**WHICH COURSE?**

**Taste of Sailing**

The aim of this course is to give a positive introduction to the thrill of sailing. The course runs from 10.00 to 15.00 for one week and is ideally suited for 6 – 8 year olds. *The course fee includes shared use of a Pico dinghy for the duration of the course.*

**Experience required:** No previous experience required

Start Sailing

This course will introduce you to the basic boat handling techniques and background knowledge necessary to get started in sailing. This course runs from 9.30 to 5.00 over 2 weeks and is suitable for children who are 8 years old and over.

**Experience required:** No previous experience required

Basic Skills

By the end of this course you should have the skills and knowledge necessary to rig up your boat and safely go sailing without assistance in light winds.

**Experience required:** ISA Start Sailing

###### Improving Skills

 This course will help you develop a competent, safe and practical approach to sailing your boat in moderate winds. You will also be introduced to the different aspects of dinghy sailing such as racing and day sailing.

**Experience required:** ISA Basic Skills + 1 seasons logged sailing experience

##### Race Coaching

This course provides class specific training for sailors who are interested club racing or participating in open events. Coaching in single handed classes will include the objectives of ISA Go Racing 1 & 2. Coaching in 420s and the Club Vago’s will also cover the skills required for ISA Kites & Wires 1 & 2. All of the coaches on this course have International racing experience and a relevant advanced ISA Instructor qualification.

**Experience required:** ISA Improving Skills + 2 seasons logged sailing experience

##### Team Racing

Team Racing is a great way to develop advanced boat handling skills and learn to sail in double handed boats. The course involves learning how to sail as a team of 3 boats in series of short races. The emphasis is on boat handling skills and helping your team get into a winning combination of placings, without breaking any rules. HYC will be chartering six identical Firefly dinghies for this course and numbers will be limited to 12 places per week.

**Experience required:** ISA Improving Skills + 2 seasons logged sailing experience

###### Keelboat - Improving Skills

 This course will help you develop a competent, safe and practical approach to sailing your boat in moderate winds. You will also be introduced to the different aspects of dinghy sailing such as racing and day sailing. *The course fee includes use of a keelboat for the duration of the course.*

**Experience required:** ISA Improving Skills in a dinghy + 2 seasons logged sailing experience

#### Keelboat - Adventure

The aim of this course is to introduce you to the challenges and fun of cruising. You will develop the skills and knowledge you will need to become an independent sailor capable of undertaking extended trips and of making correct and appropriate decisions in difficult situations. *The course fee includes use of a keelboat for the duration of the course.*

**Experience required:** ISA Improving Skills in a keelboat or Improving Skills in a dinghy + 10 days logged keelboat experience.

**FAQ’s**

**How old do you have to be do a sailing course at Howth Yacht Club?**

The Taste of Sailing courses cater for 6-8 year olds, with shorter days and experienced helpers to assist our instructors. We do not recommend Start Sailing or any of the more advanced courses for children under 8 years of age.

**Does my child need to become a member of Howth Yacht Club to do a course?**

Our Taste of Sailing courses are open to non members as well as members. As your child becomes older and more experienced they will need to practice their sailing outside the summer training courses in order to develop their sailing skills. We believe HYC Junior & Family Membership provide good value and convenient access to a range of sailing and social activities throughout the year.

**Do I need to buy a boat in order to do a sailing course?**

No. Boats are provided for Taste of Sailing and all Keelboat courses. Club Members can rent an Optimist, a Topper, and RS Feva, a 420 or a Laser Vago for any of the other courses. Boat rental is subject to availability. To check availability and for advice on which boat is the most suitable for you, please submit you query to training@hyc.ie

**Do I need to buy any special clothing for the sailing course?**

You do need the following items which can be bought from local chandleries, outdoor shops or from online retailers:-

* a wetsuit – preferably with long sleeves and legs
* waterproof sailing trousers and a cag/jacket may be used instead of a wetsuit for keelboat courses only
* wetsuit booties
* a waterproof jacket or cag
* a lifejacket or buoyancy aid – lifejackets provide more buoyancy and are essential for non-swimmers
* a hat or a cap