



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SAILORS

P.O. Box 27050, Houston, TX 77227

## Do you want to be a TASS skipper?

Being a TASS skipper is a rewarding, enriching, and fun experience. I would encourage anyone who enjoys sailing and is interested in expanding their sailing knowledge and teaching others to become a TASS skipper. The pleasure you derive from being a TASS skipper will be directly proportional to the effort you put into being a skipper. TASS skippers should conduct themselves following the objectives of the organization, that is, to promote and encourage interest in the sport of sailing, to provide members with the opportunity to participate in and attain desired skills in the sport of sailing, and to develop among the membership regard for safety procedures necessary to the sport of sailing.

You will be an ambassador for TASS, safety first, and making members and guests feel welcomed and comfortable as a group is essential.

Getting started on earning your skipper credentials is easy. First, you must be a member in good standing.

Visit the TASS website to find the skipper application in the document library. The vice commodore can assist with obtaining the application.

[www.sailtass.com](http://www.sailtass.com) > [library](#) > [skippers documents](#).

As with all **member documents** in our library, you must be logged into your membership account; otherwise, these documents are not visible to the general public.

Once the application is accepted, you must go through the TASS Skipper Checkout Training. This applies to all qualified members, no matter your experience.

### **Qualifications:**

The basic TASS requirements for becoming a skipper are as follows.

- 1) Be a member in good standing for at least [six] months
- 2) Participate actively in TASS through the following activities, as we desire our skippers to be rounded in all aspects of the club, not just sailing.
  - a. Have attended at least 3 [three] Social activities defined as weekly meetings or social events such as an after-race party, lecture, or social party.
  - b. Have completed a minimum of 3 [three] TASS Casual sails as a crew member. It is suggested on these casual crew sails that you inform the skipper of record that you want to become a TASS Skipper.
  - c. Complete the requirements for the 3 [three] skipper checkout sails

### **Skipper Check-Out Process**

#### **Submit Your application and set up your checkout sails.**

- 1) When you submit your application to the Vice Commodore/upon acceptance, you will be invoiced the Skipper Application fee of \$90.00. This fee covers the registration for the 3 [three] checkout sails. Note: the application fee is non-refundable once the application is submitted.
- 2) You should then schedule the dates of the 3 [three] checkout sails by looking at the TASS Calendar, selecting the dates, and notifying the skipper of record that you want to be registered on their sail as the checkout skipper. – The skipper will manually register you for the sail.

[www.sailtass.com](http://www.sailtass.com)

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- 3) The 3 [three] checkout sails must be completed within 4 [four] months of your application; only day sails qualify, and the sails must be scheduled with 3 [three] different TASS Skippers.
- 4) Keep a clear written log of all sails you participate in including, (dates/skipper in command for that sail)
- 5) CPR Certification is required and must be kept current. You must provide a copy of the certificate of completion to the vice commodore for the TASS records.
  - a. Your CPR certificate must be presented to the vice commodore after your final checkout sail.
  - b. Moving forward, you will be included in the bi-annual skipper CPR training; participation is free to qualified skippers.

### Preparing for your checkout sails

Each check-out sail has a checklist of maneuvers, docking, man overboard, tasks, etc. You will be observed performing the maneuvers during your check-out sails. The skipper in command for your check-out sail will **sign/date** your list, and you will return a copy to the vice commodore after each check-out sail. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself so that on the next sail, the skipper knows the previous performance, and you can continue your checkout progress.

Get the form from the Vice Commodore or download it before checkout sail. [TASS Skipper Certification Day Skills Evaluation Form](#)

Upon successful completion of the check-out sails, the skipper committee, with the three check-out skippers will review your application.

Congratulations! Once the committee approves, you have joined the ranks of TASS skippers!

You will be presented with a TASS burgee to fly on your sails, indicating your skipper status.

### Final Step

Obtain and outfit a skipper's bag and bring the bag on all sails that you command. (see the website for a complete list of TASS-required skipper's equipment). [Skippers Handbook rev.2 7-1-23](#) page 10.

Register with the charter companies from whom TASS charter boats, currently Windward Ventures and South Coast Sailing. It will require a written sailing resume. Skippers and Vice-commodore or Fleet Director can help with this task.

Submit to the webmaster a short bio and a clear, flattering headshot photo for the website. Your name and contact information will be listed in the skipper directory [HERE](#).

Congratulations, you are now a TASS Skipper.

You will be presented with a TASS burgee to fly on your sails, indicating your skipper status.

As you pass your skills on to others, you can begin adding to your credentials by working toward approval to be an offshore and night skipper.

You can contact the vice-commodore with questions – [vicecommodore@sailtass.com](mailto:vicecommodore@sailtass.com) or the Fleet Director at [fleet@sailtass.com](mailto:fleet@sailtass.com)