

## **ITHACA YACHT CLUB YOUTH SAILING**

### **New for Summer 2019**

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER :**

The Program Director and staff constantly monitor the weather throughout the day using radar and are vigilant of visual storm signs. On rainy days, if the wind is not too strong, classes will go sailing. In the case of foul weather due to fog, wind, or heavy rain and thunderstorms, the final decision on whether or not the students sail will be made by the Head Instructor. Wind speed (or gusts), wave height, and air temperature are critical factors in determining if sailing will take place. Classes on land will be held if it is decided that it is unsafe to go out on the water. Every effort will be made to avoid having kids on the water during thunderstorms. Kids will not go sailing if it appears that there is a storm approaching.

Occasionally, storms pop up and do not appear on radar. In these cases, all classes will be immediately cleared from the water. In some cases, putting boats on a tow line and dropping sails will allow the most control in the increased winds that occur with sudden storms.

A “**Clear the Water**” signal is established and understood by all instructors and sailors\*

Guidelines for responding to “clear the water” are as follows:

1. Head Instructor will issue “clear the water” notification via VHF; this notifies all coach boats, as well as on shore staff that boats are coming in quickly;
2. Sailors will be notified to drop their sails by their coaches;
3. Coach boats will attach sailboats to a tow line to get them in to safety; starting with the most inexperienced sailors;
4. If the waterfront is clear, lifeguards will assist boats into shore.

\* To be reviewed each Monday morning with new program

#### **CELL PHONE POLICY:**

- Cell phone use (social media, email, texting, games) is strictly forbidden during the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM.
- The Head Instructor will be permitted to use his/her phone for the purposes of communicating with parents, the Director of Youth Sailing, monitoring the weather at any time during the day, and for any emergency.
- Parents may text or call the Head Instructor during the day for emergency purposes only.
- VHF radios will be used to communicate between coach boats and to the lifeguard station.
- Participants found to be playing on their phones will be asked to forfeit them for the remainder of the day.