



2014 ISAF Development Symposium

Cape Town, South Africa



Increasing Participation by Linking Schools to Sailing Venues

Rob Clark
ISAF Nominated Expert



Currently work in a role at a group of sailing schools welcoming 10,000 students per year visiting venues as part of their school programmes – both in and out of school term time

- **Majority of students have little or no prior sailing experience**
- **Group Leaders (Teachers) who organise trips value ‘experience’ beyond specific activity goals**
- **Visits are authorised by local education authority due to satisfying of ‘learning objectives’**



Increasing Participation by Linking Schools to Sailing Venues



Why Link a sailing venue to schools:-

- Attract a new generation of sailors – some will want to do more
- Increase the scope of sailing – change perceptions of our sport & reach beyond current catchment
- Attract participants outside the traditional peak periods & holidays
- Make sailing part of the curriculum

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Conversely....

Why should a school link to a sailing venue:-

- Open students to new experiences
- Working beyond the classroom
- Bring learning and core subjects to the real world
- Foster core values and understanding within students

The challenge will come in justifying these links:-

“It is often necessary for the time devoted to outdoor pursuits to be rigorously justified in curricular terms. Consequently there is a renewed need for supporting material to assist teachers and others who work in this area.”



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“Sailing and life afloat can provide challenging and enjoyable activities that help young people learn and grow throughout their school years.”

These experiences can stretch far beyond the traditional scope of our sport....



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Sailing Is:-

- Physical Education – Sporting development
- Psychology – Handling Pressure, Strategic Considerations
- Physics – fundamentals of how sailing works
- Mathematics – VMG...
- Geography – how currents and wind formation are effected by headlands, shallows – how to identify them
- Environmental Awareness and Considerations – harnessing the natural environment
- Teamwork
- Overcoming Challenges
- Risk Awareness
- Self Confidence
- Self Evaluation
- Inspiration
- Expanding Horizons – seeing a world and opportunities beyond current perceptions
- A FUN WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY THAT WE WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHERS....



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Linking Sailing to the Curriculum through the school years:-

Age 5-7 years

Sailing can tie in with the curriculum via literacy, geography, the environment, travel, science, general physical education and fitness.

Age 7-11 years

- Students are encouraged to partake in outdoor and adventurous activities.
- Watersports allow students to learn in unfamiliar and challenging environments
- Use trial and error to solve problems and work alongside others to solve these problems
- Class projects relating to science and literacy



Linking Sailing to the Curriculum through the school years:-

Age 11-14 years

- Students are encouraged to take part in outdoor and adventurous activities.
- They need to learn to be able to read the weather/tides and be able make decisions about safety
- meet many new and challenging situations whilst on the water

Age 14-16 years

- Students are often encouraged to develop skills in outdoor activities, sailing is a good example.
- Overcome challenges in unfamiliar environments
- The sailing Club / Venue and its benefits can also relate to Travel and Tourism subjects
- School trips information



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What do we need to do to help encourage schools to use sailing venues:-

- **Promote** ideas to help introduce young people to activities afloat - to learn from and discover the pleasures of sailing
- **Develop** practical resources for teachers and trainers - programmes, worksheets and planning checklists – links to curriculum stages
- **Introduce** ideas to develop and extend sailing programmes to reach new horizons
- **Produce** relevant information, publications and other resources through sailing centres and regional or national organisations
- **Reassure** with guidance on health and safety practices
- **Lead** sporting authorities to recognise sailing as a national sport



Increasing Participation by Linking Schools to Sailing Venues

Workshop: 10 minutes

1. In breakaway groups please discuss ideas or incentives for a programme to attract school age students to sailing venues and share any key barriers / challenges that you may have faced – e.g. recognition of sailing as a sport, transport to venues, funding, lack of parental support to name a few.



2. Develop a 5 point ‘strategic’ plan that you believe will prove fundamental to the success of such a programme.

Food for thought....

- It is our responsibility as a sport to encourage youth sailors to become involved at all levels.
- Schools are a major opportunity to introduce sailing to a wider audience.
- Students will not come to us unless we provide the platform.
- We need to appeal as a worthwhile activity beyond the traditional perception of sailing.



Questions?



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