



**Training and Examination Guidelines of the VDWS e.V.  
Valid for the issuing of competency certificates**

**Discipline: Catamaran Sailing**

**Part: A**

**Catamaran Sailing Basic Certificate  
International Catamaran Sailing Basic Licence**

*Date: 1. January 1992*

**Part: B**

**Catamaran Sailing Basic Certificate Sailing “Junior”  
International Catamaran Sailing Basic Licence “Junior”**

*Date: 1. January 1998*

*Modification from 15.4.2014*

## **Part A**

### **Catamaran Sailing -Basic Certificate Catamaran Sailing International Basic Licence**

#### **§ 1 Catamaran Sailing -Basic Certificate**

The Verband Deutscher Wassersport Schulen e.V. (VDWS) issues catamaran basic certificates through its network of affiliated and certified windsurfing schools. The basic certificate serves as a proof of competence, that the holder can sail a beach sport catamaran competently. All VDWS certified schools are obliged, to operate in line with the most up to date version of rules which apply for the issuing of basic certificates.

#### **§ 2 Validity**

The basic certificate is proof of competency; it certifies that specific knowledge and skill have been attained in internationally used standard system. Important for the school location is that locality is suitable for the foreseen type of catamaran sailing activities. Most important is that sailing activities at the location are not restricted by local or environmental regulations.

#### **§ 3 Duration of Training**

The Basic Certificate training foresees, depending on the level of experience; about 15 hours of tuition in both theory and practical exercises. After this the trainees should have at least another 15 hours of catamaran sailing practice under the supervision of the school. This is needed to become sufficient competent in handling the catamaran.

#### **§ 4 Eligibility**

Candidates for the Catamaran Basic Licence exam must be at least 14 years old.

#### **§ 5 Examiner**

The VDWS- Trainings and Examination Licence allow a recognised VDWS-affiliated school to run catamaran sailing courses and examinations for the catamaran sailing basic certificate. The school manager is responsible to appoint an examiner. The examiner decides on the time frame and location for the exams but he or she must give adequate advance notice. The examiner is also responsible that the exams are run in an orderly way.

#### **§ 6 Examination Procedure**

The Catamaran Sailing Basic Certificate requires that both a practical and a theoretical exam are done. Some parts of the practical exam can be examined in conjunction with the tuition for example the knot making tests.

##### ***Practical Exam***

The practical exam should be carried out using a suitable catamaran in wind conditions up to Beaufort force 3. The practical exam is deemed as passed when the exercises and manoeuvres are done in a safe, sure and decisive way. The ability of the examinee to return safety to the starting point in normal wind and wave condition is considered to part of the exam.

##### ***Theoretical Exam***

The theoretical exam requires that an exam paper is filled out. The possible total points allocated and the minimum points required to pass should be indicated on the examination paper. If the result is on the lower borderline an addition oral exam based on similar question from a different exam paper can decide the outcome. A repeat of the exam is possible after an appropriate learning period.

## **§ 7 Examination Content**

### ***Practical Exam***

Rigging-up and de-rigging the cat, departing and returning from the shore , steering and sailing on different points of the wind with the sail set properly, tacking at least 300 m to windward, going about, gybeing, sailing commands, stop by shooting up head to wind and heaving-to, capsizing and re-righting, retrieving a buoy and reactions in an incident situation.

### ***Theory Exam***

Introduction to boats and boating equipment, sailing theory sail position relative to the wind and the resulting forces generated, general legal aspects, basic right of way regulation and further obligations to give way or keep clear, good boating conduct, special local regulations, weather, respect for nature and the environment, knots making proficiency and the use of each knot, what to do in cases of emergency and deteriorating weather condition, preventive safety measures and safety equipment.

## **§ 8 Examination Results**

The written record of the exam results showing the individual marks and bearing the signature of the examiner must be made. The result should be indicated by “passed” or “failed”. A repeat of an exam is allowed theory or practical exam, when one exam part is failed. All records of exam results must be filed and stored by the watersports school.

## **§ 9 Issuing of Basic Certificates**

The examining watersports school certifies the candidate has successfully completed the exams. This school is responsible for issuing the “Catamaran Basic Certificate” to the trainee. Only the appropriate VDWS pre-printed forms are to be used when issuing the Basic Certificates. The catamaran basic certificate must be signed by the examiner and be stamped with the official school stamp of the school manager.

## **§ 10 Participation of VDWS during exams**

The VDWS has the right to oversee the exam procedures at anytime. e.g. VDWS can be represented by a committee member, a Learnteam member or an appointed representative. Such participation does not require any advance notice.

## **§ 11 Replacement Issues**

Lost Basic licence will be replaced by the VDWS. The new licence must be marked as a “Replacement Issue” it must be confirmed with an appropriate signature and date.

## **§ 12 Enactments**

These Basic Certificate sailing guidelines take effect with their publication.

*Weilheim 1. Jan 1994*

*Modified at 15.4.2014*

## **Part B**

### **International Basic Licence Sailing “Junior”**

Youngsters can do the International Catamaran Sailing Basic Licence “Junior” the same training and exam guidelines of the VDWS.e.V as in Part 1 will apply, when no later changes are made to be guidelines below.

#### **B § 2 Validity**

The Catamaran Basic Licence Junior applies only for a restricted area; this location must be overseen by a competent supervisor. The supervisor takes on the responsibility for judgement and correctness of information concerning the location, weather assessment, ship-traffic, restriction, and the general suitability and sea worthiness of the catamarans and equipment used.

#### **B § 4 Eligibility The following pre-requisites apply before the Basic Licence Junior can be issued.**

- a) The candidate for the exam must be at least 7 years old and should not yet have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- b) Permission has been given by a parent or a legal guardian.
- c) German youth swimming award (Bronze) must be presented; this is equivalent to 15 min continuous swimming.

The Basic Licence Junior becomes invalid with the 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. As of the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday the Basic Licence Junior can be upgraded to an adult licence by successfully completing the adult theory exam.

#### **B§ 7 Exam Content Theory Exam**

Sailing theory , sail position relative to the wind and the resulting forces generated, basic legal aspects, local regulations, responsibility for nature and the environment, proficiency in knot making and the uses for each knot, reaction in emergency situations and deteriorating weather, precautionary safety measures and safety equipment.

*Weilheim 1.January 1998*

*Modified at 15.4.2014*