

Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle

US Sailing US Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Nearshore Category as Amended by the CYC Notice of Race Addendum 2015

Updated January 14, 2015

Showing only requirements of the Nearshore category, as amended. Changes to requirements by the CYC Notice of Race Addendum

US Sailing US Safety Equipment Requirements			
Effective Date: 1/1/2015			
Section Name	#	Requirement	Nearshore
Definition	1.0.3	Races primarily sailed during the day, close to shore, in relatively protected waters.	Required
Overall: Responsibility	1.2	The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the "person in charge", as per RRS 46, who shall ensure that the boat is seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew with sufficient ability and experience to face bad weather. S/he shall be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. S/he shall ensure that all safety equipment is at all times properly maintained and safely stowed and that the crew knows where it is kept and how it is to be used.	Required
Overall: Inspections	1.3	A boat may be inspected at any time by an equipment inspector or measurer appointed for the event. If she does not comply with these regulations, her entry may be rejected or she will be subject to a protest filed by the RC. A Violation of the Safety Equipment Requirements may result in a penalty other than disqualification.	Required
Overall: Equipment and Knowledge	1.4	All equipment required shall function properly, be regularly checked, cleaned and serviced, and be of a type, size and capacity suitable for the intended use and size of the boat and the size of the crew. This equipment shall be readily accessible while underway and, when not in use, stored in such a way that deterioration is minimized.	Required
Overall: Secure Storage	1.5	A boat's heavy items such as batteries, stoves, toolboxes, anchors, chain and internal ballast shall be secured.	Required
Overall: Watertight Integrity	1.7	A boat's hull, including, deck, coach roof, windows, hatches and all other parts, shall form an integral watertight unit and any openings in it shall be capable of being immediately secured to maintain this integrity.	Required
Hull and Structure: Stability	2.2.3	A boat with moveable or variable ballast (water or canting keel) shall comply with the requirements of Appendix K.	Required
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.1	A boat's deck including the headstay shall be surrounded by a suitably strong enclosure, typically consisting of lifelines and pulpits, meeting the requirements in 2.4.2 to 2.4.8. <i>(CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(a): USSER 2.4 required, except for boats under 9 meters or boats under 12 meters with crew position inboard except briefly to perform a necessary task. For boats that do not meet USSER 2.4, crew must wear personal floatation devices, as in RRS 40, while on the water except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.)</i>	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.2	A boat's stanchion and pulpit bases shall be within the working deck. Stanchions used with HMPE shall have rounded openings to reduce chafe.	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.3	Bow pulpits may be open, but the opening between the vertical portion of stanchion pulpit and any part of the boat shall not exceed 14.2" (360mm).	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.4	Lifelines may be either uncoated stainless steel wire or high molecular weight polyethylene (HMPE) line with spliced terminations or terminals specifically intended for the purpose. A multipart-lashing segment not to exceed 4" per end termination for the purpose of attaching lifelines to pulpits is allowed. Lifelines shall be taut (see appendix for requirements). When HMPE is used, the load-bearing portion (core) shall meet or exceed minimum diameter requirements.	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.5	The maximum spacing between the bases of lifeline supports (e.g. stanchions and pulpits) shall be 87" (2.2m).	CYC Required (see NOR)

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Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.6	Boats under 30' (9.14m) shall have at least one lifeline with 18" (457mm) minimum height above deck, and a maximum vertical gap of 18" (457mm). Taller heights will require a second lifeline. The minimum diameter shall be 1/8" (3mm).	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.7	Boats 30' and over (9.14m) shall have at least two lifelines with 24" (762mm) minimum height above deck, and a maximum vertical gap of 15" (381mm). The minimum diameter will be 5/32" (4mm) for boats to 43' (13.1m) and 3/16" (5mm) for boats over 43' (13.1m).	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Lifelines	2.4.8	Toe rails shall be fitted around the foredeck from the base of the mast with a minimum height of 3/4" (18mm) for boats under 30' (9.14m) and 1" (25mm) for boats over 30'. An additional installed lifeline that is 1-2" (25-51mm) above the deck will satisfy this requirement for boats without toerails.	CYC Required (see NOR)
Hull and Structure: Dewatering pumps	2.5.3	A boat shall have a manual bilge pump of at least a 10 GPM (37.8 liter per minute) capacity.	Required
Hull and Structure: Mechanical Propulsion	2.7.2	A boat shall have a mechanical propulsion system that is quickly available and capable of driving the boat at a minimum speed in knots equivalent to the square root of LWL in feet (1.8 times the square root of the waterline in meters) for 4 hours. (CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(b): USSER 2.7.2 required.)	CYC Required (see NOR)
	3.1.1	Each crewmember shall have a life jacket that provides at least 33.7lbs (150N) of buoyancy, intended to be worn over the shoulders (no belt pack), meeting either U.S. Coast Guard or ISO specifications. Life jackets shall be equipped with crotch or leg straps, a whistle, a waterproof light, be fitted with marine-grade retro-reflective material, and be clearly marked with the boat's or wearer's name, and be compatible with the wearer's safety harness. If the life jacket is inflatable, it shall be regularly checked for air retention. Alternatively, each crewmember shall have a <i>U.S. Coast Guard approved inherently buoyant off-shore life jacket</i> equipped with crotch or leg straps, a whistle, a waterproof light, retro-reflective material, marked with the boat or owner's name, which is compatible with a safety harness.	Not Required (see 3.1.2)
Safety Equipment: Personal	3.1.2	<i>Each crewmember shall have a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket intended for small boat sailing or other active boating for each crewmember or an inflatable life jacket as described in 3.1.1.</i>	Required
Safety Equipment: Navigation Lights	3.3.1	A boat racing between sunset and sunrise shall carry navigation lights that meet U. S. Coast Guard requirements mounted so that they will not be obscured by the sails nor be located below deck level.	Required
Safety Equipment: Fire Extinguishers	3.4	A boat shall carry fire extinguisher(s) that meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements, when applicable.	Required
Safety Equipment: Sound Producing Equipment	3.5	A boat shall carry a sound-making device that meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements, when applicable.	Required
Safety Equipment: Visual Distress Signals	3.6.4	A boat shall carry U.S. Coast Guard flares meeting day-night requirements not older than the expiration date.	Required
	3.7.1	A boat shall carry a Lifesling or equivalent man overboard rescue device equipped with a self igniting light stored on deck and ready for immediate use.	Not Required
Safety Equipment: Man Overboard	3.7.2	A boat shall have a man overboard pole and flag , with a lifebuoy, a self-igniting light, a whistle, and a drogue attached. A self-inflating Man Overboard Module, Dan Buoy or similar device will satisfy this requirement. Self-inflating apparatus shall be tested and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. These items shall be stored on deck, ready for immediate use, and affixed in a manner that allows for a "quick release". (CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(c): USSER 3.7.2 required, "a man overboard pole and flag, with a lifebuoy" changed to "a lifebuoy", light required from sunset to sunrise.)	CYC Required (see NOR)

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Safety Equipment: Man Overboard	3.7.3	A boat shall have a throwing sock-type heaving line of 50' (15m) or greater of floating polypropylene line readily accessible to the cockpit.	Required
Safety Equipment: Man Overboard	3.7.4	A boat shall carry a Coast Guard approved "throwable device". If the device carried under 3.7.1 or 3.7.2 satisfies this requirement, then no additional device is needed.	Required
Safety Equipment: Emergency Communications	3.8.1	A boat shall have a permanently installed 25-watt VHF radio connected to a masthead antenna by a co-axial feeder cable with no more than a 40% power loss. After 01/01/2015 all radios shall have DSC capability, have an antenna of at least 15" (381mm) in length, be connected to or have an internal GPS, and have the assigned MMSI number (unique to the boat) programed into the VHF.	Not Required CYC Changed (see NOR)
Safety Equipment: Emergency Communications	3.8.2	A boat shall have a watertight handheld VHF radio or a handheld VHF radio with waterproof cover. After 01/01/2015, this radio shall have DSC/GPS capability. (CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(d): USSER 3.8.2 may be satisfied by USSER 3.8.1. USSER 3.8.1 "a masthead antenna" changed to "an antenna".)	Required CYC Changed (see NOR)
Safety Equipment: Navigation	3.19.1	A boat shall have a permanently mounted magnetic compass independent of the boat's electrical system suitable for steering at sea.	Required
Safety Equipment: Damage Control	3.22	A boat shall carry soft plugs of an appropriate material, tapered and of the appropriate size, attached or stowed adjacent to every through-hull opening. (CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(e): USSER 3.22 required.)	CYC Required (see NOR)
Gear: Anchoring	3.23	A boat shall carry one anchor, meeting the anchor manufacturer's recommendations based on the yacht's size, with a suitable combination of chain and line.	Required
Gear: Lights	3.24.3	A boat shall carry at least two watertight flashlights with spare batteries in addition to the requirement of 3.24.1.	Required
Gear: Medical Kits	3.25	A boat shall carry a first aid kit and first aid manual suitable for the likely conditions of the passage and the number of crew aboard.	Required
Gear: Radar Reflectors	3.26	A boat shall carry an 11.5" (292mm) diameter or greater octahedral radar reflector or one of equivalent performance. (CYC Notice of Race Addendum 3.3(f): USSER 3.26 required.)	CYC Required (see NOR)
Gear: Dewatering	3.27	A boat shall carry a sturdy bucket(s) of at least two gallons (8 liters) capacity with lanyards attached.	Required 1
Skills: Man Overboard	4.2	Annually, two-thirds of the boat's racing crew shall practice man-overboard procedures appropriate for the boat's size and speed. The practice shall consist of marking and returning to a position on the water, and demonstrating a method of hoisting a crewmember back on deck, or other consistent means of reboarding the crewmember.	Required