

How to get to Novice Sailor at Cal Sailing

We are doing on the water lessons on a limited basis, so you can learn to sail and get the Novice rating, which will allow you to take a boat out on your own (or with a household member under current restrictions). There is a lot of demand with limited capacity, so we are trying to get the most out of our on the water time by requiring certain steps before you can take a lesson in a boat. This note clarifies the flow you should follow.

The flow is different for a beginner to sailing and for someone with sailing experience, so each is discussed separately

What Everyone Needs to Do

Before you can take any lessons, including Ground School, you must be familiar with our procedures during the limited reopen and pass a written test on these. Information on the procedures is [here](#). You can [read the test](#) and [take the test](#) with these links (you need to be logged in to use the links).

You should subscribe to the Club [Announcements List](#) for information on scheduling of and sign-up for specific lessons mentioned here.

What Beginners (No or Minimal Sailing Experience) Need to Do

Here is the flow you should follow:

1. Take one or more Ground School sessions, offered every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 3pm. Watch the Announcements List for sign-up instructions.
2. Watch the [rigging video](#), which covers everything you need to pass the Rigging Test.
3. Come down to the Club and practice rigging a Quest. You can do this any time the Club is open, just talk to the Day Leader to check out a boat. If you do this on land, point the boat into the wind. You can also put the boat into the water and rig it on the dock, with Day Leader approval.
4. Do a self assessment for the Rigging Test [here](#) (you have to be logged in to use this link). You can request a test in the self-assessment, which will post your request to a testers' bulletin board.
5. After you have passed the Rigging Test, sign up for Beginner Lessons, offered every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:30. Watch the Announcements List for sign-up instructions.
6. Pass the Junior Skipper Written online test. You can read the test [here](#) and take it [here](#). You need to be logged in to use these links.
7. When you are confident sailing a boat, doing tacks and gybes and recovering from a capsize, you are almost ready for the practical test. Do a self assessment for the Novice Practical Test [here](#) (you have to be logged in to use this link). You can also request a test here.

8. Before the test, make sure the tester goes over use of the anchor with you, preferable on land, as you will need to use it during the test. More information on the Novice test is [here](#).

What Those with Sailing Experience Need to Do

What we mean by sailing experience is that you can single-hand a dinghy with a mainsail in up to 10 knots of wind. If you qualify, this is the flow you should follow:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Club rules applying to Novice and Junior Dinghy Sailors [here](#).
2. Learn how to rig our boats and use the hoist. You could watch the [rigging video](#) or you could just come down to the Club, check out a Quest with the Day Leader, and figure it out yourself.
3. When you are ready for testing, you have two options:
 - a. Sign up for a Novice Fast Track, which combines a Rigging Test with a Practical Test. Use of the anchor is demonstrated and capsize recovery is reviewed. Watch the Announcements List for scheduling and sign-up instructions.
 - b. Do self assessments for the Rigging Test and the Novice Practical Test [here](#) (you have to be logged in to use this link). You can also request a test here.