



## Squadron Vessel Operational Policies and Rules

All Atlanta Sea Scout Squadron sailing operations will be conducted according to the Boy Scouts of America's "Guide to Safe Scouting".

The liability coverage for all participants is predicated on compliance with these procedures and processes and applies to the following: *SSTV Loki, SSTV Sullivan III, SSTV Jage, RV Gresskar* 420 class sailing dinghies, volunteers' vessels and safety boats.

1. Boats are only available to AAC Sea Scout Ships (SSS) and guests. Each participant **must** sign an annual AAC Squadron *Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement* prior to launch, (youth under the age of 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian co-sign this permission/release form) and have a current **BSA Medical** form, (*all parts: A,B,C executed*).
2. Documents Required: (These documents will be kept under lock at the Squadron's sailing site in the Squadron's Fleet Logbook):
  - All participants (youth & Adult) must have copies of the appropriate BSA *medical forms (parts A,B,C)* on file with the Squadron Operations,
  - Invited Guests may take one cruise with a *BSA Medical form (parts A & C completed)* on file with their permission form.
  - One copy of **AAC permission/release form** for EACH participant **MUST** be on file with the AAC Squadron prior to embarking on any AAC Squadron vessel.
  - A **Squadron Float Plan form** must be completed and left in the Squadron Dockbox **PRIOR** to embarking.
3. Boat use must be scheduled via email. Boat availability and/or scheduled out-of-service boat maintenance will be distributed to Ship's Skippers. AAC Squadron Sailing Team has priority use of boats. Scheduling of all AAC Squadron vessels is on a first-come-first-served basis except when the Squadron sailing team has priority for scheduled practice or regattas. Scheduling of vessels is done via email to [INFO@Thorsborg.org](mailto:INFO@Thorsborg.org) and [Vicomsailing@bellsouth.net](mailto:Vicomsailing@bellsouth.net) by the Ship's Boatswain requesting use by his/her Ship with the date, times, the vessel(s) to be used, number of scouts, number of leaders and the AAC Squadron qualified Leader who will be responsible.
4. AAC SSS Sailing Team Coaches must check out supervising adults. Current list of approved adults will be kept in the Squadron Logbook at the sailing site. The Commodore and/or his designee conduct certification of adults. One of the two minimum adults/leaders present should have current certifications of the following: BSA Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, first aid and CPR certificate.
5. BSA Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense Guidelines **WILL** be followed. All youth sailors **MUST** be "swimmers" as defined by the BSA. *Non-Swimmers* as defined by BSA can **ONLY** go on fixed keelboats (*SSTV Sullivan III*) **WITH** a current lifeguard onboard. Failure to comply will result in loss of privileges to use the boats. BSA Swim Tests will be conducted on a regular basis according to BSA standards and procedures.



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6. A safety boat will be used during practice races and all competitions. The safety boat may be a motorboat, or a sailboat sailed by a sailing team coach. Multiple safety boats should be used during regattas and marginal weather.
7. With no exceptions, personal floatation devices (PFD) certified by the US Coast Guard will be always be worn by **ALL scouts, scouters and participants** when on the water. PFDs may be removed when below decks in a cabin or engine compartment or whilst at anchor or docked.
8. Sailing boundaries are as follows:
  - *420 Fleet* boundaries are defined as the north east side of Flowery Branch Bay on Lake Lanier as indicated by the Sailing instructors
  - *27' O'day (SSTV Sullivan III)*, *Zodiac rigid inflatable boat (SSTV Loki)* and boundaries are operating in the southern part of Lake Lanier (south of Brown's Bridge and to the Buford Dam)
  - AAC Boats are **not** allowed to be sailed outside of boundaries without permission of Sailing Team Coach and/or the Squadron Commodore.
  - A float plan must be filed prior to departure with AAC Squadron Commodore or his designee, if sailing of an AAC Boat is outside of designated AAC Squadron boundaries.
9. The *420 class* fleet boats can only be taken out by scouts by prior approval of the AAC Squadron Commodore or his designee and must sail in pairs (Boat Buddy System) and a float plan must be filed and two AAC qualified adults on the water in a safety boat. (Completed sailing log and sailing within AAC Sea Scout Squadron designated boundaries fulfill this requirement.). **ONLY "swimmers"** as defined by the BSA swim test are allowed on the *420-class* boats...no exceptions.
10. The *27' O'day (SSTV Sullivan III)* may be crewed by six Sea Scouts with at least two adults on board who are approved by the Commodore and/or his designee.
11. The *27' Oday (SSTV Sullivan III)* must have at least one AAC Squadron **qualified** adult leaders aboard whilst sailing.
12. The *Zodiac Rigid inflatable (SSTV Loki)* must have adult oversight (i.e. in visual contact) at all times. **ONLY "swimmers"** as defined by the BSA swim test are allowed on *SSTV Loki*...**no exceptions**. The Commodore or his designee will conduct qualifications and competency certification of youth Members Sea Scouts for operating *SSTV Loki* without an adult onboard.
13. Adult supervision and adherence to safety boat protocols remain a condition of use of the AAC Squadron fleet. Violation of procedures/policies can lead to banishment from Squadron activities/vessels.
14. Anyone sailing Squadron boats must fill out the Squadron Boat Log Book prior to embarking to include skipper's name, crew name, date & time out and time returned and any reports regarding equipment condition, damage and/or any incidents.
15. Possession and/or use of illegal or illicit substances on or near the AAC Squadron Base and/or on vessels/equipment are strictly forbidden. Any violation with illegal and/or illicit substances is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including exclusion from participation with AAC Squadron's vessels/programs and advisement of local law enforcement agencies.



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16. Overnight trips are not allowed without special approval of the AAC Commodore and/or his designee. Float plans and executed BSA Tour permits are requirements of overnight excursions.
17. Sailors are responsible for repair and/or cost of damage to boats when damage occurs when boat is under their command. Damage will be logged into the logbook and reported to the Commodore and/or his designee.
18. Members of the AAC Sea Scout Squadron & Sailing Team are responsible for boats, supplies and maintenance.
19. 420 Sails will be dried & folded prior to stowing in Squadron Dock boxes. Keelboat sails will be rolled or flaked and stowed in prescribed manner for each vessel.
20. Wet PFD's and sheets will be flaked (coiled) & stowed outside of sail bags in Squadron Dock Boxes or placed within the keelboats to facilitate drying.
21. Cold weather sailing of *420 Fleet*. Special precautions **MUST** be taken if the ambient air temperature is less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit, local water temperature is at or below 60 degrees Fahrenheit and/or the prevailing wind is greater than 15 knots. All participants (both Captain and Crew) **MUST** wear proper cold weather sailing clothing for prevailing conditions. Appropriateness of sailing gear for conditions will be determined by the sailing instructor based on air and water temperatures and wind speeds **AND** there must be at least two power or auxiliary vessels on patrol in the area available and manned for rescue services in addition to any Race Committee Boat.
22. The *SSTV Loki*, *SSTV Jage*, *SSTV Sullivan III* and *RV Gresskar* may be sailed throughout the year with the crews dressed appropriately for the weather.
23. Sailing the *420 Fleet* or any other Squadron vessel can be terminated or cancelled if weather conditions such as high winds, (in excess of 15 knots), thunderstorms, etc. present a danger to the participants as determined by the authorized adult leader on location.
24. Suitable attire must be worn by all participants. No revealing or risqué swim suits; derogatory or offensive designs on clothes are allowed. The Squadron representative on site has the authority to ask for the removal and/or covering of such attire that is deemed offensive. Failure to comply with the Squadron representative will result in immediate loss of participation in the activity.
25. The *Atlanta Squadron Vessel Operations Policies and Rules* may be amended as needed. The most recent date will be the controlling document. Any changes of *Squadron Vessel Operations Policies and Rules* will be sent via e-mail to all registered participants. A copy of the *Squadron Vessel Operations Policies and Rules* will be available in every Keelboat and in the dock storage box for the 420-class fleet.