

Sailing Gear

You don't need to start out purchasing sailing-specific gear!

For much of the year, gear that your sailor already has will work great. Old fleece jackets, warm hats, gardening gloves, etc. all work great as your sailor learns what is comfortable for them while sailing.

It is the responsibility of parents and sailors to make sure they are prepared for the given weather conditions at a practice or regatta. Coaches reserve the right to send home any sailor that comes unprepared for the weather.

Remember - there is no bad weather, only bad clothing! We still sail when it is windy, cold, and rainy.

ESSENTIALS

- Lifejacket
- Whistle
- Bailer
- Wetsuit*
- Booties
- Gloves



Make sure it has a pocket for whistle and snacks!



Whistles are an essential safety item



Bailers can be made from any container with a handle!



Most sailors wear neoprene booties in summer and winter



Gardening gloves work great!

Wetsuits*

Wetsuits are an essential sailing item for the PNW. Wetsuits protect sailors' core temperatures when wet - providing essential warmth in case of a capsize in chilly shoulder season conditions where water temperatures throughout the region drop.

OCS starts a wetsuit requirement part way through fall season when temperatures drop. The requirement ends sometime in spring season when the temperatures warm back up.

Wetsuits protect temperatures when wet, but sailors need more than a wetsuit to stay warm while sailing once the weather turns. See below for information on how to layer when sailing in cold weather!

Most sailors prefer a 2-3mm wetsuit. Sailors with clothing sensitivity / sensory challenges will likely tolerate a "farmer John" style wetsuit, which covers the core and legs but leaves the arms free and has a lower neckline.

Warm Weather Sailing Gear

Base Layers

- Swim trunks, shorts, or leggings
- Tech, swim, or sun shirt
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Gloves
- Wetsuit booties

Outer Layers

- Windbreaker / spray pants
- Lifejacket



Sailing Gear Stores

- West Coast Sailing (Portland)
- West Marine (nation wide)

Sailing Gear Brands

- Zhik
- Helly Hanson
- Gill
- Rooster
- Ronstan
- Musto

Cold Weather Sailing Gear

Base Layers

- Wetsuit
- Wool / neoprene socks
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Neoprene booties

Mid Layers

- Hoodless fleece jacket (perhaps multiple if you get cold easy!)
- Tech shirt or jacket

Outer Layers

- Spray top or rain jacket
- Spray pants or rain pants
- Lifejacket

