

Glossary of sailing terms:

Bailer	A bailer is a required piece of equipment for a dinghy such as an FJ. It is used to “bail” out water after capsizing. It is easy to make a bailer out of an old bleach bottle. Simply cut out the bottom and make sure the cap is tightly sealed.
Batten	Thin fiberglass or wood slats that are inserted in the leech of the sail for added support.
Block	A pulley that is encased in its own housing. A block will help to add purchase when pulling on a line.
Boom	Horizontal spar that supports the bottom of a sail.
Boom Vang	A line that runs from the boom to the base of the mast. The boom vang helps pull the boom down and tighten the leach of the sail.
Bowline	Also known as a painter. The bowline is used to tie the boat to the dock. It is recommended that bowlines be 12 to 15 feet in length and at least ¼ inch in diameter.
Burgee	The emblem or flag for each yacht club.
Cat Boats	Sail boats with only one sail are known as cat boats.
Centerboard	A blade projecting through the bottom of the hull in the center of the boat. This blade helps to keep the boat from going sideways in the water. It serves the same purpose as a daggerboard or a leeboard.
Class	Similar boats are grouped together to form a class.
Cleat	Fitting in which a line can be secured.
Clew	The outermost lower corner of a sail is the clew. It is where the foot and the leech of the sail meet. The outhaul is attached to the clew.
Clew Tie Down	Sabots and Lasers have a small line that goes through the clew of the sail and around the boom. This line holds the sail to the boom.
Dagger Board	Very similar to a centerboard, but typically a dagger board can be pulled out completely up and out of the boat where as a centerboard may retract into the boat but does not usually come completely out. FJ’s, 420’s, and Capri 14’s have centerboards, Lasers have dagger board, and sabots have leeboards.
Dolly	A trailer that is used to move boats from their storage place to the docks.

Glossary of sailing terms (continued)

Downhaul	A line attached to the tack of the sail that pulls the sail down and flattens the luff of the sail.
Duct Tape	A heavy duty tape that works well around water.
Fiberglass	Most boats are made of fiberglass. It is a woven material impregnated with a liquid resin that is very stiff when the resin dries.
Fleet	For racing purposes, sailors are grouped in fleets according to experience. "A" fleet is usually the advanced group while "B" fleet is more intermediate.
Flying Junior	The FJ is a two-person boat used primarily by colleges on the west coast. It is also used in many junior regattas as a training boat.
Foot	The bottom edge of the sail between the tack and the clew.
Gooseneck	A hinged fitting on the mast that connects the boom to the mast.
Grommet	A metal ring in a sail that allows lines to be connected to the sail. Both the clew and the tack have grommets.
Gudgeon	A "U" shaped fitting on the back of a boat used to connect the rudder to the hull. Most sailing dinghies have at least two gudgeons.
Head of the Sail	The top of the sail. It is the part of the sail where the luff meets the leech.
Hiking Out	The action of hanging over the side of the boat in order to keep it from tipping over while sailing.
Hiking Boots	Boots used to help protect sailor's feet. They also provide extra support while hiking out.
Hiking Strap	A strap attached to the bottom of the boat under which a sailor places his/her feet in order to hold the sailor in the boat when he/she is hiking out.
Hull	The actual body or shell of the boat.
Inspection Port	A hole in the hull of the boat which allows the skipper to reach inside the hull to make repairs.
Jib	On boats with two or more sails the jib is the forward of the two sails.
Jibe (Gybe)	Turning the boat away from the wind so the stern passes through the wind.

Glossary of sailing terms (continued)

Laser	A one person training boat. Designed for larger junior sailors and adults.
Laser Radial	The same as a Laser with a smaller sail.
Leech	The outside edge of the sail is called the leech. The leech connects the head and the clew.
Leeward	The side of the boat away from the wind.
Life Jacket	All sailors must wear a US Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device. (PFD) This will keep them afloat in the water
Luff	The forward edge of the sail that connects the tack and the head of the sail.
Luffing	When the boat turns its bow toward the wind the sails are flapping back and forth, the sail is said to be luffing.
Mainsheet	The line that brings the sail in and lets it out.
Marine Tex	A putty that can be used to fix small cracks and holes in boats.
Mast	The vertical spar that supports the sail.
Mast Tube or Can	A tube in the bottom of the boat into which the mast fits.
One-Design	Classes of boats that have specific requirements for design of the boat, sails and equipment in order to keep the boats equal. Sabots and Lasers are one-design boats.
Outhaul	The line that pulls the sail to the end of the boom. The outhaul is connected to the clew of the sail.
Paddle	A device to help move the boat in case of emergency or lack of wind.
Pintles	The pins on the rudder that are inserted into the gudgeons on the stern of a boat to connect the rudder to the hull.
Port	Port refers to the left side of the boat. Port also refers to a tack the boat is on. If a boat is on port tack then the wind is coming over the left hand side of the boat. The color red also indicates port.
Ratchet Block	Most commonly found in lasers. Ratchet blocks are used for the mainsheet in Lasers and some Sabots. They aid in relieving pull on the mainsheet.

Glossary of sailing terms (continued)

Rudder	Blade on the transom that steer the boat.
Sabot	The Naples Sabot is a one person sailing dinghy. Sabots are 8 feet long and are a one-design class.
Sail	The part of the boat's equipment which is usually made from cloth and which is attached to the mast and is the primary reason for movement.
Sailing Instructions	At each regatta, sailing instructions are made available to all competitors. These instructions tell the sailors the schedule for the day, the starting order, and any special rules for the races.
Shackle	A "U" shaped hook containing a pin which is used to connect objects together.
Sheets	All the ropes or lines on boats which are used to control sails are referred to as sheets (i.e., mainsheet)
Silicon	A liquid or gel rubber substance which when hardener is used to create a waterproof seal.
Skippers Meeting	All regattas begin with a skippers meeting. This is a time where special instructions will be given to the competitors. Competitors will also be able to ask questions to clarify uncertain topics.
Starboard	Starboard refers to the right side of the boat. Starboard also refers to the tack the boat is on. If the wind is coming over the right side of the boat than it is on starboard tack. The color green also denotes starboard.
Tack	1. Changing of direction when sailing. If a boat's bow passes through the wind then it is said to be tacking. 2. The direction the boat is sailing (see starboard and port) 3. The lower front corner of the sail where the luff and the foot of the sail meet.
Thwart	The seat in the center of a sabot.
Tiller	The long, horizontal piece of wood that is connected to the top of the rudder, which changes the boats direction when moved from side to side. The tiller helps you steer the boat.
Tiller Extension	Hinged extension attached to the tiller that allows the skipper to steer the boat while sitting forward and hiking out. This is a must for all boats!
Transom	The very back edge of the boat is called the transom or the stern.
Traveler	A line or track running across the boat that the mainsheet is attached to.
Windward	Towards the wind.