

Learn To Sail Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will my child have to share a boat?

A: Yes. Due to easing of Ministry of Health restrictions and Sail Canada guidelines, we are back to two crew per boat. Sailing together is a lot more fun and instructional with another sailor in the boat to share the experience and provides an opportunity to learn more about teamwork, sportsmanship and sailing skills.

Q: Classes start at 9:00 am but I've seen kids still on shore an hour or more later than this. Why the delay?

A: In Deep Cove, winds in the early morning can be light to non-existent and sailing instruction under these conditions is not possible. Instead, we use the time to pass on sailing etiquette, sportsmanship, sailboat structure and function, points of sail, how to tie knots and other essential information most of which they will need when they are on the water.

Q: Since this is an outdoor sport, will my child need to bring a mask?

A: Yes. Some parts of the program take place indoors and masks are mandatory.

Q: What clothing and equipment will my child need to bring?

A: Sailors must provide an approved personal flotation device that will be used exclusively by him or her. Dry and wet weather clothing is a must plus rain jackets and shoes with closed toes that can get wet (no bare feet or flip flops). Drinking water, sunscreen, a towel and a swimsuit are highly recommended. Don't forget to pack a lunch!

Q: What happens if it rains?

A: If it's just a drizzle, classes proceed as usual. In heavy rain where visibility and boat stability become safety issues, we bring the boats back to the docks and sailors take part in a range of wet weather activities. If you do not wish your child to be indoors, you have the option to take him or her home.

As a further note, in heavy winds and rough seas we will also suspend sailing lessons in favour of onshore activities until weather conditions improve.

Q: How do you maintain physical distancing indoors?

A: We have different sized spaces rated for large or smaller groups. We have a child to staff ratio compliant with Sail Canada guidelines that has proven effective in managing physical distancing as strictly as possible with children of this age group. We are firm on limiting contact, not sharing food or utensils, frequent disinfection, cleaning of public spaces and plenty of hand washing. We have not experienced COVID transmission in any of our programs.

Q: What kind of activities are available when the weather is bad?

A: Card and ball games, books, knot tying competitions - it's surprising how inventive and imaginative kids are when they are looking for constructive ways to participate in group activities. Kids can also bring their own favourite activities. Please note that no contact sport is allowed

Q: *If I sign my child into your LTS program, how will they benefit?*

A: Our sailors are exposed to an exciting and extremely fun outdoor sport where they meet others, make friends, learn sailing theory and practical hands-on seamanship, they learn teamwork and safe practices plus a lot more. The fact is our sailors come back year after year to take more advanced courses and go on to become instructors themselves - we think that speaks for itself.

Q: There's a lot of construction on Gallant this summer. How hard is it to get to the yacht club?

A: You will need to allow more time to get here but we are still accessible and there is plenty of signage to guide you around the obstacles. Parking is a problem so please be on time for drop offs and pick ups and do so as efficiently as possible consistent with keeping safe.