

Rules for going aloft Kaatje

Safety first

Working in the masts and rig is not riskier than working on deck, as long as a couple of rules are followed. Read the rules stated here and use them!

The rules stated below should also be used on the jib boom. At sea this can be a dangerous place, water can reach up and throw you off the horses. Secure yourself when entering and leaving the boom!

1. Only go up when you feel fit.
2. After drinking **alcohol** it is not allowed to go aloft.
3. Only go up if you have a task up there. It is not a place to have fun or relax.
4. It is not allowed to smoke in the rigging.
5. You are responsible for your own actions. Make sure you know your limits and let no one talk you into false bravery.
6. Before going aloft, please report to the teacher or instructor on deck
7. It is not allowed **to go up without a safety harness**. Make sure that it fits: tight but comfortable.
8. Dress warm, higher in the mast it is colder than on deck.
9. Make sure that you have tight fitting (quality) shoes.
10. **Secure everything you bring up** with a rope (knife, camera or whatever). Make sure nothing can fall out of your pockets. When attaching or loosening something aloft, make sure it cannot fall down!

DROPPING SOMETHING FROM ALOFT IS UNFORGIVEABLE! **PEOPLE COULD GET INJURED SEVERELY!**

11. Be aware of any maneuvers that could be made when you are up aloft.
12. Check if the braces are tight and secured, the yard should be in its topping lift and the downhauls should be hauled tight.
13. **Climb on the windward side:**
 - the rig is tighter here
 - The angle is better
 - *You can be seen better from the deck*
 - Less chance of being blocked by yards or sails
14. **Walk slowly and controlled:** do not jump when on the horses; if you enter a horse, warn the people that are already on it
15. Do not walk or sit on the yards, except when this is necessary
16. **Hold on to** :
 - Fixed rigging (Not to running rigging!)
 - To vertical lines only,: this way nobody can step on your fingers.
 - **Not** to the rat lines: they could break!
 - The jackstays when you're on the yard.
17. **Secure yourself:**
 - As soon as you stop or pause climbing
 - always **as short as possible:** preferably by doubling the line (going around an object and securing to your own harness.
 - Preferably to lines that are designed to hold on to: **safety lines**.
 - Only to fixed rigging that actually stops the fall!
 - **Never to running rigging.**
18. **Working on the yards:**
 - When **releasing lashings/seizings:** from the outside work to the inside, **or from leeward to windward**. When attaching the other way around
 - Start with the lower topsail, then the upper topsail. Working on both yards together is uncomfortable.
 - **Check if you did not forget any seizings!!** It is hard to see from deck and it can cause a sail to tear..

The above rules are there to enhance safety. Safety is in your hands, you should realize this always!

Be careful and do not get overconfident!