



Rainbow Sailing School – Course Syllabus

Day Skipper Practical – Tidal Waters

Aim: The Day Skipper course is conducted on board a cruising yacht (7 to 13m LOA), to teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar.

Minimum pre-course experience: This experience is typical of that gained in an RYA Competent Crew course.

- Personal safety, seamanship and helmsman ship.
- 5 days cruiser sailing.
- 100 miles at sea.
- 4 hours of night sailing.

Assumed knowledge:

- Basic navigation.
- Ability to construct EP and CTS.
- Knowledge of tidal heights and streams.
- Basic chartwork.

This knowledge is such as that contained in the RYA Day Skipper Shorebased course. Completion of the theory course will greatly enhance the benefit of the practical course.

Sailing ability: Ability to sail a boat around a triangular course, including upwind and downwind sailing by tacking and gybing.

Syllabus

1. Preparation for sea

- Is able to prepare a yacht for sea, including engine checks, selection of sails, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below.

2. Deck work

- Can reef, shake out reefs and change sails to suit prevailing conditions.
- Can prepare an anchor and mooring warps, and take charge on deck when mooring alongside, coming to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor and slipping from a buoy or an alongside berth.

3. Navigation

- Is proficient in chartwork and routine navigational duties on passage – including:
 - Taking and plotting visual fixes.
 - Use of electronic navigational equipment for position fixing.
 - Use of waypoints.
 - Working up DR and EP.
 - Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams.
 - Working out course to steer, to allow for tidal stream, leeway and drift.
 - Knowledge of IALA buoyage.
 - Maintenance of navigational records.
 - Use of echo sounder and lead line.

4. **Pilotage**

- Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry or departure from harbour.
- Understands the use of leading and clearing lines.
- Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage.

5. **Meteorology**

- Knows the sources of forecast information.
- Can interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid.

6. **Rules of the road**

- Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea.

7. **Maintenance and repair work**

- Understands and is able to carry out maintenance tasks.
- Knows the properties and uses of common synthetic fibre ropes.

8. **Engines**

- Knows how to change pump impellor, fuel filters, water filter and how to bleed the fuel system.

9. **Victualling**

- Understands how to victual a yacht.

10. **Emergency situations**

- Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard.
- Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft.
- Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency, and can send a distress message.
- Understands how to secure a tow.
- Understands rescue procedures, including helicopter rescue.

11. **Yacht handling under power**

- Can bring a yacht safely to and from an alongside berth, mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide.

12. **Yacht handling under sail**

- Can bring a yacht safely to and from a mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide.
- Can steer and trim effectively on all points of sailing.

13. **Passage planning**

- Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of all relevant navigational hazards and the limitations imposed by the type of boat and the strength of crew.