

OSYC/OSSS Boat Rules

WHO MAY USE BOATS:

OSYC members in good standing who are also OSSS certified sailors, or OSSS certified junior sailors may skipper club boats. The book with certified sailor sheets is in the Yacht Club office.

Non-members are not permitted to use club boats except as the guest of a club member on board who is also a certified sailor.

Junior sailors under the age of 16 are not permitted to take non-members on club boats without a certified adult sailor.

WHEN BOATS MAY BE USED:

First come-first served during club operating hours or as granted by the Fleet Captain. The Ocean Springs High School Sailing Team has priority use of boats during practice hours.

All boats must be back on the OSYC beach by sunset.

HOW TO CHECK OUT A BOAT:

Complete a float plan in the Yacht Club office. Your eligibility will be checked and you will be issued a block for the boat.

It is imperative to note the condition of the boat upon departure and return, securely tie down the boat, return the sails and other equipment to the appropriate locker, return the block to the office and close-out the float plan.

RULES:

The minimum age for sailing of club boats without a certified adult sailor is 14.

Sailors over the age of 16 may sail within the area on map 1. This area is defined as within sight of the OSYC clubhouse, with the exception of picnicking on Deer Island along the casino row channel. Do not go under the bridge, into Davis Bayou, or past the east end of Deer Island. At all times minimize your time sailing in the channel and give way to ALL other vessels. Many are restricted to navigation in the channel. Some large vessels CANNOT stop and may not even see you.

Sailors under 16 may sail within the area indicated on Map 2. This area is defined as between the Ocean-Springs Biloxi bridge to the north, the ship channel to the west, and the county pier adjacent to the Ocean Springs Harbor to the south.

Club boats shall not be sailed in winds exceeding 15 knots (NUMEROUS WHITECAPS) , in threatening or inclement weather, or when Small Craft Warnings are in effect.

Everyone on a club boat MUST wear a personal flotation device (life jacket).

No more than 4 people on a Hobie Wave or 2 on the Sunfish or 2 on the Hobie 14 or 2 on the 420.

Club boats may not be used for pleasure sailing during scheduled sailing lessons, races, or regattas. Dates and times of these events are clearly posted in the newsletters, facebook, and the club website.

The certified sailor who signs out a club boat shall have the following additional duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure all rules are followed and safe and courteous conduct of all on the boat.
- Ensure the boat, equipment, gear, sails, etc are properly cared for and neatly stored after use.
- Boats must be tied down in their proper place. Sails must be neatly rolled and stowed.
- Return any lifejackets and close out the float plan.

FLOAT PLANS ARE A CRITICAL SAFETY MEASURE. FAILURE TO FILL OUT A FLOAT PLAN OR CLOSE OUT A FLOAT PLAN MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF SAILING PRIVILEGES. FAILURE TO FILL OUT A FLOAT PLAN TWICE WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF SAILING PRIVILEGES.