



2015 Sail Fleet Agreement for the Safe Usage of the Mercury and Ideal 18s Sailboats

The Old Greenwich Yacht Club maintains that safety is the most important component of the Sail Fleet Program. The success of the program depends entirely on your ability as the captain of a Sail Fleet boat to determine the boat's seaworthiness prior to departure, the weather conditions are conducive to safe operation, and that you have the skill to operate the boat and manage the crew safely in whatever conditions you may encounter.

Sail Fleet Rules for Captains

1) The Captain must be certified

- a. A Captain must hold a valid Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate.
- b. He/she must take the "Low Tide Tour" and understand the boundaries within which the boat must be operated. Refer to Attachment A for the chart of boundaries.
- c. To Captain a boat you must be certified for light air (5-12 mph) sailing based on US Sailing standards.
- d. To Captain a boat in heavy air (13 up to 21 mph) you must be certified based on US Sailing standards.
- e. Once a Captain is certified, the Captain shall provide the Education Director with a copy of the certification record.
- f. A Captain shall know how to determine if the boat is seaworthy, understand all the parts of the boat, and be able to depart and return to the mooring safely.
- g. To Captain a boat attendance at the annual sailors meeting is mandatory.
- h. Upon completion of the certification process, a copy of this agreement shall be signed prior to taking out a boat in the OGYC sail fleet.

The Club has the discretion to certify a Captain's compliance with any one of these certification requirements based upon that Captain's known or proven level of competence or experience.

2. The Captain is responsible for the care of the boat:

As the Captain, I am responsible for returning all property and equipment used by me and/or my guests in the same condition as such property and equipment was in at the time of issue to me. I am responsible for the cost of repairing or replacing any property or equipment used in connection with the program or OGYC operation if that property is lost or damaged in whole or part as a result of myself, my crew, family members or guests, while in possession, custody, or control or while the boat is signed out to me.

3. The Captain is responsible for the safety of the crew and is allowed to bring up to three crew members.
4. The Captain is responsible for reserving and signing the boat out and signing the boat in upon return.
 - a. The Captain needs to reserve a boat. Refer to instructions in Attachment B.
 - b. Some time slots are reserved for specific purposes.
 - c. All boats must be signed out and back in upon return in the Club's Logbook located on the trophy cabinet in the clubhouse. Record your name, date, boat number, and time out and time in. **No one may take out a boat without signing it out first.**
 - d. Please return to the mooring on time as others may be waiting to sail. If no one is waiting to sail, the boat must be left shipshape—all sail-covers installed, lines coiled and mooring properly secured. For Mercury's, the jib must be folded and returned to the locker. Any problems encountered of a serious nature, i.e. those that prevent or hinder the boat from being used must be reported to the launch operator and entered into the log book located in the clubhouse. Each member is responsible for leaving a note in the log book stating the problem or deficiency.
 - e. **You may reserve an Ideal 18 boat unless the boat is being used for a sanctioned race day or educational sailing event.** You may use the Ideal for up to two hours and must return 30 minutes prior to sunset.
5. The Captain determines the seaworthiness of the boat.
 - a. Check the Sail Fleet log in the clubhouse to see if there is a problem report with the boat you are planning to take out.
 - b. Below is a list of the items you should find on the boat. If you do not find all of these items, the boat must not be used. If items are missing, note them in the Log Book. On the boat, check the inventory prior to setting sail and heading out.

1 Mainsail	1 Anchor Line
1 Sail Cover (2 for Ideal 18s)	1 Docking Line
1 Jib	1 Throw Cushion
1 Tiller and Rudder	1 Sound making device (whistle)
1 Boom Crutch (Mercury only)	1 Laminated Chart of sailing Boundaries
1 Paddle	Check the rigging and all moving parts
1 Bailer	for signs of wear
 - c. Each person on board must have a USCG Approved PFD. Prior to setting sail, no captain shall allow any sailor or crew member under the age of 13 to board or remain on the boat without wearing a USCG approved PFD. OGYC will not provide nor be responsible for providing USCG approved PFD's.

Rather, the Captain is responsible for providing or ensuring that he/she and any crew members have USCG approved PFD's in the proper size to fit each individual.

d. The Captain must have his/her own PFD, insure that there are sufficient PFD's for crew, a handheld VHF radio (use Channel 73) and OGYC membership and wind level certification cards.

6. The Captain returns the boat on time and reports any breakage.

- a. Return to the mooring on time as others may be waiting to sail. If no one is waiting to sail, the boat must be left shipshape. Secure bow to the mooring, all sail covers installed, and lines coiled. For the Ideal 18s remove tall boy and stow on the boat, secure 2nd storm line around the mast with a bowline, use spinnaker halyard to hoist jib cover, open bailers, take spinnaker in from the boat and hang to dry if wet before storing in sail bag in the locker. Spinnaker sheets can remain on the boat.
- b. For Mercuries, the jib must be folded and returned to the locker.
- c. Any problems with the seaworthiness of the boat, i.e. those that prevent or hinder the boat from being used must be entered in the Sail Fleet Log Book in the Clubhouse and reported to the launch operator.
- d. If there is a problem if left unaddressed, creates a hazard or additional expense, the skipper must notify the launch operator and Education Director immediately.

7. The Captain determines if the weather permits leaving the mooring.

Wind and weather conditions must be taken into account before and during your use of the club sailboats. All sailors are expected to know what to do when the wind builds.

In the event you have a problem on the water, one option is to take your sails down and anchor the boat. In this event, call the OGYC Waterfront Staff on VHF 73 to notify them you are secured and ask for instructions. Other options include reefing and reducing sail area. If you do not think you can reach your mooring before a sudden storm hits use any nearby mooring to tie up to until the storm passes. In the event of no wind, a paddle is supplied and can be used to propel the boat to the mooring or away from a hazard.

As Captain, you are responsible for your crew and boat. Take into consideration the capabilities of your crew and weather conditions when deciding whether to sail.

Visibility: A Member must be able to see Island Beach from the OGYC Clubhouse before taking out a club owned sailboat.

Wind: It is your responsibility to access wind speed from an accurate means that includes viewing the conditions at the Western Sound Buoy before leaving the mooring. This data can be viewed at:

http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/wlisgw_wx.html. **You must also sail within the level you have been certified.**

According to NOAA (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov>), the presence or absence of storm flags flying from a flag pole is not a reliable indicator of conditions. Monitoring the weather channel on VHF channel 1 is. Other weather conditions, such as ominous storm clouds, must always factor into your decision to take a boat out and when to return.

Weather: No one will be allowed out if there are small craft warnings or severe storm warnings or watches. If you are out on the water and thunder or lightning is observed, or dark ominous clouds begin to appear return immediately! A good practice is to radio the Waterfront Staff that you are observing bad weather signs and returning to safe harbors as designated on the chart. Remember: You have the responsibility to obtain the latest weather and tide information before you set sail. There may be times when the launch may be unable to pick you up from a mooring in bad weather. It is the launch operator's responsibility to determine when it is safe to operate the launch in bad weather.

8. Special situations during racing.

In the event more than one certified persons on board are racing, the designated skipper for the race will be considered the Captain for the duration of the race and will be considered to have signed out the boat and be responsible per this agreement. Once the race is complete, the Captain that signed out the boat will resume responsibility.

The Sail Fleet Usage Waiver

As an OGYC member participating in the Sail Fleet Program, I affirm the following:

1. I have sufficient training and experience to safely and properly sail and operate sailboats of the type used or to be used in the Program. I and my guests will operate and use OGYC boats in a safe and proper manner and will obey and comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Program and all local, state and federal rules, regulations and procedures relating to the use and operation of said boats.
2. I understand that my participation in the Program is subject to my compliance with such rules and regulations, and that my or my guests' failure to comply with them shall constitute just cause for the revocation of my membership in the Program. Lack of revocation does not diminish my responsibilities. I am aware of the risks, dangers and hazards related to sailing and boat yard operations and that I and/or my guests may be exposed to such risks, dangers and hazards. I understand that I and not OGYC am solely responsible and obligated to take all precautions necessary to protect against such risks, dangers and hazards, and to avoid any injuries to the person or property of the undersigned and/or my guests, OGYC or third parties that may occur. I agree that it is my own responsibility to inform my guests of the risks, dangers and hazards related to sailing and boat yard operations. As a condition of being allowed to participate in the Program and to use OGYC boats and facilities, I assume all risk of personal injury or death or property damage to the undersigned and/or my guests, OGYC or third parties resulting from my and/or any one of my guests and/or operation of any of OGYC's boats, and/or activities on or off the OGYC club property.

3. I will not seek to hold OGYC or its directors, officers, employees, agents, servants, members, contractors or any one or entity working on behalf of OGYC liable for, and I understand that in signing this Agreement that I am releasing OGYC and its directors, officers, employees, agents, servants, members, contractors or any one or entity working on behalf of OGYC from, any and all liability for personal injury or property damage whatsoever to me, my family or guests and our respective heirs and assigns regardless of whether the injuries or damages are the result of my own or my guests acts, actions or omissions, another member of OGYC, the acts, actions, and omissions of OGYC or its directors, officers, employees and agents.
4. I agree that neither I, members of my family nor my guests or respective heirs and assigns will enforce any judgment that may be granted in our favor beyond the financial or coverage limits of insurance policies as may be carried by OGYC for relief of injuries to person or property and other damages caused by the acts, and/or omissions of myself, my guests acts or omissions, another member of OGYC, OGYC or its directors, officers, employees and agents servants, members or any one working on behalf of OGYC, or which occur or result in connection with my and my guests participation in the Program and operation of OGYC boats and facilities.
5. I agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify OGYC and its directors, officers, employees and agents, servants, members or anyone working on behalf of OGYC from any and all claims of injury or damage to persons or property arising from, during or related to my own or my guests' acts and omissions, my own and my guests' participation in the Program or the use and operation of OGYC boats and facilities or presence on or outside of OGYC's club property.
6. Neither OGYC nor its directors, officers, employees and agents, shall be responsible for the disappearance, loss, theft of or damage to, my own and/or my guests' personal property.
7. I am responsible for the cost of repairing or replacing any property or equipment used in connection with the Program or the operation of OGYC if that property is lost or damaged in whole or part as a result of the acts or omissions of myself, family members, or guests.

Captains are liable for damage. Timely notification of any damage to a boat gives the Club the option to decide whether to submit a claim to its insurance for coverage of its losses.

Be advised that in the event an accident were to occur while a boat has been signed out to a program participant which incident results in personal injury to a person or persons or damage to property, the Captain must report the matter in a 48 hour period to the club and complete an incident report within the 48 hours of the incident occurring. In the event the incident is not reported within the 48 hour period and the Club were to discover who caused the damage, the Club will conduct a disciplinary hearing and investigation to determine the appropriate penalty to assess including but not limited to the costs of the repair, suspension of program participation or termination of club membership.

The Club is endeavoring to provide benefits to all of its members by making available this and other programs. Any damages that occur to the program boats which are not promptly disclosed presents risks of serious injury to fellow members who use the boats after damages have occurred.

After an incident, the Captain is responsible for filling out a Damage Report (Refer to attachment C). Copies of the report are available in the log book and on the Learn To Sail page at ogyc.org, or on the Learning Forum. The Report shall be completed to include all relevant facts, and statements from witnesses, if available. The report shall be returned and placed in the front cover of the Sail Fleet log book no later than 48 hours from the incident.

Captains are responsible for incidents that occur during racing and if a protest hearing is held, the findings of the protest may assign liability, but the Captain is otherwise still liable for his/her boat.

After the incident, the involved skippers shall receive a copy of a report from the Board that describes the incident, and assigns responsibility for the cost of the repair.

8. I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree with the terms of this Agreement, and that I am digitally submitting my acceptance of this Agreement freely and of my own accord, realizing that this Agreement is legally binding upon myself, my heirs and assigns. I certify that I am over eighteen (18) years of age.

Date: _____	Signature	_____
	Name (Print)	_____
	Membership #	_____
	CT Safe Boating Certificate #	_____

OGYC reserves the right to make changes, additions and deletions to the Program rules and regulations from time to time at its sole discretion, including, and without limitation, OGYC may limit access to its boats and facilities as it shall deem necessary. If changes are made they shall be posted to notify the effective date of the change.

Latest change May 2015

Attachments (A, B, and C)

ATTACHMENT A - SAIL FLEET BOUNDARIES

- When tacking and gybing in the harbor, stay at least one boat length away from another vessel.
- Anticipate situations and obstructions (current, shifting winds, moorings, moving vessels).
- Plan and discuss with crew departures and landings well in advance of execution.
- Avoid sailing between moored boats.
- Avoid sailing in designated race areas unless you are participating in the race.

Be advised that the tidal current can be very strong at the mouth of our harbor. Sailing boundaries are within Captains Harbor. Please be familiar with the navigational marks, the channels, water depths and hazards within the designated sailing area. A Mercury draws 2 feet 6 inches and an Ideal 18 draws 3 feet 4 inches.

ATTACHMENT B - RESERVATION SYSTEM INSTRUCTIONS

There is an online reservation calendar for reserving an Ideal 18 for day-sails. Instructions for using the calendar and a link to the calendar can be found on the clubs website at www.ogyc.org. Click on "Mercury/Ideal 18" and "Ideal 18 Reservation Calendar Instructions." Reservation restrictions are listed there.

On race days (Sunday afternoon all season, Wednesday nights, Women's Sailing Thursday afternoons, four Friday nights, and occasional Saturday afternoons) all Ideals are reserved for racers. It is likely that a few boats will be available for non-racers on race days. If an Ideal 18 is still on its mooring after the races are scheduled to start, a non-racer may take out the boat. Non-racers shall return all Ideal 18s to their moorings no later than one (1) hour before races are scheduled to start. Check the club calendar at www.ogyc.org for the race schedule.

SIGN OUT PROCESS

All boats must be signed out by recording your name and date in the Club's Log Book located on the trophy cabinet in the clubhouse. While the clubhouse is under construction the Log Book will be in the Chimes Building. **NO ONE MAY TAKE A BOAT OUT WITHOUT SIGNING IT OUT FIRST.** You must also sign the boat back in upon return. It is advisable to check the Maintenance Log Book to see if any equipment is broken or missing before using the boat. Upon your return you are required to **WRITE THE NUMBER** of your boat in the logbook.

ATTACHMENT C - DAMAGE REPORT