



Masthead Floats & Entrapment Information Advice

At the U Sail Watersports, 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. USail strongly recommends fitting masthead floatation 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 & Multi Hull

For 420 double handers, we strongly recommend fitting 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 Chief instructor or Principal
- USail 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 except when inverting.

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 Chief instructor or Principal
- People under instruction who are practicing inversion techniques

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

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 is minor.

Staying away from an Entrapment Situation

Customers and/sailors who rent the boats from USail 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 by the boom.

Safety Knives and Trapeze Harnesses

All sailors who rent a boat or participate in a course from USail are strongly recommended to carry a safety knife, ideally with a sharp, serrated, one sided, round tip blade. This applies to 29er sailing only. USail strongly recommends the Sailboat Sail Rescue Folding Knife which has a Teflon and stainless-steel blade. This can be purchased onsite from USail.

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 is trapping them immediately. Do not swim under the boat to save the other crew member as this carries a risk to life, contact the safety boat.

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

USail has managed the risk of entrapment by using mast head floats, integrating safety knives and using new quick release style harnesses.