

GEAR BAGS

Every sailor should have a small gear bag that they bring to practices and regattas. These gear bags are essential for dealing with basic problems that occur from normal wear and tear. Larger problems will be handled by the coaches. As the sailor progresses into their racing career, their gear bag will grow as will their ability to fix/address problems on or off the water.

Equipment for Private Opti's and Club Opti's

WYC encourages private boat ownership for Opti RT sailors. If you are interested in purchasing a boat, please let us know and we can help match you with one.

Private Gear Suggestions:

SPARS

Spars - The basic Opti package often comes with silver spars.

Fairly quickly your sailor should move to the competitive Black & Gold spars.

Extra boom - Great for your practice sail. Switching from practice sail to race sail (used only for events to avoid unnecessary early wear) is a breeze as you don't have to re-tie sail ties!

Spar bag- You will need a travel bag to protect your spars and you sail. To give this bag rigid protection you should take this bag to the hardware store or landscape drainage supplies equipment store and buy a 10' long piece of 4" diameter **PVC THIN WALL (NOT SCHEDULE 40!) piping** without the perforation holes that will fit into the sleeve. You can ask the hardware store to cut the piping to 77 inches (Check McLaughlin's FAQ for this dimension) for you. Ideally try to ease the sharp edge of the ends with a file so that the sharp edge will not quickly cut through the cloth of your spar bag. Your sailor will roll the sail on the boom and place this in the PVC sleeve for protection.

Boat Gear to Check BEFORE you go sailing!!!

Main Sheet – Tapered mainsheets are easier to pull in.

Bailers!! – You will need 2 large bailers with stretchy tie lines.

These wear out or get lost so it's a good idea to have back up.

Wind indicator – These insert into the top of the mast. They're often lost so you should label them and have back up.

Mast ties – the thinner black ties hold the knot better. Buy a spool of the 1.5 MM spectra type line from an Opti dealer and save money. Get a spool of the larger size diameter for corner ties.

Tell tales- You should ask your coach where to put them on the sail.

Mast Clamp – This is VERY important to have. It locks your mast in place so that if you flip over you don't lose your mast or damage the mast collar. The best \$40 you will ever spend (damage caused by mast slipping out of its cup is \$500 plus and the boat will have lost a ton in value due to this type of damage.)

Bowline: spare bowline without knots.

CLOTHING

Spray gear – The spray jacket and farmer john spray pants need to be wind and water- proof. Gull and Gill 5 dot are 2 good brands that are available in Youth sizes. They should be roomy enough to be worn over a wet suit. Bigger is not a problem and will allow for some room to grow.

Wet suits – There are different thicknesses to chose from. This is a good layer for fall and winter sailing in the bay. Most kids protect their wet suits by wearing board shorts over top.

Sailing boots – these are a combination of neoprene and rubber soles to keep the feet warm. They all stink! They should always be rinsed off and dried if possible. Keep them in open/dry places like the garage with dryer sheets in them to mask the smell.

Layers – These come in different thicknesses for different weather. The microtech shirts are great as they provide UV protection. Rash guards provide more warmth, and come in different thicknesses. When the breeze builds, and sailors are wet from bow spray these layers will help keep their energy and body temp up. **DO NOT WEAR COTTON EVER!** It becomes wet easily, cold, and lowers the body temp.

Sunglasses – The reflection from the sails and the water is very damaging to the eyes so glasses that protect from UV rays is important. There are *floating* sunglasses available from Gill and Peepers (available at REI).

SAFETY

Life Jackets - The kids like the slimmer PDF's but they must be US Coast Guard approved Type III. Note some of the slimmer PDFs from Gill or Zhik look cool but DO NOT MEET US Coast Guard Type III that is required for USODA sanctioned events. It's nice if they have a small pocket for gloves, chap stick and zinc.

Brands other kids are wearing are: Extrasport, Stolquist, etc. More are available online than locally available.

Whistle – required for all USODA events. It's worth getting a few back ups for the sail bag. You need a lanyard to tie it to the PDF.

TOOL KIT

As sailors take more responsibility for rigging and adjusting their boats a tool kit is helpful. This should contain: Tape measure with a hook end for measuring mast rake (distance between top of mast and stern), sail tape and duct tape for repairs, spare mast collar, sharpie marker, spare sail ties and line, lighter for fusing the ends of the ties and a multi tool.