



## Willamette Sailing Club Learn-to-Sail FAQs

### **What should I bring to my sailing class?**

- Closed toe shoes that can get wet
- A swimsuit and towel
- Comfortable athletic clothing and a change of clothes
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, water bottle and snack
- For full day camps: lunch

**What kinds of clothing should I wear to class?** Closed toe shoes are required for any class. Tennis shoes, Keen sandals, and neoprene diving/sailing booties are great. For summer sailing, you don't need any sailing specific gear, but we recommend that students wear comfortable clothing that is made of fast drying materials. Cotton takes a long time to dry so we only recommend it for the hottest days. We also recommend bringing a fleece sweater and rain coat.

**How well do I have to be able to swim?** Students should be able to swim 50-feet along the dock with a life jacket. You don't need to be the strongest swimmer, but you need to show that you are comfortable in the water.

**What should I expect in the capsizing practice?** The coach will instruct students on the proper way to capsize and right a boat through a discussion and demonstration on land. Sailors will get in the water (while wearing a life jacket), swim a few feet to a boat that is tied to the dock, climb in the boat, tip it over, right it and swim back to the dock. The capsizing drill is an essential important safety exercise for any small boat sailing camp or class.

**How old does my child need to be to participate?** Children aged 5-7 should start in Minnows. Ages 8-11 should participate in an Opti class. Ages 12-18 can sail in Lasers, RS Fevas or C420s. Exceptions may be made for very tall/heavy 11-year-olds (over 5'6" and/or over 120 lbs) to sail with our teen program.

**Do I need a life jacket?** WSC provides life jackets for all summer programs. If your child has their own United States Coast Guard approved life jacket they wish to wear, they may do so.

**What kind of boat will I sail?** Minnows camps and children ages 8-12 sail in Optis. Teens sail in C420s, RS Fevas or Lasers. Adults sail in C420s.

**How do I know if I am enrolled in the class?** You will receive a confirmation immediately after registering and paying for the class. Payment is required to reserve your space in the class. You will receive a reminder from the office one week before the class start date.

**I have sailed on a keelboat/with scouts/at camp/etc. What class should I take?**

If you have never driven a sailboat or sailed alone, please register for a beginning level class. Previous knowledge will give you a great head start in sailing, but you will benefit the most from learning boat handling with other beginners.

**My child has sailed with WSC for several years. What's next?** If your child can sail upwind on a closehauled course, downwind on a run and is curious about racing, or generally has a competitive spirit, please contact the WSC Office for more information about the junior race program. We generally recommend that your child takes a refresher week of camp before jumping into the race program, unless they have racing experience with another program.

**My child is bored sailing in Optis. Can they move up to the teen class?** For a combination of safety and social reasons, we can only allow children who are too large for Optis and mature enough to behave appropriately with teenagers to move up. There is a big difference between the size of the sails and the weight of an Opti vs. a Laser, RS Feva or 420 and children need to be able to self-rescue in most situations.

**Can I come watch my child sail?** Parents are welcome to watch class from the picnic table on the bluff overlooking the harbor. For safety reasons, we discourage parents from being on the docks during class times.

**My child lost their... Can you help me find it?** We keep a lost and found in the WSC clubhouse. Please mark all gear with your child's name.

**Can my child bring a friend to class?** Only paying participants are allowed to participate in sailing classes. For safety purposes, we are unable to allow guests to join classes.

**What if I will miss a day of class, or be late, or someone else is going to pick my child up from camp?** Please let us know by calling that office at (503) 246-5345. If you do not reach someone, please email our Program Director at [Director@WillametteSailingClub.com](mailto:Director@WillametteSailingClub.com)

**What kind of facilities are available for students at WSC?** We have restrooms, showers and picnic tables.

**Is financial aid available?** Reimbursement scholarships are available through the Portland Yacht Club Youth Sailing Scholarship Fund ([www.pycyouthsailingscholarship.org](http://www.pycyouthsailingscholarship.org)). Reach out to PYC through the website or contact our Program Director at [Director@WillametteSailingClub.com](mailto:Director@WillametteSailingClub.com)

**What is the refund policy?** Refunds and cancellations can be requested for classes by contacting the office. A refund, less a \$50 administrative fee, will be given for classes cancelled two weeks in advance of the first class date. No refund will be given for classes cancelled less than two weeks prior to the first class date.