

Get your US Sailing Small Boat Instructor Level 1 Certification in 11 Steps

Complete all 11 steps *in the order they are listed* to receive your Small Boat Instructor Level Certification. Full Level 1 program details on the [Level 1 Instructor page](#).

Step 1: Register for a [US Sailing Membership](#).

- If you've registered in the past, login to your account to make sure your membership is current. You must pay an annual fee for the membership to be current.

Step 2: Complete the online [US Sailing Teaching & Coaching Fundamentals](#) course.

- This is a free online course. Using the link above, click on the course, "checkout" (even though the course is free), and then you will be prompted to register for a Team USA account. Use the same email address linked to your US Sailing account to register for your Team USA account. The course should take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Step 3: Register for an [Online Section of the Level 1 course](#).

- After registering for your US Sailing membership and completing the Teaching and Coaching Fundamentals course, you are now eligible to sign up for an Online Section. Scroll to the bottom of the Level 1 page linked on this step and register for any class that fits your schedule. Keep in mind you will want some time to study before your first day of the Online Section.

Step 4: Register for an [In-Person Session of the Level 1 course](#).

- Make sure to register early so you can a spot during dates you prefer. These classes often fill up quickly. (Previously, you had to complete the online section before registering for an In-Person Session, but that has now changed and you can register for an In-Person Session before you complete the Online Component.)

Step 5: Study the course material.

- As part of the Online Section, you will take two multiple choice tests based on the course material US Sailing provides electronically, so make sure you have ample time to study the three books: [Small Boat Instructor Guide](#), [Learn Sailing Right Intermediate Guide](#), and [Basic Powerboating, Safety, and Rescue](#). Keep in mind this is over 300 pages of material. Even if you are an experienced sailor and powerboat driver, in the very least these books will inform you of US Sailing's method of teaching sailing.

Step 6: Take the Online Section you signed up for.

- The Instructor Trainer for your online course will provide full details on expectations. This online course takes place over 10 days and you will be expected to pass two tests, attend multiple Zoom meetings, and give a chalk talk on an assigned subject.

Step 7: Get a NASBLA Washington State Boater Education Card.

- This is one step than may be complete at any point as long as it's before the first day of your In-Person Session. You need this card to legally operate a powerboat and will need to bring your card with you to the In-Person Session. You can take this course online through one of the authorized programs recommended by [WA State Parks](#).

Step 8: Complete [SafeSport Training](#) online.

- You may complete at any point, but keep in mind your Level 1 certification is not valid until you've completed SafeSport Training. Be prepared to enter your US Sailing member number when you create a SafeSport account. You can find your US Sailing member number by logging into your account or through [Find My Member ID](#). The course should take approximately 90 minutes.

Step 9: Practice.

- Perhaps you haven't sailed a dinghy in a few months, or perhaps you've never operated a coach boat. Find ways to practice, which might be reaching out to the program you plan to work asking to use equipment.

Step 10: Take the In-Person Session you signed up for.

- The Instructor Trainer will provide full details about expectations. The course will take approximately 18-20 hours over two days and you will be assessed on your sailing and powerboat driving, among other skills. You will give a chalk talk to the group on an assigned subject.

Step 11: Get an Adult CPR and First Aid Certification.

- You may complete this at any point, but your Level 1 is not valid until accompanied by a CPR/First Aid certification. Certification must come from an American Red Cross, American Heart Association or and U.S. Coast Guard approved provider.

After you complete all steps, you are now a certified Small Boat Level 1 Sailing Instructor! Be sure to send a copy of your CPR/First Aid Certification and Boater Card to your employer before your first day of work.

Next: Keep your Level 1 up to date.

- [Renew](#) your US Sailing Membership every year
- [Renew SafeSport](#) every year
- Retake the CPR/First Aid Certification every 2 years
- [Re-certify](#) your Level 1 every 3 years