



COURAGEOUS SAILING

Member Packet 2022

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2022 Member Welcome Letter



Hello members and welcome to Courageous Sailing!

Thank you for choosing to sail and learn with us here at Courageous. We are proud to be a community with a mission of transforming lives through sailing programs that inspire learning, personal growth, and leadership. While we are especially committed to providing opportunities for youth from low income and marginalized backgrounds, the Courageous mission extends to our whole community. As members of Courageous you are directly supporting that mission and we are so excited to share our community with you.

Throughout this packet you will find Courageous' member policies, procedures, and guidelines. They are intended to keep you and others safe on and near the water; to maintain our fleet and resources in great condition; and ensure a clear, shared set of community standards and expectations. All Courageous members must read and agree to them before using Courageous boats. Please read this packet carefully and make yourself aware of the additional resources in appendices at the end of the packet. You can always find these, and other resources on our website under the "Member Portal".

As a member, it's important to us that you feel like a key part of our community. Here are a few key ways to stay connected, and up to date on what's happening around Pier 4.

- Read our weekly email newsletter*! Our member newsletter is sent every week and it is our primary method of sharing information. Please let us know if you're not receiving it!
*Email: frontdesk@courageoussailing.org
- Bookmark and use our Member Portal. It includes great resources such as; Reservations, Member Resources, FAQ's, Crew Finder Forum, Upcoming Events Calendar, and so much more
- Come to a BBQ - Courageous hosts a lot of BBQ's. They are a great opportunity to get to know your fellow members and find sailing companions
- Volunteering is a great way to support the Courageous mission. Contact Caitlyn caitlyn@courageoussailing.org for more info on how you can help!

Thank you again for joining Courageous and being part of our community!

Member Guidelines and Policy Agreement



While at Courageous, members are expected to practice safe seamanship; exercise sound judgment; and demonstrate respect for our fleet, facilities and community as a whole. **Your signed waiver and use of our fleet indicates your agreement and commitment to abide by all Courageous guidelines and policies**

Community Guidelines

Courageous is a nonprofit community sailing and youth development program. Our fleet and facilities are shared resources, and we look to one another to care for them as if they were their own. We ask our members and our community to regard themselves as role models to the youth we serve and always strive to treat one another with the utmost respect and tolerance.

Member Policies and Procedures

In General

- All members must read and sign [the Courageous Sailing Waiver](#); follow all Courageous rules and policies; and adhere to any restrictions imposed by Courageous staff at any time (both individual restrictions based on a skill and experience level, or general restrictions on the fleet due to weather or other circumstances.)
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages or controlled substances before or while operating Courageous boats; do not possess illegal substances at any time on Courageous property;
 - Smoking is not permitted on Courageous premises, on our dock or aboard any Courageous vessel at any time.
- Ensure your guests are willing to abide by Courageous policies before using our boats and inform them of the policies they're agreeing to in their waiver
- Treat and handle Courageous vessels and equipment with responsibility, care, and forethought.
 - Always inspect your vessel for issues or problems before leaving the dock and report any issue that arises on the water to the front desk.
 - Fill out the damage log and notify front desk immediately after returning to the dock in the event of damage or loss of equipment while on the water
 - Leave any vessel in as good or better condition than you found it.
 - Ensure boats are cleaned, tied up, and put away in the correct manner. If you find your boat has been left dirty, improperly secure, or in otherwise poor condition, report it to the front desk.
- **Failure to abide by Courageous policies may lead to the suspension of membership privileges**

I'm a new member: What's my first step?

- Book a check-out sail. Call or email the front desk for availability.
 - frontdesk@courageoussailing.org
 - 857-452-1769- Primary line
 - 617 237-6267 Courageous additional line (can accept text messages)
- Earn a Flag Rating (by completing a written assessment and passing a checkout sail for all vessels included in your membership) before sailing without an instructor.
 - Flag ratings determine how far you can sail and in which weather conditions.
 - Please reference Appendix 2 and 3 for more detailed descriptions around Flag Ratings and Boundaries.
- Login to our [online Member Portal](#).
 - [Reserve a boat](#). We have a large fleet of Rhodes 19s and they are usually available on a first come, first serve basis. However, during special events, racing, and busy weekends they can fill up quickly. Reservations are recommended for the mid fleet and cruising vessels.
 - Use our [Crew Forum](#) to meet other members and coordinate sailing together.

Before each day of sailing

- Check in with the front desk when you arrive at Courageous to receive your boat assignment
- Check the whiteboard at Courageous to be aware of tides and weather conditions before leaving the dock
- Check your boat for the required safety equipment:
 - anchor,
 - paddle,
 - pump,
 - type 4 throwable cushion.
 - Report any missing equipment to the front desk and they can provide replacements

On the dock

- Do not run or jump on dock or boats.
- Check the bilge and under the floor boards for water. Pump out the boat before departing.
- Exercise caution and care when stepping from dock to boat, between boats, and moving within boats. It is advised members keep one hand available to hold shrouds or other parts of the boat to maintain balance.
- Ensure you and your guests are physically able to move safely around a boat and operate a boat under sail
- Ensure that you and your guests wear a correctly fitting, secured and USCG approved personal flotation device at all times when boating;
- Ensure you and your guests wear closed-toe footwear. No open toed sandals, flip flops, or bare feet about boats;

While Sailing

- Remain accessible by phone and radio at all times while on the water. Good communication with our boathouse is essential.
- Operate boats only in designated areas permitted by your Flag Rating
- Follow the current Coast Guard Navigation Rules and operate boats in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations;
 - “When in doubt, bail out!” If you are unsure of what navigational rules dictate in a dangerous situation, sail away and discuss the rules of navigation with a Courageous staff member when you return.
- All sailboats are expected to keep a proper lookout and keep well clear of other boats at all times.
 - When sailing in or near the shipping channel, all Courageous boats must look both ways, at least once per minute, for an incoming tanker, barge or commercial traffic restricted in its ability to maneuver. When a tanker or other restricted vessel is identified, boats must immediately sail to the side of the channel nearest them or take a clear path away from the middle of the channel if equidistant.
- Only stop at non-Courageous docks or moorings if your boat becomes disabled or in the event of adverse weather.
- The picking up or dropping off of passengers at docks, landings, or floats other than Courageous, and leaving a vessel unattended while docked or moored are prohibited
 - Cruising boats above 26’ may be exempt from the above restriction provided that any intended destination is expressly indicated on the float plan, and that the float plan is approved by Courageous staff
- Traveling beyond the inner harbor is prohibited except for Green Flag certified skippers or express permission of Courageous OIC
 - Green flag skippers must submit a written float plan that accounts for conditions and itinerary before departing Courageous if they plan to sail outside the inner harbor;
 - Always carry appropriate nautical charts when sailing beyond the Inner Harbor
- Ensure boats are returned in clean condition and properly de-rigged and tied down to the Courageous dock 30 minutes before sunset*.
 - *Some exceptions apply; when participating in a group activity with motorboat supervision (such as racing), in which case the return time may be extended at the discretion of Courageous staff.

Damages and Costs

Sailing comes with an inherent wear and tear on equipment and boats, and Courageous covers these costs. However, our members are responsible for damages that are due to operator error. Minor damages can at times be due to a combination of operator error and wear and tear, so Courageous often covers minor repairs and replacement of small parts.

- We will not typically charge for less than an hour of maintenance time. More extensive damage will be charged to the member at the rate of \$50/hour. If a boat must be hauled from the water there will be a base charge of \$100.

“How much could it cost?”

While there is no “perfect formula” for how much damages will cost, we have tried to outline some of the standard damages we see each season and the costs associated with them:

Vessel	Damage	Time	Material Cost	Cost
R19	Grounding	Haul/inspect = 2 hours	\$0	\$100 for hauling, labor is covered
R19	Direct collision that leaves a hole in a hull	Repair = 12 hours	\$100	\$800
J/80	Bent stanchion from collision	Remove/replace part = 3 hours	\$120	\$120 for part, labor is covered

Emergency Protocols



What To Do if the Unexpected Happens

Sailing in Boston Harbor is a dynamic activity and you cannot plan to avoid every emergency. Before making a decision ask yourself, “Is this the safe choice?”

Even when we make good choices, accidents can occur. Call or radio Courageous if something goes wrong or you have concerns or questions. Communication is key. Courageous has an Emergency Action Plan, but we can't put it into effect if we don't know an emergency has happened. It is not up to you, the member, to assess whether or not something qualifies as an emergency. When in doubt, call or hail Courageous by radio and we will assess the situation and take the necessary steps.

- Numbers to know for communication
 - 857-452-1769 Courageous landline
 - 617-237-6267 Courageous additional line (can accept text messages)
 - Channel 69: Courageous monitored channel
 - Channel 13: Boat-to-boat communications with commercial and non-commercial traffic.
 - Channel 16: Emergency channel. Never use it unless in an emergency situation.
- Ensure you are prepared for emergency situations by taking the following preventative steps
 - Fill out a Float Plan if you're going beyond the airport. Adhere to the Float Plan and if you must change your plans, call Courageous and inform us of the change.
 - Put Courageous's number into your phone, and make sure your phone and radio are on, charged, and audible.
 - Always answer your phone or respond to our VHF hail when we call you--we may be notifying you of a storm or other issue.
 - If necessary, use the international signal of distress (crossing and uncrossing both arms over your head) or sound signals (most boats have a whistle or horn) to attract attention if necessary.

VHF Usage

All boats must have a radio before leaving the pier. Please following the guidelines below so you remain reachable at all times:

- Before leaving the pier, check your volume and squelch. The squelch should be low (but not constant static) and volume should be high enough to hear over a conversation with friends.
- Conduct a radio check before leaving the dock
- When you make a hail, delay speaking for a moment after depressing the call button (and remember to release the button immediately after speaking,

- Be sure you aren't interrupting someone else's transmission.
- Check in with a staff member if you have questions around using your VHF properly
- Bring a cell phone as a back up, many handhelds will not transmit when traveling past the airport.
- Calls should be short and boat-related--no personal conversations.

Here are some examples of calls using correct etiquette:

Non-emergency hail to Courageous, Channel 69

Boat: Courageous Base, Courageous Base, this is Rhodes Number 21. Over.

[Officially, you repeat identification information 3 times.]

Front Desk: This is Courageous Base. Over.

Boat: Courageous Base, Rhodes 21 requesting a tow in. We're in the channel just inside the airport. [Location is the most important piece of information!] Our main halyard shackle broke and our mainsail is down. We're not in danger, but we won't make it back by sunset sailing upwind under jib only. Over.

Front Desk: Copy that, Rhodes 21. Ally's Gift [that's the name of the motorboat] is on its way out to you.

Boat: Copy that. Rhodes 21 standing by, 69. [say both digits, "six nine."]

Front Desk: Courageous Base standing by, 13, 16, 69.

Mayday hail, Channel 16

A Mayday hail indicates grave or imminent danger to life or property, and will summon the Coast Guard. If Courageous cannot provide adequate assistance to stabilize the situation, make a Mayday hail. *Example Mayday situations:* sinking or burning vessel, severe allergic reaction, heart attack, crew overboard lost from sight, vessel disabled and about to crash into rocks (in a way that will cause extreme damage or danger) or in front of an incoming tanker.

Boat: Mayday, mayday, mayday. This is Courageous Rhodes 21, Courageous Rhodes 21, Courageous Rhodes 21. Over. [repeat if no response]

[Coast Guard response]

Boat: This is Courageous Rhodes 21. We are located at [give precise location]. [Give a one sentence description of the emergency.]

[The Coast Guard will then ask for information, including the number of people aboard.]

Towing Procedures

The safety boat might throw you a tow line (lead it through the bow chock and cleat it to the bow cleat), or ask you to throw them your bow line. If they're towing a long line of boats or towing you for a long distance, they may ask you to tie the tow line in a bowline around your mast instead. Drop the sails and steer to follow the boat. Pay attention—if the powerboat stops, you'll need to be ready to steer alongside them, so you don't crash into their stern.

Running aground

The inner harbor is clear of obstacles unless you get dangerously close to the shore, so there's not much risk of running aground.

Green Flag members are expected to be aware of the hazards of the outer harbor. Be careful near Lower Middle and Castle Island.

If your hull or keel hits the bottom or a rock, your immediate goal is to stop the boat.

- Let out both your main sheet and your jib sheet, and head up into the wind if possible.

If the boat is stuck

- Drop your sails.
- Check from the inside to see if your hull is intact.
- If water is coming into the boat, try to plug the leak (by stuffing a jacket into the hole, for example).

If any part of the boat touches bottom--even just a tap for a second--

- Notify Courageous right away and ask for instructions. We will come get you; please don't risk damaging the boat further. Even if the boat isn't stuck, you may be at risk of running aground again or hitting another rock.

Do not leave the boat to try to push it off. Again, it's vital to let Courageous know that you've run aground, so that we can pull the boat out of the water to check that the keel is intact.

Thank you for taking the time to understand and abide by our guidelines, policies and procedures. A community like Courageous flourishes when we collaborate and approach our fleet and community with consistency and respect.

Member Packet Appendices

Each of these Appendices contains information about membership at Courageous, from getting started on the water, to crew overboard recovery, and beyond. Take your time reading through all of them and let them be a chart through your Courageous membership.

- Appendix I: [Courageous Sailing Waiver](#)
- Appendix II: [Course Progression and Offerings](#)
- Appendix III: [Flag Ratings](#)
- Appendix IV: [Boundaries](#)
- Appendix V: [Wind Speed and Ratings](#)
- Appendix VI: [Docking at Courageous](#)
- Appendix VII: [Crew Overboard Diagrams](#)