

Boat Storage in the Lake Bluff Yacht Club Compound

Some of the most frequently asked questions we get revolve around boat storage at the Lake Bluff Yacht Club Compound. In an effort to try and clarify things, here are some key facts:

How do I get storage for my sailboat/kayak/paddle board in the compound?

Storage is available only to members of the Lake Bluff Yacht Club. The compound is currently full and there is a waiting list for storage space.

Can I get on the waiting list without joining the Club?

No. In order to be put on (and stay on) the waiting list, you must be a member in good standing of the Lake Bluff Yacht Club.

*Does joining the Yacht Club and going on the waiting list guarantee me a storage slot?
How long will I have to wait?*

As with most things in life, there are no absolute guarantees regarding getting a slot. To date, we have been able to accommodate members who are patient. However, as there are a limited number of storage slots, how fast the waiting list progresses is determined by slot turnover, the type of storage you are seeking (sailboat/kayak/paddle board – more on this below) and the club's ability to build more storage on a physically constrained footprint. Because of this, we cannot give you an accurate estimate on how long you may have to wait.

How does the waiting list work? How are slots assigned?

The compound provides for storage of three distinct types of watercraft: small sailboats, kayaks and paddle boards. Each of these has different storage criteria. Sailboats are heavier and are assigned to the bottom two racks. Kayaks are lighter and are assigned to the upper racks. Paddle boards, which can be stored on their sides, are assigned to either special slots created for them or the new racks on the hill. Finally, the compound has to accommodate club boats used in the Learn to Sail program and club racing. All of this has to be taken into consideration when assigning slots.

Storage slots are awarded in the order in which a member joined the waiting list, subject to the type of watercraft that is to be stored. In other words, if you are number one on the waiting list, and you wish to store a sailboat and a paddle board slot becomes available, we won't be able to accommodate you and the slot will go to the first person on the list wishing to store a paddle board. Similarly, if you have a paddle board or kayak and a sailboat slot becomes available, you will not be given that slot and the slot will be given to a member wishing to store a sailboat.

Once I'm on the waitlist, what do I need to do?

Our Buildings and Grounds people will email you to confirm your position on the waitlist.

After being placed on the waiting list, the most important thing you can do is to keep your membership current. If your membership in the Lake Bluff Yacht Club lapses, you will be taken off the waiting list and any subsequent reapplication will put you at the end of the waiting list.

It is also important that you keep your contact information with the club up to date so that we can find you in a timely manner when a slot becomes available.

Our Buildings and Grounds people will reach out to you when a slot is available. We actively fill slots as they come up.

When does all of this occur?

The great majority of all slot assignments occur by the end of May in each year. Usually, there is very little turnover during the Summer season, so if you have not received a slot by the end of May, it is unlikely you will receive one in that year.

How can I help the process?

There are two things members can do to help. The first is to be patient. The Club works as hard as possible to fill the slots in as quick and fair a process as we can manage. We know that it can sometimes seem as if it is taking a very long time to get a boat storage slot, but we are working with a limited number of slots and a limited amount of space. The volunteers that work with Building and Grounds issues are working with a difficult situation where demand exceeds supply and will get you your slot as soon as they can. Second, every time you feel the urge to ask where you are on the waiting list, reread the first point in this paragraph.