

Launching a sailing dinghy in Off-shore and On-shore winds

This resource can help with the following areas:

- **Stage 1:** I can assist with the launch and recovery of a sailing dinghy.
- **Stages 3 and 4:** I can assist in launching a small sailing dinghy.

Boat Preparation

Turn the sailing dinghy bow into the wind and hoist the sails. Secure and make ready the dagger board and rudder. Make sure all bungs are tightened and the ends of; all sheet lines, kicker and halliards are tied with a stopper knot. Before entering the boat check that you are wearing a suitable PFD and that any loose lines are not left lying around the deck.

Off-shore winds beach launch

Push the boat into deep enough water so that the dagger board and rudder can be put half-way down. When the boat trolley is placed safely on the shore the crew should push the bow away from the wind and jump in. Adjust the dagger board/rudder see Fig 1 and 2.



Fig 1. Off-shore Winds Beach Start

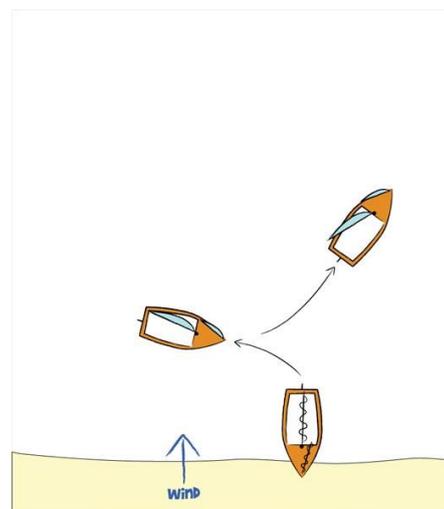


Fig 2. Off-shore Winds Beach Start

On-shore winds beach and pontoon/slip launch

For beach starts push the boat head to wind into deep enough water so that the dagger board and rudder can be put half-way down.

When the boat trolley is placed safely on the shore the crew should push the bow away from the wind and jump in, see Fig 3 below. For pontoon/slip start both crew and helm will walk the boat down the slip/pontoon until the water is deep enough to sail. Secure the boat's bow. Both crew and helm will then enter the boat and put the dagger board and rudder down half way. The crew should push the bow away from the edge to allow the sails to fill. Sail away and adjust the dagger board/rudder see Fig 4 below.

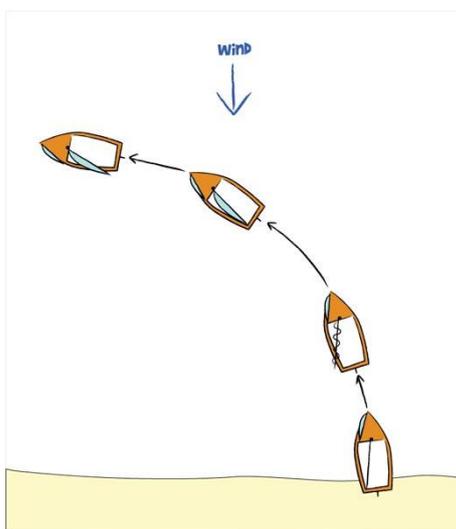


Fig 3. On-shore Winds Beach Start

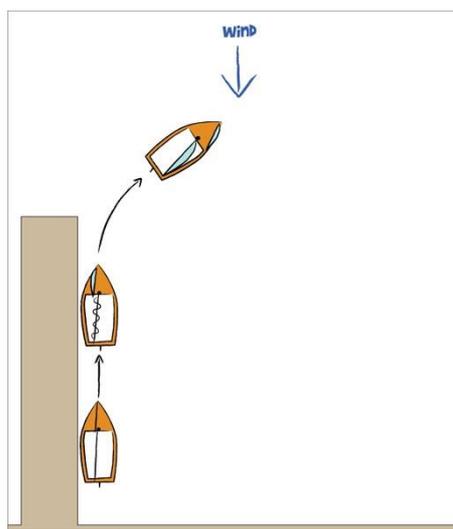


Fig 4. On-shore Winds Pontoon/Slip Start

Off-shore winds pontoon/slip launch

Again both crew and helm will walk the boat down the slip/pontoon until the water is deep enough to launch. Secure the boat's bow. Both crew and helm will enter the boat and put the dagger board and rudder down half way. When there is enough room to sail directly from the pontoon or slip the crew will push the bow away from the edge to allow the sails to fill, see Fig 5 below. When there is

not enough room to sail from the pontoon or slip the helm will first allow the boat to drift down wind until clear of any objects. Then turn the boat away from the wind and sail away. Adjust the dagger board/rudder, see Fig 6 below.

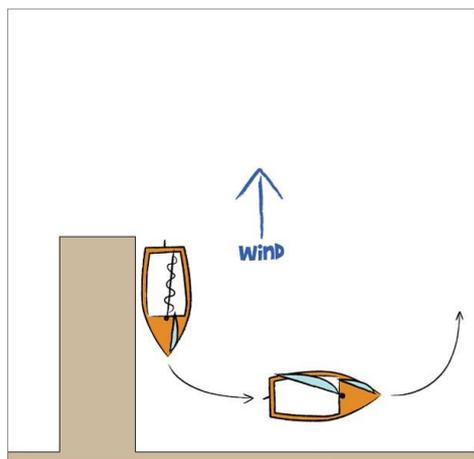


Fig 5. Off-shore Winds Pontoon/Slip Start 1

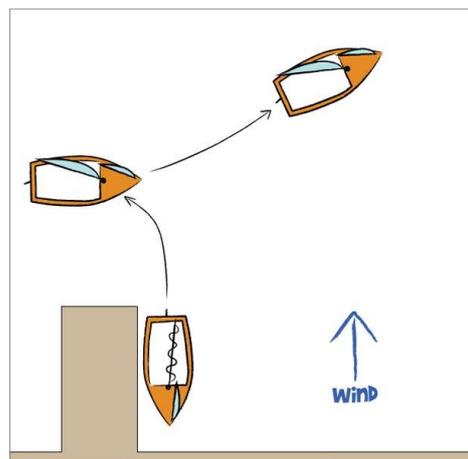


Fig 6. Off-shore Winds Pontoon/Slip Start 2