Check boat flotation and condition of lines and rigging (most breakdown can be avoided)
- Anchor recommended (emergency/storm)

Pre-Launch/Launch

- Weather check ref: NOAA **816-540-6021**
- PFD: one per person + throwable
- Review universal distress hand signals
- Ramps are slippery from algae (especially late summer). Watch your footing
- Watch for overhead obstructions (power lines, trees, etc)

On-the-Water

- Brief your passengers/crew on where to sit and what to expect
- Brief passenger on capsize recovery
- The “Emergency sound wailing Siren” from the RC means clear the lake
- Watch for weather changes. Storm front approaching? Lightening in area? Wind conditions changing?
- If lightening approached, get off water ASAP. All skippers must have valid third party insurance.
- It is the RC’s decision to hold a race or cancel a race due to weather/sea conditions.
- The RC must cancel a race at anytime they feel they cannot provide safety cover. Club members must respect the RC’s decision.
- The RC can refuse entry in a race to anyone they feel is a danger to other sailors.
- The RC can refuse entry in a race to any boat they feel is un-seaworthy or inadequately equipped for the conditions.
- The RC can refuse entry in a race to anyone they feel they cannot provide safety cover for.

Capsize

- Personal safety is first priority (both sailors and rescuers)
- Verify location of each sailor. Be sure each wearing PFD.
- Avoid getting entangled in lines or entrapped under sail or boat
- Stay with boat
- Have knife available to cut entangled lines in emergency
- Avoid risking personal safety to save equipment
- Do these:
 - Uncleat main and jib if possible
 - Point bow into wind
 - Stand on centerboard until boats rights
- Hand signal for “need assistance” is a raised clinched fist

Emergency Numbers: Call 911

- Park Rangers/Water Patrol: **816-795-8888**
- Marina: **816-503-4890**