Sailing in Large Craft

Activity scope

This information should be used where students are involved in the use of Large Craft for sailing instruction, sailing races, or recreational sailing.

‘Large sailing boats’ refers to craft (usually greater than 6 metres) that are propelled by wind and an auxiliary motor. They have accommodation facilities and usually carry ballast.

Special Considerations

- The location and conditions will have a large bearing on the safety and operation of the activity. Conditions may be divided into categories as follows:
  - Type 1: Vessel under 12 metres in length and operating in smooth or partially smooth waters
  - Type 2: Vessel under 12 metres in length and operating in open water up to 15 nautical miles offshore
  - Type 3: Vessel over 12 metres in length.
- A minimum of one adult should be present in Type 1 conditions and a minimum of two adults in Type 2 and 3 conditions.
- If an adult other than a registered teacher is engaged for instruction, a registered teacher should be present to take overall responsibility.
- For Type 1 conditions, an adult present should have the ability to:
  - effect the recovery of a student from the water at the venue
  - perform first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- For Type 2 and 3 conditions, both adults present should hold a senior first aid certificate and have the ability to:
  - effect the recovery of a student from the water at the venue
  - perform first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation
  - use signalling devices needed in a distress situation, including marine radio and flares
  - take control of the vessel.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors

- In Type 1 conditions, the leader must be:
  - a registered teacher with Competence (demonstrated ability) in the teaching or coaching of sailing in large vessels and possess a Restricted Coxswain certificate, OR
  - an adult who has a National Keelboat Instructor qualification with the Australian Yachting Federation or similar and a Restricted Coxswain certificate, where a teacher as described is not available.
- In Type 2 conditions, the leader must be:
  - a registered teacher with expertise (formal qualifications) in the teaching or coaching of sailing in large vessels and possess a Coxswain certificate, OR
  - an adult who has an Offshore Yacht Master certificate of safety or instructor qualification with the Australian Yachting Federation or similar and a Coxswain certificate, if a teacher with expertise is not available.
- In Type 3 conditions, the leader must be:
  - a registered teacher with expertise (formal qualifications) in the teaching and coaching of sailing in large vessels and a Master Class appropriate to the vessel, OR
  - an adult who has an Offshore Yacht Master qualification with the Australian Yachting Federation or similar and a Master Class appropriate to the vessel, if a teacher with expertise is not available.
- If the vessel is to operate further than 15 nautical miles/27.798km offshore, a Master Class 5 qualification is required.
In *Type 2* and *3* locations, unless the operating conditions are benign, a supervisor who holds at least a **Recreational Marine Drivers Licence** (RMDL) issued by **Maritime Safety Queensland** (MSQ) should be embarked in each training ship operating.

**Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities**

- The vessel should:
  - be suitable for the activity
  - have appropriate hygiene facilities
  - provide accommodation to meet the needs of those participating, if relevant
  - carry first aid equipment and consumable items appropriate to the activity
  - not be loaded in excess of its capacity.
- If a vessel is to be chartered, the teacher should:
  - sight a certificate of commercial registration or confirm registration by contacting the **Department of Transport and Main Roads** and be satisfied that the vessel is registered and is carrying the correct safety equipment and the required crew
  - be aware of the capacity of the vessel.
- Where safety harnesses are in use, students should be able to release the harness in any situation (as per Australian Standards).
- Any equipment hired for use in student instruction must have Australian Standard certification and comply with the requirements of this schedule.
- Some means of reefing sails or smaller sets of sails should be available in areas where strong winds are likely to affect the activity (reefing may be undertaken by removing one or more sails from the standard working set of the vessel).
- Though not recommended, if using a private vessel, ensure the craft holds a signed Queensland Special Regulations Equipment Audit form, as relevant to the vessel type and conditions.
- Appropriate clothing for all weather conditions, **Personal Flotation Devices** (PFDs), stinger suits (if required).

**Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures**

- Vessels must not be overloaded.
- The following conditions should be considered when choosing a suitable location:
  - prevailing and anticipated weather conditions in the selected area
  - the presence of areas with strong currents, tides or wind eddies and rocks
  - the presence of water traffic in the sailing area
  - safe shorelines for entry and exit
  - appropriateness for the activity and type of equipment being used
  - appropriateness for the leader’s experience and ability levels of students.
- If winds are stronger than can safely be handled by the students, the risk can be reduced by increasing supervision, reefing of sails or using smaller sets of sails.
- Weather conditions should be assessed continually.
- Accurate information on tides, depths, currents and other expected water conditions should be obtained and passed on to students before the activity begins.
- All persons should be adequately prepared for the expected weather conditions and probable variations to these conditions (i.e. with clothing and personal protective equipment [PPE]).
- All students should wear the appropriate PFD (PFD 2 or PFD 1) checked for the correct fit before commencing an activity. PFDs must conform to Australian Standards.
- All students should be able to correctly fit approved PFDs before commencing the activity.
- All persons should use appropriate PPE when directed by the leader (e.g. stinger suits when swimming in the stinger season in areas where stingers are known to be prevalent).
- Students should receive instruction in:
  - basic preliminary training before participating in on-water activities (**IALA system**, **Collision Regulations**, boat handling, boat and engine maintenance, activity planning, communications and weather)
  - safety regulations conforming to current MSQ requirements
  - location and use of safety equipment
o the area and scope of the activity, and notice of any dangers from other sources
o distress signalling (including use of pyrotechnics)
o procedures for avoiding collisions
o person overboard drill
o the use of lights (the IALA system) and safety harnesses (if applicable) if night activity is planned
o the correct use of hygiene facilities
o basic survival techniques and use of PFDs and life rafts for the conditions the vessel could encounter
o distress signalling (including use of pyrotechnics)
o how to right a capsized craft if possible, to wait for outside assistance, and under all circumstances stay with the craft
o the route, area and scope of the activity, and notice of any dangers from other sources
o procedures for evacuation and abandoning ship.

- Clothing, equipment and safety-gear checks should occur before students are allowed to proceed. It is recommended that students wear suitable protection against the heat and cold.
- Students should be instructed to remain aware of their position in the training area, distance from shore and other obstacles.
- The leader should be:
o able to manage the type of craft being used and the number of craft on the water at one time
o familiar with the location and its characteristics that may pose hazards.
- Parents (or caregivers) should be informed of full details of the location, supervision to be provided and activities to be undertaken and their written permission should be obtained.
- No person should be in the water near the propellor when the drive gear is engaged. If possible, in the event of a person falling overboard, it is recommended that the bow of the vessel be steered in the direction of the side that the person went over.
- The ratchet mechanism on a trailer winch should be in operation to control the winch handle.
- The leader should have available some type of device able to cut a sheet if a student becomes entangled.
- Students should be instructed to be conscious of the boom at all times.
- All persons should be trained in correct manual handling techniques and should be referred to the Code of Practice – Manual Handling, if awkward or heavy equipment (i.e. boats, motors and nets) is to be moved.
- All guards and covers should be in place over motors or other items of machinery to protect against contact with moving parts.
- The size and weight of the equipment should be considered when allocating student tasks.
- A set of simple signals should be established and practised to allow communication between boat and shore.
- Students should be advised to call or signal for assistance if they cannot rectify a problem immediately.
- Monitor surrounds for vehicles.
- Participants who may be affected by seasickness should be encouraged to take precautions as it can lead to dehydration.
- Students should be instructed in the necessity to be responsible for their own safety and the safety of others around them.
- When students come into contact with fuels, careful instruction on use, storage and fire prevention should be undertaken.
- Ensure the Chemical Hazards in the Curriculum guideline and related Guidance Notes are adhered to.
- Consider guidelines/codes of practice published by Yachting Australia, Maritime Safety Queensland, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 (Qld).

Useful activity-specific links
- Chemical Hazards in the Curriculum – Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment guideline
- Chemical Hazards Guidance Notes
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
• IALA Buoyage System

• Manual tasks

• Marine Teachers’ Association of Queensland

• Maritime Safety Queensland

• Maritime Safety Queensland – personal flotation devices

• Maritime Safety Queensland – Recreational marine driver licence

• Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation

• Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 (Qld)

• Yachting Australia

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