LSC Sunfish Manual

A guide to the use of Sunfish Sailboats
Owned by the Lansing Sailing Club

Version 1.1-20070806
Goals of this Manual are to help members understand

- Who can use Club Sunfish
- When they can be used
- Where to find things
- How to rig
- De-rigging
- How to put the boats away
Who can use a Club Sunfish?

• Anyone in a Member Family
  – Having LSC “Basic Sailing” Certification and
  – Having LSC “Sunfish” Certification

  or

  Learning to sail under the instruction of an adult member who holds “Basic Sailing” and “Sunfish” Certification

• A Guest of a Member Family
  – Under the supervision of an adult member holding “Basic Sailing” and “Sunfish” Certification
When Can a Club Sunfish be Used?

- Only in safe wind and weather conditions. Use in winds over approximately 12 mph requires advanced certification, supervision of a LSC instructor or special permission of the Club Boat Director.
- For Junior Sailors, an adult must be present on shore and the adult must be capable of acting in an emergency to assist the Junior Sailor.
- Use is on a “first come – first sail” basis.
- Sunfish can be reserved for special functions by contacting the Club Boat Director sufficiently in advance to permit notice to other Club Members in a e-Sheet (usually at least a week).
Where to Find Things

• Boats
  – There are three Club Sunfish. LSC 1 is kept in parking spot 402. LSC 2 in parking spot 403 and LSC 3 in parking spot 411.
  – Each boat is marked somewhere on the hull, usually on the side toward the front, or on the deck at the bow.

• Sails and Spars
  – Sails are permanently attached to the upper and lower booms and stored together with the mast, bundled using the halyard and mainsheet. Sails are located on the north side of the Sunfish/Laser Sail Shed on shelves about five feet high. Each shelf is marked with the owner’s or boat’s name. For Club Sunfish, the marks are LSC 1, LSC 2 and LSC 3.
  – Be sure to double check that the sail is the correct one. Each spar and mast is marked on one end or the other.

• Rudders and Centerboards
  – Rudders and Centerboards are located at the back of the Sunfish/Laser Sail Shed. The storage slot is marked and each rudder and centerboard is also marked.
Rigging a Sunfish

Note: With practice, a Sunfish can be rigged and launched within 5 to ten minutes. Let’s go sailing!!!

Step 1 - Point the bow of the boat into the wind. This helps keep the sail over the boat when it is raised. Keeping the sail over the boat avoids hitting other boats or people with the booms and makes it easier to attach the mainsheet.

Step 2 – Lay the spars and sail on the boat with the mast ring toward the front of the boat.

Mast Ring
Holds the lower boom to the mast
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 3 – Undo the sail/spar bundle. The sail and spars should be bundled using the mainsheet and halyard.
If the sail and spars were correctly bundled with a “Chain Sinnet”, it is easy to undo.
Once the knot at the end is untied, pulling the line should undo the bundle.

Help!
What if the bundling was not done properly?
Simply untie or unwrap the bundling.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 4 – Attach the Boom Sling if desired. Unless racing the boat, we strongly recommend using the Boom Sling because it raises the boom, making it easier to see other boats or obstacles and making it easier to get under the boom on tacks and gybes.

A. Locate a spot about 15 inches below where your halyard attaches to the upper boom. Now, pull one end of the Boom Sling around the upper boom and the halyard.

B. Pull the line through the loop - capturing the halyard and upper boom.

C. Pull the other end of the line to where the upper and lower booms meet - and slip the loop over the end of the boom and into the notch created by the bolt joining the booms.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 5 – Correctly align the mast and booms. The booms should be on the Port side of the mast.

Step 6 – Make sure the halyard runs directly from the upper boom to the top of the mast and through the eye at the top of the mast.

Step 7 – The sail needs to lay off to the port side of the boat.

Step 8 – Be sure that the mainsheet is not wrapped around anything, but lying below the lower boom.

- Booms on Port: The booms are on the port side of the mast.
- Halyard Direct to masthead: The halyard goes directly from the boom to the top of the mast and through the eye at the top of the mast.
- Sail lays to port: The sail is laying to the port side of the boat.
- Mainsheet is clear: The mainsheet is not wrapped around anything, but is lying under the sail.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 9 – Align the mast and booms so that the mast ring is directly over the mast step.

Step 10 – Raise the mast and put it gently in the mast step.

Step 11 – Make sure the halyard is running cleanly through the masthead fairlead from the back to the front.

**Mast Ring**
Located directly over the mast step.

**Mast Step**
The mast step is the hole in the deck where the mast goes.

**Be Gentle**
When putting the mast into the mast step, be sure to ease it in slowly. Rough treatment will wear out the mast step, cause leaking in the hull and necessitate expensive repairs.

**Halyard**
If the halyard doesn’t run smoothly through the masthead fairlead, usually rotating the mast will clear the problem.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 12 – Lead the end of the halyard through the fairlead just to starboard of the mast.

Step 13 – Raise the sail all the way to the top of the mast.

Step 14 – Secure the sail using a cleat hitch, coil the halyard and secure the coil under the halyard.

Pull halyard thru fairlead, then raise sail.
Run halyard to cleat.
Do a complete turn around the cleat.
Go over the top of the cleat.
Create a loop with the end of the halyard underneath.
Put the loop on the cleat and pull tight.

Coil the excess halyard and stuff it under the halyard between the cleat and the fairlead.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Note: Wind conditions may make it easier to launch and tie the boat to a mark before completing these next steps.

Step 15 – Clip the mainsheet to the traveler.

Step 16 – Make sure the mainsheet is led through available sleeves on the boom to keep it from hanging down and catching sailors' necks during tacks and gybes.

Step 17 – Run the mainsheet through the block at the front of the cockpit. Be sure to tie a “figure eight” or “stopper” knot.

Mainsheet Clip
Located at the end of the mainsheet. Note: some mainsheets don’t have clips.

Traveler
Some travelers have a loop in the middle to clip to. If there is no clip, tie the end of the mainsheet to the traveler.

Sleeves on Boom
May not be fancy. Some are duct tape. Others are short lines tied around the boom.

Mainsheet Block
If the block has a ratchet, be sure the sheet is run through so that the ratchet engages when the sheet is eased.
Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 18 – Tie the centerboard to the boat. In the event of a capsize, this keeps the centerboard with the boat. If the centerboard has a bungee, tie it to the mast or front of the boat with enough tension to hold the centerboard in an up position.

Step 19 – Put Rudder on.

Step 20 – Launch, put rudder down, put centerboard in centerboard slot, climb in and go sailing.

Run Bungee from Bow Handle . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . To the Centerboard

Adjust Tension
Some bungees have cleats that permit adjustment of the tension. Some bungees need to be tied. Tie with just enough tension to keep the centerboard in an up position.
De-Rigging a Sunfish
De-Rigging a Sunfish

Step 1 – Uncleat the halyard and let the sail down. Doing this right away helps keep the sail and booms from hitting other boats or people.

Step 2 – Remove the Rudder and Centerboard and return them to the appropriate spot in the Sunfish-Laser Storage Shed. Double Check to make sure the label on the rudder and centerboard matches the marking on the storage slot.

Step 3 – Remove the mast from the mast step (but not from the mast ring). Remove the “Boom Sling” if one was used. Lay the sail and spars out to prepare them for bundling and storage.

Pull Sail Out
Make sure no lines are mixed in with the sail.

Halyard
Must Run Directly from the upper boom thru the fairlead at the top of the mast.

Take up Slack in Mainsheet – Lay Mainsheet under Sail
Pull the mainsheet from the block in the middle of the lower boom until the end that clips/ties to the traveler is at the boom.

Wrap Centerboard Bungee or Tie Line around the centerboard so it will store compactly.

Align End of Mast with End of Booms
De-Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 4 – Roll the Sail.

Step 5 – Bundle the Sail and Spars with the Halyard and Mainsheet using a “Sinnet Chain”.

Roll Sail
Take the corner of the sail and begin rolling it. Create a tight roll and lay it next to the booms.

Using the halyard, reach under the sail/spars and pull the halyard through to make a new loop.

Reach through this loop and over the top of the bundle to pull some halyard through to make yet another new loop.

Reach through this loop and under the bundle to pull some halyard through to make another new loop.

Continue this process of creating loops over, then under the bundle. As you go, keep the bundling tight.

When the halyard is used up, use the loop and remaining halyard to tie a square knot.

Use the mainsheet to continue the bundling process using the same “Sinnet Chain” technique.
De-Rigging a Sunfish (continued)

Step 6 – Stow the sail and spar bundle in the proper location in the Sunfish-Laser Sail Shed.

Each Spar Should Be Marked

Place it on the Correct Shelf
Two Final Things

If you find a problem with any of the boats, their sails, spars, blades, etc., please take the time to send the LSC Club Boat Director a message giving details. Go to the “Contact Us” page of the LSC website at www.lansingsailing.org, click on “Club Boat Director” and follow the instructions to send your message.

Since Club sailboats are used by many people, everyone’s cooperation is appreciated to assure that they are properly put away and well cared for. This helps to make sure that the next person will find the boat, sails, blades, etc. in the correct location – and in good shape, ready to go sailing.

Thanks!!!