

# How to get started sailing at Cal Sailing

## If you are new to sailing

Welcome to sailing! CSC is a great place to learn, and we do things a bit differently from most sailing schools. We don't do classes, we do lessons. That means you show up for lessons and get assigned an instructor, most likely with one or more other students. Your instructor will talk with you ahead of time to see where you are and what your next step should be (it might even be your first step). You'll share time on the helm (driving the boat) with the other students. When it's your turn, the lesson will be focused on you and what you need to advance. But you will also be learning when someone else is driving the boat.

Your goal will be to get a rating so that you can take a boat out on your own. Information on ratings and requirements are [here](#).

## 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.

## Lessons

Lessons are offered Saturday mornings (10am to 1pm) and Monday and Thursday afternoons (beginning at 1pm; end times depend on sunset time and evening Club activities).

### 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 Friday 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 (this helps you get ready to pass the rigging test), and you'll earn work hours. Check in with the lessons coordinator to get your name on the list. You will be assigned an instructor according to your position on the list.

You might have to wait a while for a lesson, especially in the summer. 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.

## 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.

## Have Questions?

We're a Club, a friendly environment where members help each other. Ask the Day Leader, an instructor, or someone else hanging out at the Club. Send an email to a Club officer or Committee Chair – they're listed [here](#). Or ask a question on a Club Slack channel or Discussion group (see how to join them [here](#)).

Welcome to Cal Sailing.