



## **WSA SKIPPER QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Interest and Motivation**

- You support efforts to give women the opportunity to sail.
- You are interested in sailing, improving your skippering skills, making new friends, having fun and helping others become better sailors.
- You are respectful of people, property and understand that WSA sailors include novice to experts.
- You are alert, take efforts to explain yourself clearly and you enjoy learning from others.
- You are honest about your abilities as a skipper and the condition of your vessel; and you will share the reality of your skill, readiness of your equipment, and your comfort level as a leader with the fleet captain, day sail or cruise chair and crew as appropriate.

### **Equipment, Running Papers and Insurance**

- Your boat is sound and in good mechanical condition.
- Your equipment (sails, winches, lines, anchor, etc.) are properly sized and in good working order.
- Your boat has sufficient Coast Guard approved life preservers for all aboard.
- Your boat has all Coast Guard approved safety equipment required for its type and size:
  - Fire extinguishers (up to date)
  - Emergency beacons or flares (up to date)
  - Emergency sounding device (horns, bell, etc.)
  - First aid kit
  - Operating VHS radio
  - Operating running lights
- Your boat has adequate navigation aids on board (charts, gps, ais, depth, speed, wind indicators) as appropriate.
- Your registration or operating certificates are up to date and easily accessible.
- Your insurance policy is up to date and provides sufficient coverage for you, your boat, and your crew.



## Behavior and Performance as a Skipper

- You will allow the Fleet Captain, Day Sail or Cruise Chair, or other senior members of the WSA to sail with you for a check out cruise to assess the readiness of your boat and your skills as a skipper.
- You will abide by all rules as outlined in the WSA Skippers packet.
- You agree that no drugs or alcohol will be used while under way on a WSA on-the-water activity.
- You will operate your vessel and command your crew in the safest possible way.
- You will abide by all regulations for US Boaters as appropriate.
- You will make every effort to keep your commitments.
  - If you have a conflict and are unable to participate in a scheduled sail call your Day Sail or Cruise Chair and call your crew.
- You will accept no fee or other compensation for your service as a WSA Skipper. (Cruise crew will share in costs of provisioning, dock or mooring fees, and other incidental expenses that arise during multi-day cruises. Day Sail crew will share in provisioning. Spontaneous skipper gifts (meals, absorbent pads, batteries, paper produces, alcohol, soft drinks, sunscreen, etc.) given as a token of crew appreciation can be accepted.
- You will communicate any issues that arise on your sail with the Fleet Captain, Day Sail or Cruise Chair as appropriate.

Thank you so much for your generosity and willingness to share your expertise and your boat with the Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay. Our members recognize the expense and effort you expend to make your boat available to help women grow as sailors. We applaud your volunteer efforts as a mentor and a leader!

WSA Skipper Qualifications from the original by Inaugural Day Sail Chair, Lindalee Fromm; amended  
January 2004 for federal requirements for recreational boats by Fran Weber-Melville;  
Feb 2004 for current practices by Julia Westerling, DaySail co-chair  
December 2014 for current practices by Melody Kanschat, Fleet Captain