



BRITANNIA YACHT CLUB LEARN TO SAIL PROGRAM

SAILOR'S HANDBOOK



Britannia Yacht Club
Summer 2017

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Introduction

Welcome sailors and parents this handbook is intended as the BYC Learn to Sail Program reference guide. It contains a review of program policies, helpful information, names and phone numbers of people to contact, and some background about our program. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is additional information you would like to see included in future handbooks.

The BYC Learn to Sail Program is intended to provide our students with a broad exposure to the sport of sailing. Our primary goal is to develop safe, independent sailors, who love the sport of sailing and who learn to work as part of a team, gain valuable leadership skills and increased self- confidence. Our secondary purpose



is to offer those students who have become independent sailor's exposure to racing. learn to work as part of a team, gain valuable leadership skills and increased self- confidence.

Junior Clubhouse and Boats

The BYC Learn to Sail Program has been recognized by Sail Canada as among the best; it was also the winner of the 2004 William Abbott Senior Trophy for the best learn to sail program in Canada. The BYC Learn to Sail Program has graduated many successful racers and life-long sailors. In recent years BYC graduates have represented sailing on National and International sailing team.



CANSail

We are very excited about our plans for the upcoming sailing season! For those of you who are new to the Learn to Sail programs, the Britannia Yacht Club models itself on the CANSail Program that was developed by Sail Canada. CANSail is a set of progressive learn-to-sail standards focused on providing sailors with solid boat handling skills. The program allows sailors to learn and progress in any type of boat, and consolidates key skills and solid experiences before adding more complex boat handling maneuvers.

The BYC Learn to Sail programs, uses Optimist, Topaz, Club 420 and Lasers as our learn to sail boats. Students are grouped by ability, age and size, and Instructor recommendation. Placement decisions are guided by safety considerations and the skills demonstrated by the student. Thus, we will be unable to honor requests for "friends" to be placed together. We recognize that students mature and progress at different rates, and some movement from class to class may occur during a session.

Swim Test and Medical Forms

Before any student is allowed to sail, they must pass a swim test. This test is given during the first week of each session. Students should bring bathing suits, towels, and appropriate clothing. Although the water may be cold, the test is a safety requirement, so please come prepared.

A completed medical and liability form (provided at registration) is also required before a student is allowed to sail. Of particular importance are emergency contacts. All information must be provided, because these forms are the only record we have of the medical attention your child should receive if treatment becomes necessary and you are not available. These forms will be filed in the Office of the Club and will accompany students to all "away" events. Please fill out the medical forms with great care and include as many contact numbers as possible. All files are kept confidential within the program staff. Any information relating to your child's health is greatly welcomed - after all, you know your child best.

Life Jackets and Whistles

All sailors must have an appropriate certified life jacket for their height and weight. It should also have a whistle attached (Fox 40 whistles are excellent in the water) in case of emergency. These items can be purchased at the Chandlery which is located on Poulin Avenue very close to the club. If you have any questions regarding what equipment is required, one of our instructors will be happy to assist you.



What Should I Bring to the Course?

All students will require the following:

- Certified Life jacket (Suitable to child's weight and size)
- Whistle
- Lunch and snacks
- Sun hat/ baseball hat
- Sunscreen SPF 30 minimum - all students should apply sunscreen before coming in the morning and again at lunch before afternoon sailing
- Students should have proper water shoes (flip flops are NOT suitable). Strappy or open shoes are a safety hazard. Students must wear closed rubber soled shoes.
- Water bottle
- A spare change of clothing and a towel is necessary. (You never know when you may want to go swimming)
- Warm clothing - temperatures on the water are often significantly colder than on land
- Rain coat – we sail rain or shine
- Students are required to remain on Club property from start of classes to departure time. The Club's snack bar serves sodas and snacks at lunchtime, so you may want to bring a small amount of money along with a hardy lunch.
- Students are advised to leave any unnecessary valuables at home. Cell phones may be left with the Instructor for safekeeping in the office.
- All students' belongings should be well labeled with the child's full name. Do not let your child feed the lost and found box unnecessarily!!

Safety Rules

The following safety rules are in place and will be enforced:

- Rubber-soled shoes must be worn at all times.
- Life jackets are required at all times on boats, docks, floats, and ramps.
- No skateboarding, or bike-riding are allowed anywhere on Club property unless coming and going. Bicycles should be locked and left in the designated area.
- Except during the supervised swim test and capsized drills, there is no swimming in the harbour.



Behavior

The BYC Learn to Sail Program is a drug, alcohol and tobacco free environment. Abuse of this policy is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. In such cases, no money will be refunded.

Respect is the operative word at BYC. Proper behavior is based on common sense. We have a very well maintained facility which is also for the use and enjoyment of adult members. The Yacht Club membership has been very generous in their support of our program. We must show the utmost respect for these members, and thankfulness for their support. Our Instructors are very sensitive to this and will bring any problems to the immediate attention of Youth Director. If the problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved between the Youth Director and the student, parents will be contacted by the Youth Director. Disciplinary action, including suspension from the program, may result in some cases.

Attendance

Regular attendance is extremely important to your child's progress. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent from a class, please let the Instructor know. If your child is absent from class, the Instructor will try to contact you at home. It is important to understand that the program cannot be responsible for your child if he/she does not come to class; Should a student develop a problem requiring him or her to leave class, the Instructor will attempt to notify you or the emergency contact and will arrange supervision for the child until you or your emergency contact arrive.

Staff Availability

The Instructors will be on duty at the Yacht Club at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday (classes begin promptly at 9:00). If you need to speak to an instructor, please do so before the class begins. If you feel you may need to speak for an extended period of time, please schedule a meeting, as they will be preparing for the day in the morning. Please communicate - don't let little problems become big ones. To help you, pertinent phone numbers are provided in the contact section of this handbook.

Communication

During the program, there may be a need to communicate with parents about schedule changes and/or special events. These notices will be sent home with your child, and it is important that you check with him/her regularly.



Spectators

Although we understand that parents would like to watch their children sail, we must discourage your attendance at classes. The students get more nervous and less attentive when they know their parents are watching. There is a viewing area from the marquee at the main Clubhouse where parents are welcome to enjoy a seat and watch their child, while still giving them the freedom to grow and learn on their own.

Boat Damage

Although the Program provides the boat your child sails, we ask that each student treat the boat as if it were his/her own. Repairs are expensive and eventually drive up the cost of the Program.

We do not want to charge individual students and their families for boat damage - accidents do happen, and to avoid this we need your help. Please remind your student to do everything possible to avoid collisions or other damage to the boats. In cases of damage resulting from extreme negligence, we may ask the student to share the cost of repairs. This has never been necessary, and with everyone's cooperation it won't be this year, either!

Races at BYC

Students are encouraged to participate in races held at BYC. Instructors will provide information through the session. These notices will be sent home with your child, and it is important that you check with him/her regularly.

Regatta Policies

Sailors may participate in club races, interclub events, and other regattas. When they do so, they are representing BYC and our Junior Program, and we expect that they will conduct themselves accordingly. We also encourage their participation in the social functions that are part of these events.

Parental support and involvement are important to the success of these events. If your student is participating, we will ask you to help with transportation and chaperoning. Without your help, participation in these events is not possible.

We Need Your Help

The Program is financed entirely by tuition fees. Our Yacht Club membership has been very generous, and your help is also needed. Tax-deductible contributions are welcomed. We make every effort to have our fees as low as possible, and we would like to keep them that way. Remember, every contribution helps keep children sailing!



Helpful Reminders

All life jackets and personal belongings look the same. Put your name on EVERYTHING! Check your child's things regularly to be sure you still have what you started with! The lost and found bin is located in the junior sailing clubhouse. There are no "loaner" life jackets. If you do not bring your own, you do not sail!

Guests

The BYC by-laws specifically prohibit non-members from having any guests at the Club. This policy will be enforced. Parents are welcome to experience the club during their child's session. BYC offers a beautiful venue, adult sailing lessons and racing, tennis and many other activities as part of a family membership. BYC staff is available and more than happy to show parents what the club has to offer.

Contact Information

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