

Keelboat Certification Process

Revised on October 13, 2005

The purpose of the GTSC Keelboat Certification Process is to provide a means by which students may receive the required knowledge to be able to safely and properly sail the GT keelboats. The following outlines the steps necessary in this process and the expectations of keel certified club members.

Requirements of keelboat Skipper candidates:

- Qualified club members must first complete the “Keelboat Skipper Application Form” submit it to the Vice Commodore. Prerequisites to completing this form include being a current member of the GTSC and a club qualified dinghy skipper.
- The requirements that are expected of a successful keelboat skipper candidate are as follows: [GTSC Keel Certification Requirements](#).

Process to Become Keelboat Skipper Certified:

- Complete the GTSC “Advanced Sailing” Written Exam
 - Multiple Choice Questions Regarding General Advanced Sailing Knowledge, topics are from the [GTSC Keel Certification Requirements](#).
 - Map of Lake Lanier: 7 reefs, Race marks A-F, X
 - Right of Way Questions
 - The Vice Commodore or an appointed member of the GTSC, approved by a majority of Executive Members, shall administer an optional “Advanced Sailing” Course and mandatory Written Exam to candidates no more than once per semester.
- Participate in Instruction time: It is suggested that a student complete one of the following for each kind of GTSC Keelboat before taking their on the water test.
 1. One Instruction Day.
 2. Time on the water which demonstrates basic proficiency with the boat, with approval of the keel skipper or instructor
- Complete the “On-the-Water” Practical Exam
 - With a keel instructor, given in a boat with spinnaker.
 - The following checklist provides the basis for an on the water keelboat test: [On the Water Test Checklist](#)
 - It is recommended that the majority of the crew for the test not counting the instructor be inexperienced.

Definitions of Keelboat Intermediate Skippers, Full Skippers, and Instructors:

- **Intermediate Skippers** shall consist of those keelboat skipper candidates who have passed the GTSC “Advanced Sailing” Written Exam, participated in at least one instruction day with a GTSC keelboat Skipper or Instructor, and received the approval of a majority of the Executive membership. Exec is expected to consult with the keelboat Skippers and Instructors most familiar with the candidate before granting Intermediate Skipper status.
- **Full Skippers** shall consist of those keelboat skipper candidates who have passed the GTSC “Advanced Sailing” Written Exam, participated in at least one instruction day with a GTSC keelboat Skipper or Instructor, and completed the “On-the-Water” Practical Exam. The Instructor who administered the Practical Exam is expected to provide Exec with a summary of the candidates qualification level at the next Executive meeting. Full Skipper status shall be granted to those candidates who have met the above criteria and received a majority approval vote by Exec.
- **Instructors** shall consist of those advanced keelboat skippers who have been nominated by the Vice Commodore and approved by a majority of Exec members.

Requirements of Keelboat Intermediate Skippers:

- At least one other Intermediate Skipper or Full Skipper must be on board to use a keelboat.
- Intermediate Skippers must submit a “Float Plan” to exec for approval prior to checking a boat out.
- Intermediate Skippers are expected to use this privilege to gain sailing knowledge and experience required to pass the Practical Exam within one year of gaining Intermediate status.
- An updated “Keelboat Skipper Application Form” must be provided to the Vice Commodore once per year and reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Requirements of Keelboat Full Skippers:

- An updated “Keelboat Skipper Application Form” must be provided to the Vice Commodore once per year and reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee shall be notified by the Full Skipper in charge when they are using a club keelboat also noting who is expected to be present. This notification may be submitted immediately after using a keelboat when advance notice is not possible.
- Each Full Skipper is required to give an open invitation sailing day or equivalent time to the promotion of the GTSC Keelboat program per semester.
- Each Full Skipper is expected to take an active role in the maintenance of the GTSC Keelboat fleet.
- Each keel skipper is expected to participate in GTSC events(NMBBQ, Instruction Days, or Regattas, etc)

- Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in an Executive vote to remove Full Skipper status from an individual either immediately or when they renew their “Keelboat Skipper Application Form”.

Requirements of Keelboat Instructors:

- Instructors are expected to follow the requirements of Full Skippers and provide instruction and evaluation to GTSC Keelboat Skipper Candidates and General Club Members.
- Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in an Executive vote to remove Instructor status from an individual either immediately or when they renew their “Keelboat Skipper Application Form”.