

WYC Open Sailing Quick Guide

Updated 02-12-2023

Summary:

Open sailing allows members that hold ratings to take out boats in winds they are rated for outside of WYC events and WAC facility hours. This is one of the best ways to improve your sailing experience, build your skills, progress in getting higher ratings, and do it on your own time. Just remember you are the one who is responsible for maintaining your safety and making smart decisions on the water for you and your crew. Please make sure you understand the standard boat checkout procedures.

Rules:

The rules for open sailing are bound by the WYC [By-laws](#) and [Policies](#). The document here only gathers the most important information and quotes from these governing documents for convenience, but by no means quotes all of the rules. References the full documents for more information. Know that these quotes are only accurate up to the revised date of this document. Failure to abide by the governing documents is grounds for suspension from the club.

Checkout Procedure (important):

- Everyone accessing the waterfront must follow proper checkout procedures.
- Use the online boat checkout form when checking out a boat.
 - Boat checkout form: <http://checkout.washingtonyachtclub.org/>
- Must be a current member and have an IMA membership to check out a boat.
- If the WAC is staffed at the check in window all those accessing the waterfront must check in with either their Husky ID or IMA membership card.
- Any guest onboarding WYC boats must sign the guest waiver.
 - Guest Waiver: <https://waiver.washingtonyachtclub.org/>
- Any guest onboarding from the WAC must confirm IMA membership by emailing a screenshot of the confirmation page. Both the current member and the guest must be in the email chain.
 - IMA Membership: <https://reg.recreation.uw.edu/profile/memberships>
 - Email to: guests@washingtonyachtclub.org
 - Example screenshot:

The screenshot shows a user profile for Peter Christopher Correa. On the left, there is a navigation menu with links for Profile, Bookings, Memberships (highlighted), Facility Access, and Orders. The main content area is titled 'My Memberships' and contains a table with the following data:

Membership Type	Start Date	Expiry Date	Renew	Card Info
WtrS	Mon, Dec 12 2022	Sun, Mar 19 2023	Not Renewable	N/A
AuS	Mon, Sep 12 2022	Mon, Dec 19 2022	Not Renewable	N/A
SuS	Mon, Jun 6 2022	Sun, Sep 18 2022	Not Renewable	N/A
ClimbQ	Wed, Mar 30 2022	Sun, Jun 12 2022	Not Renewable	N/A
SprS	Mon, Mar 14 2022	Sun, Jun 12 2022	Not Renewable	N/A
WtrS	Sun, Dec 12 2021	Sun, Mar 20 2022	Not Renewable	N/A

Boundaries:

- Dinghy Novice and Intermediate ratings must sail in Union Bay
- Dinghy Skipper ratings may sail east of the Aurora Bridge and North of 520 Bridge

Timeline:

- Must sail during daylight hours, sunrise to sunset
- All boats must be in sight of the WAC by sunset and be preparing to dock
- Keelboats have an exception to sail outside of these hours

Access:

- Details for accessing the sail locker will be provided to those with appropriate ratings

Policies

Article I - Definitions and Ratings

Section B. Ratings Requirements and Privileges

1. Definition

A Rating for a fleet or class of vessels allows a Member to use those vessels in the conditions and waters for which they are rated without supervision.

2. General Requirements

- a. All Members must read and be familiar with the contents of Articles I, II, and III of the Policies in order to qualify to receive Ratings, especially the Club's boat checkout procedures.
- b. All Members must display consideration for the safety of lives and for the protection of club equipment.
- c. A combination of Written Exams and on-the-water practical Ratings Tests are required for each Rating as described below.
- d. The requirements described here are minimum requirements. The final decision to award a Rating is at the discretion of the Chief, Instructor, or Ratings Examiner administering the Ratings Test.

4. Dinghy Novice Ratings

Dinghy Novice Ratings may be awarded for the Single-Handed, Double-Handed, Sailboard, and Catamaran Fleets.

b. Privileges

A Novice Rating entitles the Member to sail in winds not over 7 knots in Union Bay within sight of the WAC.

5. Dinghy Intermediate Ratings

a. Requirements

To obtain an Intermediate Rating one must demonstrate proficiency in all requirements for a Novice Rating, but in 7 to 15 knots of wind.

b. Privileges

An Intermediate Rating entitles the Member to sail in winds not over 15 knots in Union Bay within sight of the WAC.

Article II - Use of Boats, Facilities, and Equipment

Section A. Sailing Requirements and Restrictions

1. Sailing Areas

Boats may be sailed by Members in the waters specified by their Rating for the type of boat being sailed.

a. Additional Waters

With the approval of the Membership at a General Meeting, club boats may be sailed on other waters during organized club activities and as otherwise specified.

2. Sailing Hours

Boats, except those designated as part of the Keelboat Fleet, the Pearson Ensign, and the J/22, may only be sailed during daylight hours and must be in sight of the WAC by sunset.

a. Exception for the Pearson Ensign and J/22

A Member with a Double-Handed Intermediate Rating may sail the Pearson Ensign or J/22 after sunset if:

- i. That Member also holds a Keelboat Rating.
- ii. The navigation lights are in good working order and a battery is connected to the electrical system.
- iii. Wind and geographical restrictions are dictated by the Member's Double-Handed Rating.

3. Docking Hours

All boats, except Keelboats and Daysailers with appropriate lighting must be docked by dark. The only exception shall be when a best effort to comply with this requirement is thwarted by insufficient wind. In this situation, the Member must inform the Officers or a Chief about their delay as soon as possible.

5. Hazardous Weather

Hazardous weather conditions shall be deemed to exist if any of the following criteria are met: steady winds of 25 knots or higher (large branches of grown trees in motion); or puffy, shifty winds of 20 knots or higher (rapidly changing wind direction and intensity as seen in trees and in the rapidly shifting pattern of dark streaks across the water); or, the display of the Hazardous Weather sign as posted by a Chief or an Officer at their discretion. This may include occasions when wind velocities or other conditions are not yet hazardous but are so predicted. In hazardous weather conditions, whether the sign has been posted or not, the following procedures must be adhered to:

a. Bridge Hazard

No boat shall be sailed near the Evergreen Point Bridge on the windward side of it.

b. Personal Floating Device Use

Adequate flotation must be worn by all persons in Club boats.

c. Water Limitations

No boat shall be sailed East of Webster Point or West of the WAC unless a Rescue Whaler is being operated in support of such boats.

d. Clothing

From November 1st to May 1st, if hazardous conditions exist and a Rescue Whaler is not being operated in support of such boats, all sailors must wear wetsuits.

e. Ratings Restrictions

No Novice or Intermediate sailing.

6. Exception for Keelboats

The above sections of Article II regarding Sailing Hours, Docking Hours, and Hazardous Weather do not apply to the use of Keelboats. However, the Executive Council or Officers may determine conditions or expected conditions in which Keelboats may not be used.

Section B. Requirements for the Use of Boats, Facilities, and Equipment

1. Member and Guest Requirements

- a. All Members and Guests accessing Club boats and facilities at the waterfront must be either fully-enrolled UW Seattle students or IMA members.
- b. During Waterfront Activities Center (WAC) operating hours, Members and Guests must check in at the WAC office by presenting their Husky Card or IMA membership card.
- c. To access Club boats and facilities at the waterfront outside of WAC operating hours, Guests must email guests@washingtonyachtclub.org each quarter with proof of full-time student status or IMA membership, and the Member bringing out the Guest must also be a recipient of this email. This will be used to verify that the waterfront is not being used for club activity by individuals without IMA membership.
- d. All Guests, both at the waterfront and at other locations, must sign the online WYC Participant's Agreement (available at <https://waiver.washingtonyachtclub.org/>) before sailing, and the Member bringing them out must verify that they have properly completed the waiver.
- e. All Guests must abide by the Club rules and may not be under 18 years of age.
- f. Failure to follow the above requirements may result in the Member losing their privilege to bring Guests, and both the Member and Guest being prohibited from using any and all WYC facilities and equipment for a period of time to be determined by the Executive Council. An appeal may be made according to Article IV - Section B.6 in the Policies.
- g. Club members must not knowingly allow prohibited Guests from accessing Club boats or facilities.

2. Facilities Access

Only Members with Ratings or Position Holders may open the Sail Locker, Shell House, and Gas Locker and only for usage in Club activity. When Members are not inside, these spaces must be locked at all times unless a Member in the immediate area knows that the door is unlocked and there is a defined plan for who will be locking the door and when. Any Member failing to abide by the above requirements may have their privilege to access these facilities revoked.

3. Monetary Gain

WYC and WAC facilities and equipment shall not be used for any type of personal monetary gain.

4. Responsibilities for Boat Usage

It is the responsibility of the Member checking out a boat to ensure that the boat is correctly rigged and derigged, the boat is properly secured in its designated place, the sails are correctly put away, and all other equipment on board is stored back in its proper place.

5. Boat Checkout Requirements

Boats may only be sailed if the following requirements are met:

a. Checkout Sheet Requirement

The online Checkout Form must be completed, and every Guest must sign the online Participant's Agreement (available at <https://waiver.washingtonyachtclub.org/>).

Section C. Boat Equipment Requirements

In order to be sailed, each boat shall be equipped with one Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on board or expected to be on board at any point in the outing. One Coast Guard-approved buoyant throwable must be on board any boat over 16 feet in length, and any additional Coast Guard equipment requirements must be met.

Section D. Personal Safety