

TOPS'L Members Competencies

The impetus to progress through the qualifying stages rests with the individual members. It is a largely a self-learning process. The Topsl Instructors will help whenever possible to aid this process and will undertake any assessments that are required. Please note that the appropriate competencies and experience requirements should be met BEFORE requesting an assessment as Skipper (either Local or Offshore)

CREW

Remember that skippers act as crew for other Topsl skippers. There is only one skipper per yacht, the designated skipper. More experienced skippers acting as crew should be aware that they might undermine the confidence of less experienced members.

Crew Competencies

The crew competencies are the basics that underpin safe sailing for all members & the progression to TOPSL Skipper. It is anticipated that those who are new to sailing will want to learn these skills at their own pace.

1. Preparation of the yacht for sea.
2. Use & location of normal & emergency equipment.
3. Personal safety on board.
4. Ability to send Mayday on both normal & DSC radio.
5. Safe use of sheets & winches.
6. Sail handling: hoisting, reefing & stowing / flaking.
7. Rope handling – throwing, coiling, stowing, and securing to cleats.
8. Ability to tie common knots.
9. Prepare anchor and chain/warp; drop anchor; weigh anchor and stow
10. Prepare/stow mooring lines/fenders; take charge on deck.
11. Understand of basic meteorology including relevance of the barometer.
12. Ability to steer a compass course or along a transit.
13. Basic knowledge of Collision regulations & navigation marks or shapes.