



Masthead Floats & Entrapment Information Advice

At the U Sail Bermuda Sailing Centre (USB), using mast head buoyance bags when customers are hiring a dinghy or on any dinghy training course significantly reduces the risk of inversion and entrapment. Therefore, aiding and providing the customer with safety equipment with the boat rental or training course. USB strongly recommends that when 1) sailing in any type of wind; 2) Sailing with a young and/or inexperienced crew; 3) When being taught by an instructor.

USB 420 Double Handers

For 420 double handers, we strongly recommend at all times while sailing to use a Masthead float (MHF) with a capacity of 40L which will be provided with the rental of the boat and training course. With the exception of:

- People who have been given permission by the duty senior instructor/chief instructor or principal
- USB staff qualified to standard of RYA Dinghy Instructor or above/ similar qualification
- People under instruction who are practicing inversion techniques

The persons listed above are still allowed to use the provided mast head float, if they wish to do so.

USB 29er Advanced Double Handers

A 29er advanced double hander must always while sailing use a Masthead float (MHF) with a capacity of 9L which will be provided with the course or rental of the boat. With the exception of:

- People who have been given permission by the duty senior instructor/chief instructor or principal
- People under instruction who are practicing inversion techniques

The persons referred to above are still allowed to use there provided mast head float, if they wish to do so.

Usage of Mast Head Floats

Making sure that the mast head floats are correctly attached to the top of the mainsail. They should be: a) In a suitable working condition and fully inflated; b) avoid getting it caught in the

shrouds; c) On the 420 boat check the mast head float does not become wrapped around the mast. Although, with the MHF on the top of mast, there is a slight performance decrease, however this has been tested to be minor.

Staying away from an Entrapment Situation

Customers and/sailors who rent the boats from USB must not act in a way to cause the boat to capsize and invert causing the helm/crew to be underneath an inverted boat. An example is not moving straight away to the dagger board or swimming out from by the boom.

Safety Knives and Trapeze Harnesses

All sailors who rent a boat or participate in a course from USB are strongly recommended to carry a safety knife, ideally with a sharp, serrated, one sided, round tip blade. If you are chartering a safety boat with your chartered boat for a racing coach only, all safety boats have a safety knife readily available for use. USB strongly recommends the Sailboat Sail Rescue Folding Knife which is great in the salty climate as it has a Teflon and stainless-steel blade. This can be purchased onsite from USB for \$55 by cash. However, anyone who sails a 29er will be loaned at least one knife per boat for the time which is included in the price.

All Sailors using the trapeze system on the 5 29ers should be using either their own quick release hook harness or one provided by USB. The sailors trapezing must be familiar with how to use it. Also, if you interfere with the release button and the hook is lost because of silly behavior, you will be charged for a hook, however if it was a real emergency you will not be charged. If you need assistance, please contact a member of the USB Team.

Entrapment Advice

It is critical that if an entrapment situation does occur, the helm or crew immediately get the person trapped out from under the boat by cutting through anything that will get him out from the boat immediately. Swimming under the boat to save the other crew member carries a risk to life.

There have been very few entrapment reports in the world. Most are with near- misses are caused by entrapment because of the trapeze harnesses with fixed hook fouling on the double hander shrouds.

USB has managed the risk of entrapment with this information policy by using mast head floats, integrating safety knives and using new quick release style harnesses.

For further questions, please contact the Sailing Principal Manager at manager@usailbda.com .