

# Used Snipe Boat Buyer's Checklist

*This article was excerpted from the Annapolis Snipe Fleet's New Snipe Sailor Guide, by Jon Anthony and Brian Hetherington, and is reprinted with their permission.*

The list below is intended to give a new Snipe sailor some key points to look at when buying a used boat. While deficiencies in any given area may not be cause for backing out of the sale, they are all various factors to consider if the asking price is fair and/or if you are willing to put the time, effort, and cost into repairing deficiencies.

## Hull:

- Gel coat free of major defects, cracks, crazing, blisters, or oxidation.
- Hull to deck joint is firmly bonded.
- Hull is free of soft spots.
- Tilt the boat back on the trailer or dolly & open the plug or inspection port. Is it dry?

## Blades:

- Are the rudder & dagger board (blades) straight?
- Are the blades free of knicks, cracks, and chips?

## Rigging:

- Is the rigging in good condition?
- Is wire rigging free of split wires and rust?
- Do cam cleats open and spring closed freely?
- Is synthetic rigging free of mold?
- Are deck fittings securely fastened, or does it appear water has entered the fastener holes causing rot?
- Is all necessary rigging included – sheets, spreaders, shrouds, safety stay?

## Spars:

- Are the mast, boom, and whisker pole (spars) straight?
- Are the spars free of rust?
- Do the exit sheaves spin freely?

## Sails:

- What condition are the sails in? Are they new or tired? Is the price of the entire boat suitable to the condition of the sails as well?
- Does the boat come with multiple suits?

## Trailer:

- Is a trailer included? What condition is it in?
- Is the trailer free of rust?
- Do the lights work? Are the bearings and tires in good condition?
- Are the springs sturdy (not too soft, not too hard)?
- Is it titled?

## Other:

- Safety Gear – Paddle, sponge, tow line (30' min)
- Does the boat include covers? What condition are they in?
- Is the boat already decaled with SCIRA for the current year? If not, you'll need to get a decal.

## Useful Links:

- Snipe Class International Racing Association (SCIRA): [www.snipe.org](http://www.snipe.org)
- US Snipe Class: [www.snipeus.org](http://www.snipeus.org)
- Fried Elliott's Snipe Photo Page: [www.friedbits.com/PhotoBits/Sailing/Snipe/index.php](http://www.friedbits.com/PhotoBits/Sailing/Snipe/index.php)
- Quantum Sails Snipe Page: [www.quantumsails.com/classes/class\\_detail.aspx?class=32](http://www.quantumsails.com/classes/class_detail.aspx?class=32)
- North Sails One Design Snipe Page: [www.northsailsod.com/class/snipe/snipe.html](http://www.northsailsod.com/class/snipe/snipe.html)
- Jibtech: [www.jibtech.com](http://www.jibtech.com)
- Persson Marine: [www.dbmarine.it/](http://www.dbmarine.it/)
- Annapolis Performance Sailing: [www.apsltd.com](http://www.apsltd.com)

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