

HOW TO RIG THE SUNFISH BOAT

Student first must learn how to tie (1) Figure-8 knot (2) Bowline knot (3) Cleat hitch- before rigging a Sunfish boat. In the student's textbook: US SAILING Learn Sailing Right! Information for tying these knots is located on page 51.

The Seven key parts to a sunfish sailboat are:

- (1) The HULL (the body of the boat)
- (2) MAINSAIL
- (3) RUDDER
- (4) DAGGERBOARD
- (5) MAST
- (6) MAIN SHEET
- (7) HALYARD

Steps 1 and 2 -Should be done before rigging the Sunfish Boat:

1. Identify from which direction the wind is coming from.
2. Point the bow (front) of the boat *into* the direction of the wind.
3. Check drain plugs.

4. LAYING OUT AND ATTACHING THE MAINSAIL

The **Mainsail** of a Sunfish has two booms called the **Upper Boom** and **Lower Boom**. The Lower Boom has a **Gooseneck**, which is a round metal ring approx. 4" to 5" in diameter that is attached to it. The **gooseneck** is attached to the Lower Boom near the **tack** end of the **foot** of the sail. Also, attached underneath the Lower Boom is the **MAIN SHEET** line (rope) that is threaded through two single bullet blocks. The Upper Boom has a **HALYARD** line tied to it, which is used to *hoist* (lift or raise) the Mainsail and to help attach it to the top of the Mast.

- (a) Lay the **Mainsail** on top of the **hull** left of the **centerline** of the boat.
- (b) If the sail is wrapped around the booms, adjust the sail so that it is folded between the Upper Boom and Lower Boom. Try not to let the sail fall into the water or in the sand while rearranging it.
- (c) Make sure the **Lower Boom** is on the bottom, so that the **gooseneck** of the Lower Boom is centered over the round **mast slot** in the hull, near the forward end of the boat.
- (d) The **Upper Boom** should always be lying on top of the **Bottom Boom** with the sail folded in between them.
- (e) Check to see if the end of the line attached to the **Daggerboard** already has a **Bowline knot** at the end of it. If it does, now would be a good time to center it over the mast slot so it can be attached to the **Mast**.
- (f) Uncoil the **Halyard** line that is tied to the upper **spar** (pole) of the Upper Boom.

- (g) Thread the unattached end of the **Halyard** line through the **fairlead** (eyelet) located on top of the **mast top cap**.
- (h) While still holding onto the **Halyard** line so it does not slide out of the **mast top cap**, insert the **Mast**, first through the **gooseneck** of the **Lower Boom**, then secondly, through the loop in the bowline knot of the **Daggerboard**, and then last, into the round **mast slot** in the forward hull. Be sure to wash off any sand on the bottom of the Mast before inserting it into the mast slot.
- (i) Raise (hoist) the Mainsail by pulling down on the Halyard line and at same time lifting up the gooseneck on the Mast. Keep the tension tight and try to raise and pull the Mainsail as close as you can get to the top of the mast. While still keeping the Halyard line tight, thread the end of the line through the **Halyard fairlead**, located near the Mast slot. Tie the line to the **Horn Cleat** using a **Cleat Hitch** knot. Coil the rest of the Halyard line and wedge the coils under line between Horn Cleat and the Mainsail Fairlead.
- (j) Uncoil the Main Sheet line, located under the Lower Boom.
- (k) Untie any knots at the ends of the Main sheet.
- (l) Thread the front mainsheet line through the **Mainsheet swivel block**. When you pull on the Mainsheet it should make a clicking sound.
- (m) Tie the end of the mainsheet towards the back of the lower boom to the rope or wire traveler line, using a bowline knot.

5. ATTACHING THE RUDDER

- (a) Check to make sure that the **Rudder Cheek** Assembly part of the rudder - is pushed up and in the proper position for attaching the rudder to the boat.
- (b) The Rudder is already attached to the Tiller. Lay the Tiller handle under the rope or wire Traveler line.
- (c) Line up the **Pintle Pin** of the Rudder Cheek with the **Gudgeon Bracket**, which is located on the **Transom** (The back end of the boat). Push up on the *bottom end* of the Pintle Pin to attach it to the Gudgeon Bracket.

*****Students should always have an US Sailing Instructor or an experienced Sailor check their rigging before leaving the beach or pier.**