

How to get started sailing at Cal Sailing

Effective June 15, 2021 we are back to normal procedures for lessons.

If you are new to sailing

Start out by taking lessons and consider coming early on Saturday to help rig boats for lessons. As you advance your skills, look into the [requirements for Sailing Ratings](#). You can decide whether to go for the Junior rating right away, or get a Novice rating to go out and practice your skills on your own or with another Club member. During your lesson, you can talk with your instructor.

If you have sailing experience

You will have to learn how to rig our boats and how to sail them in the conditions we have, and then pass the tests for a rating to take a boat out. Information on ratings are [here](#). You might take a lesson to help get familiar with our boats and the conditions, and also to get feedback on your readiness and information on how to schedule tests.

Getting tests and other resources

Information on requesting rigging and practical tests is in the [requirements for Sailing Ratings](#). There is also a list of other resources, including the dinghy sailing manual, videos, and blogs.

Lessons

Lessons are offered Saturday mornings and Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Saturday Lessons

These are normally offered from 10am to 1pm every Saturday but may be at a different time due to low tides. A reminder is sent out every Wednesday morning with specifics. There is no signup, just show up.

If you can, show up a little after 9am to help put boats in the water. You'll get practice rigging the boats (so you get ready to pass the rigging test), and you'll earn work hours. Check in the the lessons coordinator to get your name on the list. You will be assigned an instructor according to your position on the list. You will be in a boat with other students, and each of you will get equal time on the tiller. But you will also be learning when someone else is driving the boat.

You might have to wait a while for a lesson. You can minimize your wait time by getting there early.

Monday and Thursday Lessons

These are offered from 1pm to 5pm but times will change if there are low tides. Just show up during lesson time and connect with an instructor. You might have to wait if all the instructors are teaching other students. Our instructors are volunteers, and although we do our best to have enough instructors available, it is not always possible.

