



## **DSC Skipper Re-Check Process and Rubric**

Downtown Sailing Center

1425 Key Hwy

Baltimore, MD 21230

Updated April 3, 2024

### **Objective:**

Every Downtown Sailing Center (DSC) skipper is required to maintain competency in the sailing skills documented on the Skipper Check-Out sheet in order to remain a DSC skipper in good standing. The DSC staff will conduct a basic re-check of the critical skills for every skipper every two years in order to make sure all skippers remain proficient in these skills. There are no exceptions to this policy.

### **Details:**

Every DSC skipper whose last checkout or re-check was in Summer 2022 or prior must successfully complete a 2024 re-check by June 1, 2024. Any skippers who do not complete a recheck by this date will lose access to the Dayfleet and Cruising Boat reservations (as Dayfleet skipper status is a prerequisite for Cruising Skipper status).

The critical skills for the re-checks are as follows:

- Safe Departure from the dock
- Quick-Stop Person Overboard (P.O.B.) recovery
- Safe Docking

If the skipper does not pass the Re-Check, they will be downgraded to a "Provisional Skipper" status and will then have one month to prepare for and complete their re-check. If they do not pass a re-check by the end of that month, they will lose access to dayfleet (and cruising boats, if a cruising skipper) boat reservations.

A Provisional Skipper status has the following restrictions:

- May not sail past the Canton Turning Basin
- Must have at least one experienced DSC crew member aboard
- May not sail in winds exceeding 15 knots

### **Opportunities:**

The DSC staff will be offering skipper re-checks at Spring Member Events, to be announced via weekly Member Update emails and to be posted on the calendar.

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Please make every effort to attend a group session to help us keep our costs to a minimum as we will have paid instructors conduct the re-checks. Any skippers that cannot attend any of the posted events by June 1 will need to [contact the office](#) to set up a time for a re-check.

## Skills rubric:

### Departing:

- Checks over boat, displays good stewardship of DSC vessels
- Checks wind direction
- Demonstrates how to properly board a boat
- Secures boat to dock with cleat hitch, bow into wind to raise main
- Releases mainsheet, boomvang, cunningham, and outhaul before raising sail
- Checks for hazards before pushing off
- Pushes boat forward when casting off (into wind) and aft appropriately (when backing down)
- Pulls in fenders
- Uses discretion when hoisting jib, sheets completely free

### POB:

- Quick Stop rescue must be executed in accordance with US Sailing documented procedures.
- The object representing the Person-Overboard (POB) may be picked up on either side of the boat (leeward side is preferred)
- Boat must be head-to-wind or in "safety position" for the recovery
- Vessel must be moving at minimum control speed or slower
- POB must be recovered in 2 tries maximum, recovery at full stop or under very minimal speed (Instructor's discretion, must be slow enough to feasibly recover a POB without dragging them.)

### Docking:

- Demonstrates appropriate helmsman and crew coordination and skills for preparation and arrival to the dock
- Identifies wind direction
- Lowers the jib at the appropriate time
- Lowers the main at the appropriate time WITH BOW INTO WIND, unless it is a true upwind docking in which case the main should be left up and luffing
- Issues proper guidance to crew stepping off at the dock
- Slow approach

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- Fenders used appropriately when boat is secured to dock
- Safe docking at dock