

## Minimum Lifejacket Requirements

When you arrive on Registration Day, the first step is to pass your Life Jacket Inspection. Every year we have several Challengers fail this step usually due to their safety knife setup. Then they must make one or more lanyards to pass. Don't be that guy.

Here are the critical minimum requirements:

1. Your Life Jacket (aka PFD or lifejacket) must be Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, or III. Use this link for great info: [Coast Guard Life Jacket Specs](#)
2. **An inflatable PFD** must be accompanied by TWO re-arm kits, and you may be asked to demonstrate inflation and re-arming. Bring both re-arm kits to inspection.
3. You must have a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) in a pocket and attached with a lanyard.
4. You must have a whistle in a pocket and attached with a lanyard.
5. You must have a safety knife that is accessible using your single right hand AND using your single left hand.
  - a. If you only have only one safety knife it must be attached with a lanyard that gives full range of motion.
  - b. If you have a backup knife along with your first knife, only one knife must be on a lanyard. Take your pick. It can be either one of the two knives,
  - c. The backup knife can be folding, or a fixed blade and you do not have to demonstrate single hand use although that is a great idea.
6. For example, I have a fixed blade knife on the front of my life jacket without a lanyard. I have a backup folding safety knife in a pocket attached to a lanyard.



This is my life jacket showing the safety knife without a lanyard.

The white nylon cord on the left side facing you is attached to my backup knife and my whistle. I can deploy one or both.

The PLB is next to the zipper in a pocket on the left facing you. It is attached to a lanyard.



This shows the backup knife, whistle and compass ball attached to one lanyard.

Note that the safety knife has an extension lanyard attached to the nylon line to give more range of motion.

So two knives and at least one is attached with a lanyard.



This is a closeup of my safety knife.

It's a SCUBA diving knife from Aqua Lung.

Note the line cutter slot at the base of the blade. This can be very handy in some situations.

The blade is Titanium which means it will never corrode.

Too small for fighting off a gator or shark, but I always have my Ka-Bar close at hand so no worries 😊

I have lots more in the pockets. See the video below for some ideas, but don't go crazy.

Now view the video by SOS (aka Alan Stewart):

[How to Setup a PFD for Small Boat Sailing.](#)

That video is a great example that meets all WaterTribe requirements and then some.