

Dinghy Sailing (Guidelines on the issue of a District Commissioner's Authorisation)



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Introduction

This is the fourth edition of the factsheet, which updates that coded FS120605 and dated July 2000. It also incorporates material from the factsheet Keelboats FS120606 dated March 96.

Further editions will be published in the light of experience from this edition.

All changes from the second edition are either shown with a sideline if text or shaded if in a table.

General

The term "Dinghy Sailing" is intended to refer to vessels for which the Royal Yachting Association's National Dinghy Sailing Scheme and the Royal Yachting Association Young Sailors Scheme are appropriate. This would not normally include vessels over twenty feet in length or with built-in accommodation. These vessels would be classified as Cruising vessels. County/Area Water Activity Advisers should be consulted if there are any doubts.

Authorisation

One person in every boat should be authorised to take charge of the boat or the activity should be under the control of the person authorised to supervise the activity. Authorisation is granted by

the appropriate Commissioner (District, County / Area) on the advice of a County / Area Dinghy Sailing Assessor. The assessment for authorisation is based on the three following points:

a) The person applying for authorisation should fully understand the responsibilities of the authorisation and be aware of their limits of authority. They should be aware of the need and able to tailor the activity to the physical and mental needs of the young people concerned.

They should have read this factsheet and the factsheet "Water Safety (incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids) FS120603".

This is the first and most critical aspect of the authorisation procedure. Commissioners should consider every application thoroughly before adding their support and signature.

b) The person wishing to be authorised should be in the possession of the necessary technical skills and theoretical knowledge.

c) The person applying for authorisation should have a good knowledge of the waters on which they intend to operate and should appreciate local hazards.

Technical

The guidance table below outlines the recommended minimum standard of technical ability in dinghy sailing which should be achieved before any authorisation is granted.

There may be occasions when the person can show considerable experience without necessarily holding a national qualification. In such cases there should be an assessment of the person's technical knowledge and ability against that needed for the national qualification. The person should be encouraged to take a direct assessment of their level of competence in order that their standard of instruction will enable young people to enter the national schemes of training.

Only in very exceptional circumstances would a person without a formal qualification be recommended for an authorisation other than for helming a single craft on B1 or B2 waters.

Class of Water	Technical Standard	Suggested Level of Authorisation
C	None required	Authorised to helm
B1 inland	RYA NDSC Level 2 or RYA Young Sailors old Advanced Sailing Red Badge and can anchor (G11/93)	Authorised to helm
B1 tidal	RYA NDSC Level 2 with tidal endorsement or RYA Young Sailors Advanced Sailing Red Badge with coastal option. Old G11/93 and can anchor or New Red badge G11/01	Authorised to helm
B1	RYA Assistant Instructor (Qualification is restricted to location where qualification is issued) Still working under an Senior Instructor	Authorised to supervise
B2 inland	RYA NDSC old Level 3 or level 5 or RYA Young Sailors Advanced Sailing White Badge. New level 1,2 and seamanship skills	Authorised to helm
B2 tidal	RYA NDSC old Level 3 or new level 1,2 seamanship and day sailing coastal endorsement or RYA Young Sailors Advanced Sailing White Badge with coastal option and can right an inverted dinghy.	Authorised to helm
B2	RYA Instructor	Authorised to supervise
B3 inland	RYA NDSC Level 5 or RYA Young Sailors Advanced Sailing Blue Badge. Old G11/93. Level 1,2 day sailing, performance sailing	Authorised to helm
B3 tidal	RYA NDSC Level 5 with tidal endorsement or RYA Young Sailors Advanced Sailing Blue Badge with coastal option. Level 1,2 day sailing performance coastal sailing.	Authorised helm
B3	RYA Senior Instructor or National School Sailing Association Sailing Master	Authorised to supervise
A	Technical knowledge and ability to be assessed by an Assessor holding RYA/MCA Yachtmaster (offshore) and RYA National Dinghy Sailing Certificate Level 5 or RYA Dinghy Instructor Certificate	Authorised to helm on each occasion

NOTE 1: A County/Area Commissioner may authorised the holder of an RYA Senior Instructor qualification acting as an RYA Teaching Centre Principal to authorised dinghy sailing at a designated location without being present.

NOTE 2: Details of the requirements for Royal Yachting Association National Dinghy Sailing Certificate qualifications are contained in the RYA booklet G4, those of the Royal Yachting Association Young Sailors Advanced Sailing Awards are contained in the RYA Booklet G11, available from the Royal Yachting Association, RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA. The latest editions should be used.

NOTE 3: Assessors should take into account any other qualifications or experience when considering their recommendation. The holding of an RYA Powerboat Qualification in addition to a National Dinghy Sailing Certificate would be grounds to consider an authorisation to supervise rather than an authorisation to helm.

NOTE 4: The RYA has absorbed training related to Keelboat Sailing into the Dinghy Sailing Scheme, the Inland Helmsman's Certificate and The Cruising Scheme as appropriate to the actual craft, may be more applicable to those sailing large dayboards – such as the “Drascombe” range.

Holders of an RYA Keelboat Certificate should be considered for authorisation. Such an authorisation may be endorsed for a particular type of craft or may be even more general depending on the individual's knowledge and experience.

Safety

The following points are a summary of the key points in "Water Safety (incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids)".

Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids

When dinghy sailing the minimum requirements for lifejackets and buoyancy aids are as follows:

C, B1, B2 Water - Buoyancy aid to be worn (CE 50 Newton)

B3 or A Waters Lifejackets to be worn (CE 150 Newton)

NOTE:

Buoyancy aids must be to CE 50 Newton Standard or to the previous BMIF or BCU standards and marked accordingly.

Lifejackets must be to CE 150 Newton Standard or the previous British Standard BS3595 and marked accordingly.

Lifejackets and buoyancy aids to CE Specifications come in sizes that are tailored to body weight. Thus a CE50 Newton Standard buoyancy aid may be available in smaller sizes with proportionally less buoyancy. It is important that the actual lifejacket or buoyancy aid used is tailored to the size and body weight of the participant.

Care should be taken when sailing low boomed dinghies when wearing a lifejacket. It is possible to become trapped by the collar in a capsized situation.

Swimming

Members of the Association taking part in a water activity must be able to demonstrate to a suitable person (such as a Scouter) their ability to swim 50 metres in ordinary clothes and keep afloat for five minutes.

Other Hazards

Leaders and practitioners should be aware of the range of waterborne hazards such as Blue Green Algae, Weil's Disease, etc. Details of these dangers and their symptoms are contained in the factsheet 'Water Safety' (FS120603).

The Craft

Leaders must ensure that all craft are maintained in a serviceable condition and inspected and tested independently every year in accordance with County or District arrangements. In particular the following points should be checked before use.

Buoyancy

Buoyancy should be sufficient to support craft and crew in the event of a capsize, buoyancy can be built in or if provided by other means, must be securely fixed to hull. For more information regarding the inspection of craft please refer to Factsheet FS120627.

For large dayboats such as the "Drascombe" range consideration should be given to the provision of mast head buoyancy to prevent the boat inverting in a capsize situation.

General Equipment

Equipment carried should be appropriate to the type of craft, the class of water and local conditions. If oars carried, crutches should be secured to the craft. Checks should be made on standing and running rigging, sails, dagger or centre board, rudder fixings together with general overall condition of hull.

Coastal

If coastal sailing is to be undertaken good knowledge of area should be shown, along with extra equipment to be included; flares,

first aid kit, extra warps, additional clothing, survival bag plus relevant charts, compass etc. if extended trips are planned.

Publication Cross Reference

The current editions of:

Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Water Authorisation FS120601

Water Activity Assessment and Advice
FS120602

Water Safety (incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids) FS120603

Royal Yachting Association National Dinghy Sailing Certificate - G4

Royal Yachting Association Young Sailors Sailing Awards - G11