

RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE UNIL+EPFL NAUTICAL CENTER

Edition March 15, 2026

Preamble

¹ All users, whether occasional or members, certify that they :

- 1) Are in good health and able to swim for at least 15 minutes without stopping;
- 2) That they are capable of handling the chosen watercraft under current weather conditions;
- 3) That they will wear a wetsuit when required by the lifeguard and a life jacket at all times;
- 4) That they will assume the costs associated with damage to equipment and rescue operations caused by their own fault.

² Any person who has purchased a lesson, an hourly rental, or a membership is deemed to have read these rules and accepted their terms.

Article 1 **General provisions**

¹ Dinghies, catamarans, sailboards, wingsurf, and rowing or paddling craft may be rented by the hour by individuals who have completed courses at the water sports center or who can demonstrate skills deemed sufficient by the supervisor.

² By taking possession of a vessel, each person assumes full responsibility.

- He or she must be capable of handling the chosen craft under the prevailing wind conditions and the current state of the lake.
- He or she agrees to comply with the general navigation rules on Lake Geneva, those of the Nautical Center, and the instructions of the supervisors.
- He or she agree to assume the costs and civil and property liability for any damage, accident, or rescue operation caused by their fault.

³ The supervisor may require a preliminary skills test in case of doubt. Rental will be refused to anyone deemed unfit to navigate.

⁴ Rentals are not available to minors unaccompanied by an adult. Minors may only paddle in a two-person kayak shared with one or two adults.

⁵ Users must check in with a lifeguard before taking any equipment. They are required to remain within the Nautical Center’s navigation perimeter and must at all times be able to return to shore under their own power.

⁶ When wind conditions warrant it, supervisors take all measures they deem necessary to ensure the safety of swimmers and protect the equipment. (See below.)

Article 2 Rental

¹ The rental desk is open Monday through Friday from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Users must check in with a staff member before picking up any equipment.

A) Sailing boats Time slots: 1h45	B) Rowing or paddling boats Time slots: 1h
<p>Monday to Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12h00 – 13h45 • 14h00 – 15h45 • 16h00 – 17h45 • 18h00 – 19h45 	<p>Monday to Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12h15 – 13h15 • 13h30 – 14h30 • 16h00 – 17h00 • 17h15 – 18h15 • 18h30 – 19h30
<p>Saturday & Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10h00 – 11h45 • 12h00 – 13h45 • 14h00 – 15h45 • 16h00 – 17h45 	<p>Saturday & Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10h15 – 11h15 • 11h30 – 12h30 • 12h45 – 13h45 • 14h00 – 15h00 • 15h15 – 16h15 • 16h30 – 17h30

² General rules :

- You may not rent equipment for two consecutive time slots, nor may you book two time slots that overlap;
- Starting August 31, all time slots will begin 15 minutes earlier. Each subsequent week, the start time will be moved up by an additional 15 minutes.

³ Number of passengers allowed per boat

1 person	2 people	2 à 3 people (min. 2, max. 3)
Single-person dinghie (Laser, ILCA, RS Aero) Windsurfing/Wing SUP monoplace Rowing Single-person kayak	Two-person kayak Two-person SUP	Laser 2000 Hobie Pacific Catamaran RS16 Catamaran

Article 3 Equipment — rules and requirements

¹ When windsurfing, wing surfing, sailing a dinghy, or sailing a catamaran, wearing a wetsuit is recommended, even in summer.

² A wetsuit may be required at any time by supervisors.

³ A life jacket is mandatory on all watercraft, without exception.

⁴ For pump foil lessons, wearing a helmet is mandatory.

⁵ Wearing shoes is strongly recommended (not provided by the Water Sports Centre).

⁶ The Nautical Center provides:

- Wetsuits
- Harnais
- Life jackets

Article 4 Use and maintenance of equipment

¹ After each outing, all equipment and personal gear must be thoroughly rinsed and put away.

¹ Any damage observed or caused must be reported immediately to the supervisor.

Article 5 Sanctions

¹ Failure to comply with these rules may result in a temporary or permanent ban from boating in Dorigny (depending on the severity of the offense).

² In the event of exclusion, partial-use memberships or rentals will not be refunded.

Article 6 Sailing area

¹ The sailing area of the Unil+EPFL Nautical Center is a zone that can be monitored visually from Dorigny. It is bounded as follows:

- To the east: Lausanne Rowing Center;
- To the west: St. Sulpice landing stage;
- To the south: 1 km from the shore.

This perimeter is reduced when wind conditions require it.

Landmarks:

- South: directly opposite the Nautical Center, 1 km from the shore;
- East: in line with the large C-shaped weathervane at the Port d'Ouchy;
- West: at the St-Sulpice landing stage.
- For rowing and paddling vessels, the southern boundary is 300 m from the shore.

Article 7 Safety measures

¹ When weather conditions require it, supervisors take appropriate measures to ensure that users can navigate safely and to protect the equipment.

In general:

- Assessing users' abilities and restricting access to only those whose skills are deemed sufficient;
- Limiting the number and type of boats on the water at any one time, and reducing sail area;
- Modifying or restricting the navigation area;
- Temporarily suspending boat hire.

With "Bise"

As soon as the Nautical Center's anemometer indicates an average wind speed of force 5 Bft (17–21 knots):

- Hobie Pacific catamarans, Laser 2000s, and beginner boards are not permitted on the water.
- On other craft, supervisors may require that the sail be reduced (taking in the sail, using a storm sail, etc.).

As soon as the Nautical Center's anemometer indicates an average wind speed of 6 Bft (22–27 knots):

- Only experienced windsurfers who have mastered at least gybing, water starting, and upwind sailing on a finless board with a volume of less than 140 liters may sail.
- The sailing area is restricted to 500 m to the south.

With "Sud-Ouest"

As soon as the Nautical Center's anemometer indicates an average wind speed of force 5 Bft (17–21 knots):

- Hobie Pacific catamarans, Laser 2000s, and beginner windsurfing boards are not allowed out on the water.
- For other vessels, supervisors may require that the sail be reduced (taking in the sail, using a storm sail, etc.).

As soon as the Windsurfing Center's anemometer indicates an average wind speed of 6 Bft (22–27 knots): only experienced windsurfers (see above) are permitted to go out.

Strong wind warning – flashing orange lights (40 flashes per minute) :

- During a strong wind warning, all individuals using rental equipment must immediately return to shore to check with the supervisors regarding the situation;
- Users are kept informed of changing conditions. Staff adjust sailing conditions and the organization of lessons and rentals to the weather situation (limiting the area or duration of outings, reducing the number of boats, etc.).

Storm warning – flashing orange lights (90 flashes per minute):

- During a storm warning, everyone on the water must return to shore immediately. No vessels are to go out until the warning is lifted, and classes and rentals are postponed or delayed.
- The reference lights for Dorigny are those in the “Grand Lac” zone. The nearest signals are located at the St-Sulpice landing (to the west) and at the port of Vidé (to the east).

A few rules for boating on Swiss lakes

Sailing boats must give way to:

- Passenger vessels, which have right of way, indicated by a green ball and a green light at night;
- Cargo vessels;
- Police and rescue vessels on duty: flashing blue lights and sirens activated;
- Commercial fishing vessels, indicated by a yellow ball or disc.

Windsurfers, wings and kitesurfers must give way to all other vessels.

Sailing boats have right of way over:

- Motorboats, except for those listed above;
- Rowing boats and paddle craft.

When two sailing vessels approach each other in such a way that there is a risk of collision:

- The vessel on the port tack shall give way to the vessel on the starboard tack;
- The windward vessel shall keep clear of the course of the leeward vessel;
- The overtaking vessel shall keep clear of the course of the vessel being overtaken;
- Commercial fishing vessels and trolling vessels (white ball or disc) must pass each other at a distance of at least 200 metres;
- All vessels must keep a distance of at least 50 metres from vessels or diving sites marked by the blue and white A flag;
- Windsurfing, wing surfing or kitesurfing is permitted only during daylight hours in clear weather. From 8.00 am at the earliest until 9.00 pm at the latest;
- All boaters are obliged to provide assistance, to the best of their ability, to a person in distress or at least to alert the emergency services. (Art. 12 of the Federal Ordinance on Navigation in Swiss Waters).

Article 8 Rights and obligations of memberships

¹ Memberships at the Nautical Center, which include access to lessons and equipment hire, are available to anyone with a valid student card or Sport Santé access card. Access is available for non-members at an additional cost.

² Unused or partially used memberships are non-refundable, even in the event of sailing restrictions due to adverse weather conditions or the holder's incapacity.

³ Refunds can only be granted in the following circumstances: force majeure beyond the holder's control, or an inability to use the membership for two months or more following an accident or illness, as certified by a medical certificate. In such cases, an administration fee will be charged. (See the General Terms and Conditions of Access and Participation in the Service Sport Santé Unil+EPFL at www.sportsanteunilepfl.ch).

Article 9 Course registration

¹ You can register online using an access code provided when you purchase your membership. We do not accept registrations by telephone. You may cancel a booking up to 24 hours before the class.

² Your ability to book classes will be suspended until further notice following two absences without 24 hours' prior notice.

Article 10 Access & Changing rooms

¹ Motor vehicles, including two-wheeled vehicles, are prohibited on Allée de Dorigny and in the vicinity of the grounds.

² The main changing room is located approximately 100 metres away, in the Outdoor changing room building. A limited number of lockers are also available directly at the Nautical Center.

³ The Service Sport Santé Unil+EPFL accepts no liability for theft, loss or damage to any personal belongings (computers, jewellery, bicycles, helmets, etc.) left at the Nautical Center, in the changing rooms or in the surrounding area.

To ensure that everyone can make the most of the lake and the facilities provided, we rely on the fair play and good manners of our users.

Thank you very much!