



**Training and examination guidelines VDWS e.V.  
regarding the awarding of qualification certificates**

**Sport: Dinghy and Catamaran Sailing**

**Part A**

**Jollen- und Catamaran Grundschein  
International Basic Licence Sailing Dinghy and Catamaran**

**Part B**

**Segel-Grundschein "Kids"  
International Basic Licence Sailing "Kids"**

**Part C**

**Segel-Grundschein „Youngster“  
International Basic Licence Sailing “Youngster”**

*1st January 1994*

*With amendments dated 15.4.2014 and 01/03/2021*

## **Part A**

### **Segel-Grundschein Jolle und Catamaran International Basic Licence Dinghy Sailing - Catamaran Sailing**

#### **§ 1 Basic Licence Sailing**

The Association of German Water Sports Schools (VDWS) issues basic sailing licences through its affiliated and recognised sailing schools. These licences represent a proof of competence for using dinghies, small keel boats or catamarans. All VDWS recognized water sports schools must ensure they follow the latest version of the basic licence regulations any time.

#### **§ 2 Scope**

The basic licence is an international certificate of competence, attesting acquired skills and knowledge. With regard to the selection of the area, it must be ensured that it is suitable for sailing in terms of location and characteristics, in particular the local and legal framework conditions and restrictions must be observed.

#### **§ 3 Duration of Training**

Depending on previous knowledge, the training for the basic sailing licence comprises 15 to 20 lessons in theory and practice. Subsequently, trainees should sail at least another 15 hours under a school's supervision, to become acquainted with the safe handling of the boat.

#### **§ 4 Admission**

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

#### **§ 5 Examination Board**

The VDWS training and examination licence represents the qualification for running sailing courses and conducting dinghy or catamaran basic licence exams at a recognized VDWS memberschool. The school manager names an examiner for the conduct of exams. The examiner fixes time and location of the exam and communicates them sufficiently in advance. He/she is responsible for the correct implementation.

#### **§ 6 Examination Procedure**

The basic licence dinghy or catamaran requires a practical and a theory exam. Parts of the practical exam (e.g. knots) can be conducted during the course.

#### **Practical Examination**

The practical exam for the dinghy basic licence should be carried out using a suitable dinghy or small keel boat, for the catamaran basic licence it should take place on a suitable catamaran in wind conditions up to wind force 3. The candidate passes the practical examination when he/she performs the required exercises and manoeuvres safely, clearly and with determination. Getting back to the starting point under normal wind and wave conditions is also part of the examination.

#### **Theory Examination**

For the theory exam the candidate has to fill in a questionnaire. The possible total and minimum score are indicated on the questionnaire. If the result is close to the minimum threshold, the examiner can decide to conduct an oral exam, based on similar questions from the other questionnaires. The exam can be repeated after an appropriate length of time.

## **§ 7 Examination Content**

### **§ 7.1 Dinghy and small keel boats**

#### **Practical Examination**

Setting and furling the sails, leaving and mooring, making fast to a buoy, steering and sailing on different points of sailing with the sails set properly, tacking at least 300 m to windward, going about, sailing commands, stop by shooting up head to wind and heaving-to, buoy overboard, behaviour in particular situations.

#### **Theory Examination**

Material and equipment, sailing theory, especially sail position and wind and sail forces, general legal aspects, important police regulations, special local regulations, weather aspects, respect for nature and the environment, main knots and their respective use, what to do in cases of emergency and deteriorating weather conditions, preventive safety measures and safety equipment.

### **§ 7.2 Catamaran**

#### **Practical Examination**

Setting and furling the sails, leaving and mooring, steering and sailing on different points of sailing with the sails set properly, tacking at least 300 m to windward, going about, sailing commands, stop by shooting up head to wind and heaving-to, capsizing and righting, buoy overboard, behaviour in particular situations.

#### **Theory Examination**

Material and equipment, sailing theory, especially sail position and wind and sail forces, general legal aspects, important police regulations, special local regulations, weather aspects, respect for nature and the environment, main knots and their respective use, what to do in cases of emergency and deteriorating weather conditions, preventive safety measures and safety equipment.

## **§ 8 Examination Result**

The examiner shall establish and sign the record of the result of the examination. The exam is either "passed" or "failed". Both, theory and practice exam can be repeated. The water sports school will keep the examination papers.

## **§ 9 Awarding of the Basic Licence**

The water sports school where the sailing licence candidate has successfully passed the examination is responsible for issuing the basic licence. Only the association's standardised VDWS basic licence templates may be used for issuing the licence. The manager of the water sports school shall stamp the sailing basic licence with the school stamp.

## **§ 10 Participation of VDWS in Examination**

VDWS is entitled to participate in the exams by means of members of the Board or the Team of Trainers. No prior registration needed.

## **§ 11 Replacement Licence**

In case of replacement of lost basic licences by VDWS, the comment "replacement licence" shall be added to the new basic licence and confirmed with signature and date.

## **§ 12 Coming into Force**

The VDWS regulation for the basic licence sailing comes into force on the day of its publication.

## **Part B**

### **Segel-Grundschein "Kids" International Basic Licence Sailing "Kids"**

Young candidates have the possibility to take the exam for the basic licence sailing "kids". The VDWS e.V. training and examination guidelines **Part A** apply, unless otherwise specified below.

#### **Regarding § 2 Scope**

The basic licence sailing "kids" applies to sailors in selected, limited areas under professional supervision. The supervising persons are in particular responsible for assessing the conditions of area and weather, restrictions under navigation law as well as the suitability, condition and equipment of the dinghy in accordance with the rules of nautical practice.

#### **Regarding § 4 Admission**

The following conditions must be fulfilled for the sailing basic licence "kids":

The examination can be taken from the age of seven until the age of 12.

- b) Consent of the legal representatives.
- c) German youth swimming badge in bronze or a swimming certificate of the respective country or 15 minutes swimming in deep water.

The basic licence sailing "kids" becomes invalid at the age of 12. As from the age of 12 the basic licence sailing "kids" can be re-registered as adult licence by successfully completing the adult theory exam.

#### **Regarding § 7 Examination Content**

##### **Practical Examination**

Setting and furling the sails, leaving and mooring, making fast to a buoy, steering, getting windward, tack, jibe, stopping by shooting up head to wind, heaving-to, behaviour in particular situations.

##### **Theory Examination**

Material and equipment, sailing theory, legal aspects, weather aspects, behaviour in nature and environment, knots, what to do in cases of emergency and deteriorating weather conditions, preventive safety measures and safety equipment.

## **Part C**

### **Segel-Grundschein „Youngster “ International Basic Licence Sailing “Youngster”**

Teenagers from 11 to 14 years have the possibility to take the exam for the basic licence sailing “youngster” on dinghies, small keel boats or catamarans. The VDWS e.V. training and examination guidelines **Part A** apply, unless otherwise specified below.

#### **Regarding § 2 Scope**

The basic licence sailing “youngster” applies to sailors in selected, limited areas under professional supervision. The supervising persons are in particular responsible for assessing the conditions of area and weather, restrictions under navigation law as well as the suitability, condition and equipment of the dinghy in accordance with the rules of nautical practice.

#### **Regarding § 4 Admission**

The following conditions must be fulfilled for the basic licence sailing “youngster”:

- a) The exam can be taken as from 11 and until the age of 14.
- b) Consent of the legal representatives.
- c) German swimming badge in bronze or a swimming certificate of the respective country or 15 minutes swimming in deep water.

The basic licence sailing “youngster” becomes invalid with the age of 18. By successfully passing the "adult" basic licence theory exam, the youngster dinghy licence can be re-registered as adult dinghy basic licence, and the youngster catamaran basic licence can be re-registered as adult catamaran basic licence.