

# U.S. SAILING SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS - NEARSHORE

SECTION NAME	SECTION #	REQUIREMENT
<b>Definition</b>	1.0.3	Nearshore: Races primarily sailed during the day, close to shore, in relatively protected waters.
<b>Overall</b>	1.1	The Safety Equipment Requirements establish uniform minimum equipment and training standards for a variety of boats racing in differing conditions. These regulations do not replace, but rather supplement, the requirements of applicable local or national authority for boating, the Racing Rules of Sailing, the rules of Class Associations, and any applicable rating rules.
<b>Overall:</b> 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.
<b>Overall:</b> 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.
<b>Overall:</b> Equipment & 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.
<b>Overall:</b> Secure Storage	1.5	A boat's heavy items such as batteries, stoves, toolboxes, anchors, chain and internal ballast shall be secured.
<b>Overall:</b> 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.
<b>Hull &amp; Structure:</b> Stability	2.2.3	A boat with moveable or variable ballast (water or canting keel) shall comply with the requirements of Appendix K.
<b>Hull &amp; Structure:</b> Dewatering Pumps	2.5.3	A boat shall have a manual bilge pump of at least a 10 GPM (37.8 liters per minute) capacity.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Personal	3.1.3	Each crewmember shall have a life jacket intended for small boat sailing or other active boating. Each such life jacket shall be USCG, ISO, or applicable government approved or shall meet the ocean requirement of 3.1.1.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Navigation Lights	3.3.1	A boat racing between sunset and sunrise shall carry navigation lights that meet U. S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements mounted so that they will not be obscured by the sails nor be located below deck level.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Fire Extinguishers	3.4	A boat shall carry fire extinguisher(s) that meets U.S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements, when applicable.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Sound Producing Equipment	3.5	A boat shall carry sound-making devices that meets U.S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements, when applicable.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Visual Distress Signals	3.6.4	A boat shall carry U.S. Coast Guard (or applicable government entity) flares meeting day-night requirements not older than the expiration date.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> 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.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Man Overboard	3.7.4	A boat shall carry a Coast Guard or applicable government approved "throwable device". If the device carried under 3.7.1 or 3.7.2 satisfies this requirement, then no additional device is needed.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> Emergency Comms	3.8.3	A boat shall have a VHF radio which may be fixed or handheld.
<b>Safety Equipment:</b> 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.
<b>Gear:</b> 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.
<b>Gear:</b> Lights	3.24.3	A boat shall carry at least two watertight flashlights with spare batteries <del>in addition to the requirement of 3.24.1.</del> [NOTE: Strikethrough added by EYC.]
<b>Gear:</b> 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.
	3.27.2	A boat shall carry one sturdy bucket of at least 2 gallons (8 liters) capacity with lanyards attached.
<b>Skills:</b> 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.
<b>Skills:</b> Crew Training	4.4	As required in 1.2 above the person in charge shall ensure that all crew members know where all emergency equipment is located and how to operate the equipment. In addition, the person in charge and crew should discuss how to handle various emergency situations including Crew Overboard, Grounding, Loss of Steering, Flooding, Fire, Dismasting, and Abandon Ship.

**Eastport Yacht Club recommends that each competitor review and prepare their boat to the U.S. Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER), Nearshore, which is the minimum SER Category. The full SER, including Coastal and Offshore requirements, can be found at:**

<http://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>