Dear Parents and Sailors,

Welcome back to another fun filled summer of sailing at the URI Sailing Center. We have a great staff of several returning instructors and several new instructors who are all anxious to guide you in learning the great lifelong sport of sailing. On the first day of each respective session and over the four weeks of the class, we will get to know each other, as we instruct you in this new or continued journey of learning how to sail on Salt Pond!

We are excited about the many new facets of the URI Summer Sailing Program. Last year, we introduced Friday Kid’s Kayaking and a new full day class called REACH. REACH is a STEM class which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Using Sailing as the vehicle, students participate in engaging hands on activities that teach and promote STEM learning. Shhhh!! Don’t tell the kids that they are learning on their vacation from school! This summer, we are excited to continue these programs and we will also be adding Stand Up Paddle boards to our Friday Kid’s Kayaking. Don’t worry though, the Kayaks and Paddleboards are not just for kids but adults are allowed in on the fun. With a URI Sailing membership, you too can have access to all the boats in our fleet, including kayaks and paddleboards.

So, I mentioned boats in our fleet which brings me to the most exciting news of the 2017 Summer! We have decided to update our very old though well maintained fleet of sailboats. For our youngest sailors age 8-12, we are offering a new type of boat to our Summer Program called the Optimist Pram. This particular boat is designed for kids and is the most common boat in the world to teach young sailors. We are very excited about this new boat as it is safe, fun and the perfect fit for our newest sailors. For many years, the Tech Dinghy has been the workhorse of our sailing program and was used during the academic year and summer program, by URI Sailing Club members and by all of our age groups. New this summer, we will be replacing the Tech Dinghy with a new modern design called the RS Quest. This boat has many great features and will be the main boat sailed by intermediate youths and adults of all skill levels. The boat is self bailing, has a higher boom for safety and is made of rotomolded plastic which means you can’t break it. The Quest can be sailed by two, three and even four sailors and will provide a more social experience and shared learning opportunity. Additionally, it is more comfortable for all ages and has the ability to teach beginners through advanced sailors. We are very excited about the RQ Quest and we know you will too!

We look forward to a great summer of boating and being on Salt Pond!

Best Regards,

David Livingston
Coordinator of Sailing and Facilities
University of Rhode Island
236 Salt Pond Rd
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-783-0797
Parents, please read this carefully.

Sailing Program Rules:
1. PFD's must be worn at all times while on the dock and while in the boats.
2. Closed toed footwear must be worn at all times.
3. No running or horseplay allowed on the premises.
4. Please respect your classmates – no hitting, bullying, disruptive or harmful behavior is allowed. We reserve the right to remove an individual from class if this occurs.
5. The program is based on camradaderie, respect, fun and learning.
6. Please respect all URI boats, equipment and property. Please store your personal gear in the designated spots.
7. Instructors reserve the right to transfer students to a different level (higher or lower) based on their sailing skills and maturity. A discussion would be held with parents if necessary.

Clothing/Personal Suggestions:
1. Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) are provided. If you choose to bring your own, it must be a USCG approved Type III jacket.
2. Sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat are essential. We will do our best to remind everyone to reapply sunscreen as needed.
3. Closed toed shoes are a must. A rubber watershoe is recommended over sneakers.
4. A wind breaker or other waterproof clothing is helpful.
5. A complete change of clothes and a towel is also recommended to have every day. You will get wet and some days are colder than others.
6. On rainy days, we will try to sail. A rain jacket will be helpful.
7. All personal possessions should be labeled and kept in an enclosed bag. Do not bring valuables to the Sailing Center. Although theft is very rare, the URI Sailing Center is not responsible for the loss of personal property. Bags are left unattended at the Center when sailing classes are on the water.
8. Bring a re-usable water bottle to sailing every day.
9. Label all personal items. A lost and found will be kept of found items.

Timeliness:
1. It is important that everyone gets to class on time. Please arrive 5-10 minutes prior to class starting. Also, being late may mean the class has left to go out on the water and there is no provision to return and pick up tardy students at the dock. Please pick up your student promptly at the end of the class as the instructors need to prepare for the next class or clean up for the end of the day.
2. If your child will not be attending class on any given day, please call the URI Sailing Center phone at 401-783-0797. A message can be left on this line.
3. Class is held in all weather conditions. Land drills may be used in inclement weather.

Swim Test:
1. Before anyone is allowed to sail, a simple swim test will be conducted. The purpose is to make sure everyone is comfortable being in the water if they end up in the water, either intentionally or unintentionally! The swim test will be conducted on the first day so come prepared with a change of clothes and a towel, as you should every day.
2. All sailors will take the swim test.
Other:

1. For those staying the full day, please make sure you bring extra drinks and food for lunch. Please be aware of other sailors that may have food allergies.
2. In the event of windy conditions, helmets may be provided to prevent head injuries.
3. Parents must sign in and sign out for drop off and pick up of the student. There will be no exceptions. Written authorization will be necessary by the parents if someone other than the parent will pick up.

*If there is anything that still seems unclear, please just ask. Everything works best when we have open lines of communication between parents, sailors and instructors.*

*Remember that this is about safe, fun learning as we make new friends and learn the sport of sailing!*