



Glossary

Bailer A bailer is a required piece of equipment for a Sabot. It is used to “bail” out water after capsizing. It is easy to make a bailer out of an old bleach bottle. Simply cut out the bottom and make sure the cap is tightly fastened.

Batten Thin fiberglass or wood slats that are inserted in the leech of the sail for added support.

Block A pulley encased in its own housing. A block will help add purchase when pulling on a line, which makes it easier to haul in greater loads.

Boom A horizontal spar that supports the bottom of a sail.

Boom Vang A line that runs from the boom to the base of the mast. The boom vang helps pull the boom down.

Bowline or Painter The bowline is used to tie the boat up to the dock. It is recommended that the bowlines be 10 to 12 feet in length and at least ¼” in diameter.

Burgee An official flag for a particular yacht club.

Cat Boats Sailboats with only one sail. Sabots and Lasers are cat boats.

Centerboard A blade projecting through the bottom of the hull in the center of the boat. This blade helps to keep the boat from going sideways in the water. It serves the same purpose as a dagger board or a leeboard. A centerboard is moved fore and aft to raise or lower it. FJs have centerboards. Sabots and Lasers have dagger boards. (See dagger board.)

Class Similar boats are grouped together to form a class.

Cleat Fitting in which a line can be secured. Cleats take many forms, such as dock cleats, cam cleats, and jam cleats.

Clew The outermost lower corner of a sail is the clew. It is where the foot and the leech of the sail meet. The outhaul is attached to the clew.

Clew Tie Down Both Sabots and Lasers have a small line that goes through the clew of the sail and around the boom. This line holds the sail to the boom.

Dagger Board The dagger board performs the same function as a centerboard. Dagger boards differ from centerboards, in that dagger boards are moved up and down to raise or lower into the water, rather than fore and aft. Sabots and Lasers have dagger boards; FJs have centerboards.

Dolly A trailer that is used to move boats from their storage place to the docks.

Downhaul A line attached to the tack of the sail that pulls the sail down.



Fall Off Turning the boat away from the direction of the wind. If sitting on the windward side of the boat, one would pull the tiller towards oneself, pulling the tiller to windward, to fall off. When falling off, the sailor should ease the sail.

Fiberglass Most Sabots, Lasers, and FJs are made of fiberglass. It is a woven material impregnated with a liquid resin that is very stiff when the resin dries.

Fleet For racing purposes, sailors are grouped in fleets according to experience. "A" Fleet is usually the most advanced group; "B" fleet is more of an intermediate level; "C" fleet is for beginners.

Flying Junior (FJ) The FJ is a two-person boat used primarily by colleges on the west coast. It is also used in many junior regattas as a training boat.

Foot The bottom edge of the sail between the tack and the clew.

Gooseneck A hinged fitting on the mast that connects the boom to the mast.

Grommet A metal ring in a sail that allows lines to be connected to the sail. Both the clew and the tack have grommets.

Gudgeon A "U" shaped fitting on the back of a boat used to connect the rudder to the hull. Most sailing dinghies have at least two gudgeons.

Head The top of the sail. It is the part of the sail where the luff meets the leech.

Head Up Turning the boat towards the direction of the wind. If sitting on the windward side of the boat, one would push the tiller away from oneself, to leeward, to head up. When heading up, the sailor should pull in the sail.

Hiking Out The action of hanging over the side of a boat in order to keep it from tipping over while sailing.

Hiking Boots Boots used to help protect sailor's feet. They also provide extra support while hiking out.

Hiking Strap A strap attached to the bottom of the boat under which a sailor places his or her feet in order to hold the sailor in the boat when he or she is hiking out.

Hull The actual body or shell of the boat.

Inspection Port A hole in the hull of the boat that allows the skipper to reach inside the hull to make repairs.

Jib On boats with two or more sails, the jib is the more forward of the two sails.

Jibe or Gybe Turning the boat away from the wind so the stern passes through the wind.



Laser A one-person dinghy designed for larger sailors.

Laser II A two-person boat with a jib and a spinnaker.

Leech The outside edge of the sail is called the leech. The leech connects the head and the clew.

Leeward The side of the boat away from the wind.

Life Jacket All juniors must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) while they are on the water. Only the vest type jacket is acceptable. These devices must be worn properly for them to be effective.

Luff / Luffing 1. The forward edge of the sail that connects the tack and the head of the sail. 2. When a boat turns its bow towards the wind the boat is said to be "luffing". 3. When a sail is shaking back and forth as the boat is heading into the wind, the sail is said to be "luffing".

Mainsheet The line that brings the mainsail in and lets it out.

Marine Tex A putty that can be used to fix small cracks and holes in boats.

Mast The vertical spar that supports the sail.

Mast Tube A tube in the bottom of the boat in which the mast fits.

One-Design Classes of boats that have specific requirements for design of the boat, sails and equipment in order to keep the boats equal. Sabots, Lasers, and FJs are one-design boats.

Outhaul The line that pulls the sail to the end of the boom. The out-haul is connected to the clew of the sail.

Paddle A device to help move the boat in case of emergency or lack of wind.

Pintles The pins on the rudder that are inserted into the gudgeons on the stern of a boat to connect the rudder to the hull.

Port Port refers to the left side of the boat. Port also refers to which tack the boat is on. If a boat is on port tack, then the wind is coming over the left hand side of the boat. Boats on port tack must give way (yield) to boats on starboard tack. The color red also indicates port.

Ratchet block Most commonly found on Lasers and FJs. Ratchet blocks are used for the main-sheet in Lasers, FJs, and some Sabots. They aid in relieving pull on the main-sheet.

Rudder Blade on the transom that steers the boat.

Sabot The Sidney/U.S. Sabot is a one-person sailing dinghy. It is used by many youth sailing programs, from Santa Barbara to Kings Harbor. The hull shape is referred to as a pram. Sabots are 8 feet long and are a one-design class. Another type of Sabot, the Naples Sabot, exists. Naples Sabots are very similar to the U.S.



Sabots, except that the Naples Sabots have a leeboard, rather than a dagger board. Youth programs from Long Beach to San Diego use the Naples Sabot.

Sail The part of the boat's equipment which is usually made from cloth and which is attached to the mast and is the primary reason for movement.

Sailing Instructions At each regatta, sailing instructions are made available to all competitors. These instructions tell the sailors the schedule for each day's racing, the starting order, and any special rules for the races.

Shackle A "U" shaped hook containing a pin which is used to connect objects together.

Sheets All the ropes or lines on a boat that are used to control sails are referred to as sheets.

Silicon A liquid or gel rubber substance which when hardened is used to create a waterproof seal.

Skipper's Meeting All regattas begin with a skipper's meeting. This is a time where special instructions will be given to the competitors. Competitors will also be able to ask questions to clarify uncertain topics.

Starboard Starboard refers to the right side of the boat. Starboard also refers to the tack the boat is on. If the wind is coming over the right side of the boat, then it is on starboard tack. Boats on starboard tack have right-of-way over boats on port tack. The color green also denotes starboard.

Tack 1. Changing of direction when sailing. If a boat's bow passes through the wind, then it is said to be tacking. 2. The direction the boat is sailing (see starboard and port). 3. The lower front corner of the sail where the luff and foot of the sail meet.

Thwart The seat in the center of a Sabot. Juniors should sit next to the thwart when sailing.

Tiller The long, horizontal piece of wood or aluminum that is connected to the top of the rudder which changes the boats direction when moved from side to side. The tiller helps you steer the boat.

Tiller Extension Hinged extension attached to the tiller that allows the skipper to steer the boat while sitting forward and hiking out. This is a must for all boats in the program.

Transom The very back edge of the boat is called the transom or the stern.

Traveler A line or track running across the stern of the boat that to which the main-sheet is attached.

Windward Towards the wind.