

# DSC Sailing Restrictions and Guidelines

Updated 3/14/2017

*The DSC Skipper has lots of freedom to choose when and where to sail. The skipper is not likely to receive any input from professional staff or dockmasters during private reservations. The boats are shared and enjoyed by all. Please know that a skipper's actions impact future skippers.*

## **Sailing Restrictions: Time, Temperature, and Weather**

- DSC day fleet vessels are only to be used between the hours of sunrise and sunset
- DSC cruising vessels may be sailed after sunset by qualified skippers
- DSC vessels are not to go out if the National Weather Service has posted a Gale Warning
- DSC sailors are not to be on docks or boats if lightning is seen or thunder is heard. There is a 30 minute minimum wait-time after lightning or thunder
- No official DSC programming will occur if the combined air and water temperature is less than 80F (e.g. 36F air and 44F water equals 80F combined)
- DSC sailors are recommended to follow the '80 degree rule' above for private reservations.
- Each skipper is responsible for his or her decision to sail
- Reservations are limited to 4 hours unless otherwise approved on a per-event basis

## **Equipment Restrictions**

- All persons on DSC boats or docks are required to wear USCG approved PFDs from Nov. 1 - June 1\* (\*heat advisory days in May may cause the staff to void this restriction)
- All persons are responsible for having appropriate USCG approved PFDs readily available at all times on DSC docks and Boats. The DSC provides type III PFDs for use
- Skippers are responsible for ensuring the vessel has appropriate and required safety equipment aboard, including Flares, Noise-making Device, and Throwable
- Powerboat Operators are required to carry Safe Boater Certificate or equivalent

## **Sailing Restrictions: Boundaries & Boats**

- DSC vessels are strongly discouraged from sailing into the Inner Harbor past *Pier 4* and the *Rusty Scupper* Restaurant
- DSC vessels are bound by the *Key Bridge* to the south unless approved otherwise for a special event on a per-event basis
- DSC vessels are bound by the *Hanover Street Bridge* in the Middle Branch
- DSC vessels should honor the 'Red' channel marker near Pier 6 and the 'Green' channel markers bounding Fort McHenry
- DSC vessels are discouraged from sailing near piers, docks, and ships
- DSC skippers are responsible for avoiding any shallow areas and obstructions
- DSC skippers are responsible for managing vessels in a seamanlike manner in accordance with the Inland COLREGS. Note: Sonars >7m in length; J/22s are <7m in length
- While water taxis are not restricted in their ability to maneuver, DSC skippers should use common courtesy and avoid restricting travel or trade.

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- DSC day fleet and power vessels are not to tie up along any shoreline, dock, or pier unless on official business with prior office and space approval.