



Sail by the Rules

Sailboats, like cars and trucks, have to follow certain "rules of the road." A good sailor is like a good driver: he or she obeys the law, is considerate of others, and uses common sense.

A good sailor does something else—he or she follows the traditions and customs of the sea. A good sailor will yield the right of way to others, but will never take it from others unless it is given. And he or she will always go to the aid of anyone in trouble on the water.

No matter how small it is, a sailboat must follow the same rules of the road as oceangoing freighters or giant liners. Make sure you learn these rules, as well as such local regulations as speed limits, special lights required, or hours of operation.

Here are some of the Inland Rules of the Road for boats in American rivers, lakes, and harbors:

1. When two sailing vessels are approaching one another, to avoid the risk of collision, one of them shall keep out of the way of the other as follows:
 - When each has the wind on a different side, the vessel that has the wind on the port side shall keep out of the way of the other.
 - When both have the wind on the same side, the vessel that is windward shall keep out of the way of the vessel that is leeward.

SAILBOATS UNDER THE RULES OF THE ROAD

