



MINNEAPOLIS SAILING CENTER

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

2018

SAILMPLS.ORG

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

The Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC) Board of Directors, staff and current members extend our warmest welcome to you! By becoming a Member of MSC, you are joining a community of sailors and friends. Central to our community is a love of sailing and an appreciation of nature. In this spirit, we hope you take full advantage of open sailing, racing, social events, and volunteer opportunities. The MSC membership program is rapidly growing and we are always looking for ways to facilitate greater access to sailing and improve your experience.

Before setting sail we ask that you thoroughly read through this handbook. It is critical that you understand the content herein for your safety and the safety of others on the water. Safety is our number one priority. Safe sailing keeps the equipment in better condition and reduces the chance of having a negative experience. Please reach out to us with any comments or concerns. See you on the water!

Ted Salzman
Executive Director

ABOUT MSC

The mission of the Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC) is to teach sailing to all in a fun and supportive environment and foster a vibrant sailing community in the City of Lakes.

MSC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community sailing school located in the northeast corner of Bde Maka Ska. MSC was founded in 1989 by parents from the Calhoun Yacht Club who wanted a formal program for their children to learn to sail and to introduce the sport to others in the area.

From a small program with four X-boats, MSC has grown to one of the largest sailing schools in the U.S. with enrollment of more than 1000 sailors last summer. With the addition of adult evening classes several years ago, the sailing school became a community of sailors with entire families learning to sail at MSC. The new membership program provides an opportunity for our community to sail at Bde Maka Ska all summer long without having to own a sailboat.

Beyond teaching sailing, we have a vision for expanding our network of sailors to create an inclusive and active sailing center on Bde Maka Ska. We plan to grow our fleet of Ensigns and Lasers to increase availability to different types of boats. In partnership with the Calhoun Yacht Club (CYC), we hope that members will use our sailboats in weekly races and form a competitive sailing group along with leisure sailors. In addition, we host social events where we can all share our love of sailing.

CONTACT INFO

Boathouse

3010 E Calhoun Pkwy Mpls, MN 55408
Phone - 612-822-8328

Office and Information

2735 Fremont Ave. S. #2 Mpls, MN 55408
Phone - 612-470-SAIL (7245)

Website

www.sailmpls.org

Email

info@sailmpls.org

Facebook

facebook.com/sailminneapolis

Twitter

[@sailmpls](https://twitter.com/sailmpls)

Instagram

[@sailmpls](https://www.instagram.com/sailmpls)

DIRECTORY

MSC maintains a directory of member names, ratings, and contact info for arranging crew and social events. If you do not want your name shared in the member directory please let us know and we will keep your name off the list.

MSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MSC is fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, most of whom are sailors themselves:

Board Chair	Kevin Jagielski	Director	Lucas Edberg
Secretary	David Hoiland	Director	Sara Strzok
Treasurer	Daniel Sogin	Director	Pawel Stachowicz
Director	Kevin Johnson	Director	Rob Good
Director	Krisanthi Sikkila		

Members interested in joining the MSC Board of Directors are encouraged to first participate in sub-committees and volunteer with Board initiatives.

MSC STAFF

MSC employs over 25 seasonal instructors, staff, and dockmasters to run the various classes and programs, many of whom were students in our classes. All staff are CPR and First Aid certified and our coaches have received US Sailing Instructor Certifications.

Ted Salzman **Executive Director**

A lifelong sailor, Ted began racing Optimists and X-boats on Bde Maka Ska at 7 years old. He has raced C Scows for the past 10 years and loves introducing sailing to friends and family. He has a tradition of watching 4th of July fireworks from the middle of Bde Maka Ska. After following a career in mechanical engineering, he was hired as the Executive Director of MSC in the summer of 2016.



John Weissert **Associate Director**

The inspiration behind our membership program, John began teaching sailing at the age of 16 in Milwaukee, WI. An avid sailor, he has raced both small dinghies and large keelboats. He lived aboard a keelboat for 6 months and uses sailing to explore new frontiers in his own life and throughout the world, including restoring a trimaran to compete in the Race to Alaska. John is also the head high school racing coach and helps lead our adult education program.



MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

WHAT IS IT?

The membership program is for anyone looking to share our love of sailing and an appreciation for Bde Maka Ska. Our goal for the membership program is to reduce barriers to sailing in the heart of Minneapolis. For new sailors and seasoned skippers, the membership program removes the stress of boat ownership and makes the joy and beauty of sailing in the city of lakes a reality for everyone.

As a member of MSC, your benefits include:

- Access to use our sailboats during open sailing hours
- Bring family and friends out sailing free of charge during open sailing
- Large discounts on our classes
- Participation in all weekly CYC races
- Regular social events at Bde Maka Ska and elsewhere
- Opportunity to volunteer instruct and help organize events

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Individual Membership: **\$300**

Family Membership: **\$450**

The annual membership fee is valid for one calendar year from date of purchase. Members receive discounts on our classes: Family members receive discounted class prices for the whole family; Individuals only for themselves.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Members who seek to skipper a sailboat are evaluated according to the type of boat and wind conditions in which they can safely sail (see page 13). New members are not required to take our instructional classes, but they are encouraged. During open sailing, members have access to the boat and wind condition for which they are rated. Before setting sail, members must fill out a checkout sheet and get approval from the dockmaster. There are four wind speed levels:

Wind Rating	Flag Color	Wind Speed (knots)
Light Air	Green	1-10
Medium Air	Yellow	11-15
Heavy Air	Red	16-20
No Sailing	Black	21+

Successful completion of our beginning classes earns a green flag rating. Completing an intermediate class earns a yellow rating and an advanced class grants red flag rating. Sailing is not allowed in winds higher than 21 knots. Wind conditions are determined by the dockmaster.

Members are not required to take a class to receive a rating. Individual evaluations will be performed as needed to determine the appropriate rating.

OPEN SAILING HOURS

For 2018, the membership sailing season begins May 19th and ends October 5th. Open sailing hours are Noon to Sunset 7 days a week. Special events or classes may limit the availability of sailboats on certain days.

FLEET

A Minneapolis Sailing Center Membership grants access to our entire fleet of sailboats. Members are required to either successfully complete a class for the type of boat they wish to sail, or be evaluated on a given boat.



ENSIGN (7)

The Ensign is the largest class of full keel sailboats in North America. Measuring 22.5 feet in length and weighing about 3,000 lbs, the ensign is an ideal day sailor. With room for up to eight adults, its large cockpit and full keel provide a spacious and stable ride. The Ensigns feature bench seating with a flat-bottomed cockpit and ample headroom under the boom that make sailing this boat a breeze. The Ensign handles well in various wind and wave conditions, perfect for bringing family and friends out for a sail. Our Ensigns are fitted with jib roller furling systems that make rigging quick and easy. Visit www.ensignclass.com for more information.



CLUB 420 (29)

With over 5,000 boats in use in North America, the two-person Club 420 dinghy forms the basis of many local high school and collegiate programs. Measuring 13.5 feet in length and weighing only 230 lbs, the Club 420 is a responsive and fast sailboat. It is simple enough for beginning sailors and yet challenging for collegiate champions. With the option of using a spinnaker and trapeze, the Club 420 offers a sporty and athletic sailboat. MSC uses the Club 420 for the high school program and summer racing. Members are encouraged to participate in weekly 420 races in partnership with the CYC. Visit www.club420.org for more information.



C SCOW (2)

The C Scow was designed right here in Minnesota at Johnson Boat Works of White Bear Lake. 20 feet in length with a sail area of 216 sq. ft. the C Scow features a large sail-to-boat size ratio. The flat-bottomed boat has two dagger boards on either side, which allow the boat to be sailed at a 20 to 25 degree angle of heel for maximum speed. The large sail and angle of heel add up to a fast and fun sailboat. Typically sailed by two sailors, a third crew can be added in higher winds to stabilize the boat. The CYC has a fleet of six C Scows that race up to three times a week. Members who are evaluated may use the MSC C Scow in the CYC races. Visit www.cscow.org for more information.



LASER (7)

The Laser is one of the most popular single-handed dinghies in the world with over 200,000 boats worldwide. At 13.75 feet in length and weighing 130 lbs the Laser is an ideal racing boat that is easy to transport and store. There are multiple rigs sizes (Standard, Radial, 4.7) to fit sailors of different sizes. The Laser is an Olympic class boat that is both technically and physically challenging to race at a high level. Visit www.laser.org for more information.



OPTIMIST (45)

The Optimist is a small, single-handed sailing dinghy intended for use by youngsters up to the age of 15. At 7.75 feet in length and weighing only 75 lbs, the Optimist is the perfect boat for younger sailors. It is one of the most popular sailing dinghies in the world, with over 150,000 boats sailed. Optimists are ideal learn-to-sail boats for children as young as 4. Their relatively small sail size and robust construction work well for newer sailors, but they are also sailed competitively around the world where they have been the training ground for many of today's top professional skippers. Visit www.optiworld.org for more information.

RATINGS AND EVALUATIONS

Performance evaluations incorporate MSC course curriculum and US Sailing requirements on sail theory, boat handling and decision making in various wind and wave conditions. In sailing classes, students generally receive a performance evaluation (weather permitting) during the course. The beginning sailing course grants a light air rating, intermediate grants a medium air, and a racing course grants a heavy air rating. Ratings do not need to be renewed each year provided the membership is continued. Ratings expire if a membership has lapsed for two years.

Members are not required to take a class to receive a rating. Evaluations may be scheduled individually, or be performed as a part of a planned evaluation day. To ensure a safe sailing environment and to accurately evaluate one's sailing abilities, members must demonstrate proficiency in wind conditions stronger than their evaluated level.

Wind Rating	Flag Color	Wind Speed (kts)	Evaluation Wind (kts)
Light Air	Green	1-10	9-12
Medium Air	Yellow	11-15	11-15
Heavy Air	Red	16-20	14-17
No Sailing	Black	21+	N/A

Members evaluated for any rating are expected to position and rig the boat properly, inspect and identify nomenclature, depart and return to the dock or buoy safely and demonstrate proper sailing maneuvers and sail trim using correct terminology. right of way rules, knot tying and appropriate decision making are also evaluated.

See page 13 of this handbook for the evaluation form. Each evaluation requires approximately one hour.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Wind conditions and flag color will be posted at the MSC boathouse and on the MSC Twitter and Facebook accounts. Members may also call the boathouse at 612-822-8328 to get up-to-the minute conditions. Dockmaster decisions regarding whether to allow boats out on the water are final. MSC members must comply with these decisions and/or directions.

Members are eligible to use MSC boats at no charge during open sailing once they have successfully received a rating. Guests are welcome to sail with members free of charge, provided the skipper is a member and guests complete a liability waiver (see page 12).

Members under the age of 18 require parent/guardian approval to use sailboats during open sailing. Parents/guardians must supervise member sailors 14 and under from shore or dock using a radio to communicate with sailor and the dockmaster, who will provide safety boat assistance when necessary.

BOAT CHECKOUT PROCEDURES

1. During open sailing hours, MSC will have at least one dockmaster present at boathouse to assist members with boat checkout and to take sailors out to boats.
2. Boats are available on a first come, first served basis. Starting in 2018 we will be introducing a boat reservation system for some boats. Details coming soon.
3. MSC skippers must complete a checkout sheet at the boathouse. Skippers are responsible for developing a safe sail plan for the buoy field and ensuring that their guests have signed and dated the guest waiver.
4. All skippers must speak with the dockmaster and receive verbal and written (via the checkout form) permission to check out a boat, and skippers may not leave the dock until such permission is granted. This ensures that the dockmaster knows who is out at all times.
5. Skippers must be rated for the prevailing wind conditions and the boat type they wish to use. Members will not be permitted to checkout boats in wind conditions they are not rated for.
6. Members are encouraged to obtain a two-way handheld radio to communicate with dockmaster during open sailing hours. MSC has a limited number of radios available for member use. Members must replace lost or damaged MSC radios with same model.
7. Sailboats may be checked out for a maximum period of two hours. If no other sailors are waiting for a boat, (you must still check in) you may be approved by the dockmaster to sail for additional time.
8. Before leaving dock or buoy, thoroughly inspect the boat to ensure that all standing and running rigging is in good shape and working condition. Notify dockmaster of any maintenance required on sailboats.
9. All MSC boats must be at MSC dock or buoy 30 minutes before sunset (this is when law requires vessels to put lights on). Skippers are responsible for ensuring that they are at the dock or buoy.
10. Skippers to notify dockmaster via radio when boat is de-rigged and sailors are ready for pickup. All members must take great care to properly de-rig sailboats and clean out interior of boats when done sailing. Leave sailboats in better condition that they are found with covers properly placed on Ensigns and 420s secured to floating platforms.

OPEN SAILING RULES

1. There must be at least one rated skipper AND at least one crew on each Ensign, 420, and C Scow boat. No one may sail these types of boats solo. 420s may be sailed solo in light air if skipper has been evaluated while sailing a 420 solo.
2. Dockmasters reserve the right to restrict, or not allow, skippers to checkout boats based on weather conditions and skipper/crew experience.
3. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) Type III must be properly secured and worn on MSC docks and boats at all times. MSC has a limited supply of Type III PFD's for you and your guests. You may use your own US Coast Guard approved Type III lifejackets. Self-Inflating Type V PFD's can be used with the exception of the "Fanny Pack" Type V.
4. All skippers and guests using MSC boats must be capable of swimming at least 75 yards.

OPEN SAILING RULES CONT.

5. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on MSC boats. Use of alcohol before or during utilization of MSC boats will not be tolerated and will result in a suspension of sailing privileges. Smoking is prohibited on the boats and dock, and in or around the boathouse.
6. Everyone must remain seated and inside the cockpit area at all times while underway – and especially while docking!
7. MSC skippers must report ALL accidents, injuries and collisions to the dockmaster. Skippers are responsible for "checking in" by signing the bottom of the check-out sheet. Failure to report any incidents may result in suspension of privileges. Staff must complete an Incident Report for documentation purposes. If you are involved in ANY type of collision with a boat, wall or other obstruction, you must report it to the dockmaster – no matter how insignificant you believe it was.
8. Except in an emergency, MSC skippers are not allowed to dock anywhere other than MSC docks and buoys.
9. Skippers are responsible for their guest's behavior and safety. Unruly, boisterous and/or dangerous behavior may result in the suspension of the members' sailing privileges. Respect all safety rules and the rules of the road.
10. Each MSC skipper is responsible for his/her actions and will be held liable for damage or collisions caused by their use of a MSC boat. It is the skippers responsibility to check their insurance coverage if they have questions and to verify liability coverage.
11. In case of fast moving weather systems or other emergency situations, dockmasters will refer to the checkout sheet to locate and contact boats on the water.

INJURIES AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

The severity of sailing injuries can range from small cuts or scrapes to violent blows to the head or a crew overboard in frigid waters. Guidelines in the event of emergencies are covered next.

1. Contact the dockmaster via radio or cell phone if you are experiencing an emergency that requires advice or assistance.
2. Try to anticipate situations before they become emergencies. Many situations can often be prevented. Get the boat under control, prevent any additional injuries or boat damage and try to reduce further risks.
3. Be pro-active. "Doing nothing" often results in the deterioration of conditions. Make and execute your decisions with the safety of the crew and the boat in mind.
4. If you are having trouble or have equipment failures in the buoy field, try to keep the boat moving forward (you lose control if water is not moving over the rudder) and get to the dock or an open buoy. If you are having trouble on the open water, go into the Safety Position, reduce sail area or heave-to to keep the boat under control.
5. Assess the situation and try to resolve any equipment problems. You may be able to sail back to the dock depending on the condition of the boat or type of equipment failure.
6. For minor sailing injuries, use the safety kit located on each boat. Again, you may be able to sail back to the dock and get medical attention depending on the condition of the injured. However, if injuries require immediate medical attention, radio the Dockmaster who will call 911
7. All members are required to notify MSC staff in the event of any sailing accident, injury or equipment failure. Staff must document all accidents and injuries.

EVENTS

We want our members to guide the future of the MSC Membership Program. The following are a list of events that we think our members may be interested in, but if you have other ideas for fun member events please let us know.

For a complete list of events, visit our website at www.sailmpls.org/events.

RACES

Through an arrangement with the Calhoun Yacht Club (CYC), members are eligible to compete in the weekly CYC races. Members are encouraged to participate and learn how to race! Races are held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, Saturdays at 1:00 pm, and Sundays at 10:30 am.

CLINICS

If there is interest among our members, MSC will host half or full-day clinics to learn and practice specific skills. If you haven't sailed for a few years and want a refresher course on upwind race tactics, or how to set a spinnaker in the 420, for example, these clinics will offer you that chance. Please notify us of topics that interest you and if there are enough people who are also interested we will arrange a half-day clinic. Members will be charged a nominal fee to cover the cost of instructors for the clinic. If you are a member and want to volunteer to lead a clinic we would love that!

EVALUATION DAYS

There will be several evaluation days at the start of the summer to allow new members to be evaluated and earn a rating for the summer. There will be multiple instructors present on these days to perform evaluations. We highly recommend being evaluated on an evaluation day. Separate individual evaluations may be scheduled in advance but it is at the discretion of the dockmaster and MSC staff to determine availability.

OPEN HOUSES

MSC will host several open houses throughout the summer. Open houses will typically be held in front of the boat house and will feature open sailing for members and guests. Members are encouraged to bring food or non-alcoholic beverages to share.

Instructors and/or volunteers will be present to help sailors practice for an evaluation, or brush up on certain skills. Open houses may feature a few races for those interested, or just be a time for members to socialize and meet new sailors. Open houses will be announced via email and social media, as well as our events page on the website.

MAINTENANCE AND SETUP DAYS

MSC relies on the help of our community to setup the boats and floating platforms at the start of the year and to take things apart for storage in the winter. On occasion, we may reach out to members for volunteers to help maintain sailboats. If you have a maintenance skill that you would like to volunteer please let us know!

GUEST LIABILITY WAIVER

MINNEAPOLIS SAILING CENTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



Guest’s Assumption of Risk

I understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during any water-related recreational activity, including sailing, which present risks of damage to property, minor injuries, serious injuries, disabilities and even death. By signing this form, I certify that I am aware of these risks and agree to assume them.

Guest’s Liability Waiver/Release

In consideration of MSC allowing me to participate in its sailing programs and use its boats, I agree that I will not seek to hold the MSC or any of its officers, directors, employees, skippers, members or agents liable for any negligence relating to any accident or injury or property damage or loss that occurs in connection with any activity that I participate in as a guest of the MSC or its members.

In the event of any accident or injury, property damage or loss involving myself or the boat I am using, I agree to release the MSC, its officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all claims and liabilities that occur as a result of the negligence of the MSC, its officers, directors, employees, skippers, members and agents.

Also, I permit MSC to use photos and quotes of me and my guests in their print and online publications, without compensation.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I VERIFY THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

Guest’s Name (print):

Guest’s signature:

Date: _____

WIND RATING EVALUATION FORM

MINNEAPOLIS SAILING CENTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



Member Name:

Current Wind Speed:

Evaluator Name:

Desired Rating:

Date of Evaluation:

Boat Type:

Phase	Description	Pass (0)	Partial (1)	Failure (3)
Checkout and rigging	Correctly fills out checkout sheet			
	Has correctly fitting PFD, fastened			
	Inspects boat, particularly fail points (e.g. universal joint, plug, halyards)			
	Appropriate sails identified, rigged correctly and hoisted			
	Demonstration of knots			
	Understands rating system and rules			
	Understands reporting of incidence			
Departure	Develops sail plan prior to departure			
	Ensures no traffic prior to leaving dock			
	Leaves dock safely and in a controlled fashion			
	Executes sail plan, or suitable alternative			
	Decision making while leaving dock			
Sailing knowledge	Exits safely to open waters			
	Understands points of sail			
	Tell tail use on and off the wind with good sail trim			
	Sailing environment and awareness			
	Right of way rules			
Sailing skills and boat handling	Nomenclature			
	Tacking			
	Gybing			
	Heading up and falling off			
	Safety position			
	Person Overboard Drill (POB)			
	Quick stop (mooring stop)			
	Boat control / boat handling			
	Capsize recovery – Medium/Heavy Rating (not required for Ensign)			
	Decision making			
Dock and de-rig	Confidence			
	Develop a plan to dock the boat			
	Executes sail plan, or suitable alternative			
	Safe approach and controlled docking			
	Secures boat and de-rigs correctly			
	Leaves boat in orderly and clean condition			

Failure: Sailor asked for assistance on a given task after the start of the evaluation. If the evaluator needs to intercede on behalf of the sailor with any of the above check areas, that is considered failure as well.

Partial: Sailor completed the task in an acceptable and safe manner, but not in a most seaman like fashion.

In order to achieve rating, the sailor must accomplish the following:

1. <7 points in any given phase of evaluation
2. <3 points (failure) in any critical area – **Bold**
3. <25 points total across all areas.

Total Points:

Rating Achieved? YES / NO