



# Bluewater Sailing

Est. 1978, 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary !!  
**A Division of Compass Rose, Inc.**

**SAFETY! FUN!! LEARN!!! TM**

Sailing, Power & Navigation Instruction  
Yacht Management and Delivery  
Boat Rentals & Yacht Charters  
Group / Private Lessons

Our Professional Instructors Average More than 20 Years Experience On The Water  
First American Sailing Assn. & International Yachtmaster Certification Facility in U.S.

## **BAD WEATHER POLICY**

11/04

### **General Discussion**

Bluewater Sailing's primary interest is in the safety of our customers. We don't want students, bareboat renters or skippered charterers to even think about going out on the water when the conditions are unsafe.

However, high / low temperatures or low winds, by themselves, are not unsafe. Wind strength, wave height, rain and fog conditions must also be evaluated based on an individual's level of experience, the size of the boat as well as their sailing destination (within Marina del Rey vs. Santa Monica vs. Catalina Island).

We also want our customers, friends and guests to enjoy their Southern California Sailing. The good news is that the daytime conditions for 90%+ of the time are easily predicted as they remain the same throughout the year as follows:

Winds from the West at 10 - 15 knots with modest waves and swells from the West.

Bluewater Sailing closely monitors the weather. However, we can not accurately predict or be responsible for the weather conditions or the results of such conditions.

If you are uncertain about the weather, please give us a call to discuss or for the most up to date maritime weather information from the National Weather Service, you can log onto: [www.nwsla.noaa.gov/marine](http://www.nwsla.noaa.gov/marine) which can also be reached through links on [www.bluewatersailing.com](http://www.bluewatersailing.com).

Bluewater Sailing would be happy to discuss the relevant weather conditions and forecast with a student or charterer. However, the final decision to modify, delay, postpone, reschedule, shorten or cancel a particular activity will be made by Bluewater personnel, not the student or charter individual. Bluewater recognizes that our customers have a strong desire to sail only in conditions which are safe in relationship to their skill level. We also recognize that our customers wish to have a pleasant and educational experience out on the water which will encourage them to return to Bluewater in the future. Customers must trust and rely on Bluewater's experience in weather matters to make a decision which properly evaluates the projected weather conditions to primarily assure safety but also taking issues of comfort into consideration.

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**"Gale Warnings"** Bluewater Sailing boats are not allowed off the docks at any time under any properly issued Gale Warnings.

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**Weather Variations \*\***

- Please understand that there can be enormous variability in weather across Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties. It might be raining, foggy or breezy at your home or work, yet excellent weather in Marina del Rey. In addition, weather conditions within Marina del Rey or along the coast may be substantially different than offshore in Santa Monica Bay.
- Actual weather outside a home or office window is not necessarily a good indicator of the Marine Weather on or near the water.
- Weather forecasts via television, commercial radio and especially newspaper are notoriously unreliable. They must be supplemented via real time indicators from the National Weather Service (NWS) as well as relying on Bluewater personnel who have local weather knowledge.

**“Small Craft Warnings” (SCW)**

SCW are determined by the National Weather Service (NWS). These are posted on the NWS web site (reachable through [www.bluewatersailing.com](http://www.bluewatersailing.com), broadcast via WX radio channels and may also be posted at the Marina del Rey Sheriff-s station ( one orange, triangular flag )

Unfortunately, there are many times when:

- a) dangerous conditions exist but SCW have not yet been posted or
- b) SCW have been posted well in advance or are still posted long after the conditions have mitigated and the weather is safe

(See individual sections for a more extensive discussion of SCW effect on potential charters or classes.)

**Bareboat Charters** (see also Weather Variations\*)

- If, in the opinion of Bluewater, the weather conditions are unsafe or if there is unpleasant rain, then Bluewater reserves the right to make the decision to delay, postpone, shorten or cancel a Bareboat Charter. The decision will be made in consultation with the individual chartering the boat but the final decision is the sole responsibility of Bluewater Sailing.
- Cool weather, overcast, light winds or light, misty rain are not necessarily unsafe weather condition.
- Bareboat Charters are not allowed off the docks or must return to the harbor if a properly issued SCW is in effect.
- If a charter must be adjusted, then Bluewater will offer a full or partial credit for future activity or a refund

**Skipped Charters** (see also Weather Variations\*)

- If, in the opinion of Bluewater, the weather conditions are unsafe or if there is unpleasant rain, then Bluewater reserves the right to make the decision to delay, postpone, shorten or cancel a Skipped Charter. The decision will be made in consultation with the individual chartering the boat but the final decision is the sole responsibility of Bluewater Sailing.
- Cool weather, overcast, light winds or light, misty rain are not necessarily unsafe weather conditions
- Skipped Charters may or may not be conducted if a properly issued SCW is in effect. This decision will be made by Bluewater Staff
- If a charter must be adjusted, then Bluewater will offer a full or partial credit for future activity or a refund

**Classes** (see also Weather Variations\*)

- For group or private lessons on Bluewater boats, we never cancel classes. If the weather is unsafe or too rainy, then the instructor will continue with classroom teaching materials, knot tying, etc. in order to free up additional sailing time on subsequent days of the course.
- For private lessons on customer's boat, we will work with the owner to determine the best course of action.

Rain by itself is not necessarily cause to modify a class schedule. In fact, given layered clothing and proper foul weather gear which should keep you warm and dry, rain can be quite beneficial for training purposes. It provides the opportunity to gain experience in such conditions. It also generally clears out the Marina thereby providing a larger area to conduct sail training maneuvers as well as reduced traffic to impede such training.

**Classes: Small Craft Warnings (SCW)**

Bluewater does not and will not sail in dangerous or hazardous conditions. There are conditions which are dangerous to even the most experienced sailor; such as high winds, seas, fog, rain or a combination of different forces creating unusual circumstances.

However, depending on the class and the level of student experience, it may be a proper course of action to take advantage of the opportunities of teaching in various weather conditions. Bluewater may try to take advantage of the varied weather conditions for carefully monitored training purposes. It may be beneficial to provide students with expert, professional training under weather situations that could be potentially hazardous if the students were not properly trained.

Bluewater staff will evaluate the weather conditions each day to determine current weather and possible changes that might occur along with potential weather related problems that might occur.

If SCW are posted, the following additional precautions will be implemented:

- a) All instruction for classes will be performed only inside Marina del Rey
- b) All Instructors and Students will wear PFD's