

HOW TO DETERMINE THE BEST CLASS LEVEL FOR EACH STUDENT

In an effort to help each student select the correct sailing class based on experience and abilities, the LIFRC Sailing Committee has compiled the following information. Why this is important:

- Students who have completed a Beginners class may not be fully ready to take on an Intermediate class. There are several reasons for this:
 - Weather may not have provided appropriate learning conditions.
 - A student may not have fully participated in the Beginner class learning experience.
 - During their brief Beginners sailing class, a student may not have had time to internalize the skills and confidence needed for the next higher-level class.
 - A student may not be prepared for or able to cope with the situations that can arise on the water in an Intermediate class.
- On occasion, our instructors have had to repeat beginning sailing lessons in an Intermediate level class, which deprived those students who were truly ready for the intermediate sailing education they had been expecting.
- A student in “over their head” could become bewildered and frustrated and sailing may become a negative experience that they avoid or defer by horseplay to the detriment of the other students who are ready to learn.
- Merely making it to the end of a Beginner’s class does not necessarily mean a student is ready for an Intermediate class. Please be open to re-enrolling in a Beginner’s class if the student has not really mastered the beginner’s skills. The student should be enrolled in the class that is closest to his/her skill level based on the prerequisites listed below.

Beginner Prerequisites

1. Age 9 or above.
2. Able to swim.
3. Desire and ability to learn how to sail.
4. Physically and emotionally capable of handling a small boat solo.

Intermediate Prerequisites

1. Has completed the beginner’s class or has instructor’s permission. Experience as passenger or crew on a fixed keel sailing vessel does not substitute as dinghy sailing experience.
2. Has soloed every day of the beginner’s class (not just ridden with the instructor or with another more capable student (exception allowed if brisk winds made it necessary to double up in a larger more stable Lido 14 AND they took the helm of the Lido in those winds).
3. Has sailed solo successfully in a moderate breeze (8-10 mph). Some classes have not had winds strong enough to meet this requirement.
4. Can sense the wind direction compared to the boat’s heading and use that information to sail to the desired destination.
5. Can get out of irons 100% of the time.
6. Can do a controlled jibe and knows when to do it.
7. Knows how to depower the sail plan when a gust hits.
8. Can right a capsized boat and sail it away.
9. Able to sail up to the dock without damage to person or boat.
10. Able to rig and de-rig their boat without help.

Advanced Prerequisites

1. All the above.
2. Has completed the Intermediate level class and has truly mastered the skills as outlined by the Intermediate instructor or has instructor’s permission.
3. Is comfortable with hiking out.
4. Able to rig and de-rig without help any boat in our fleets.
5. Is personally experienced and competent at all dingy boat handling skills.
6. Knows right of way rules.
7. Desires to learn how go faster.