

SQUIB SPINNAKER HINTS

Ideally your spinnaker luff should 'break' (progressively collapse) very evenly up the majority of its height. Importantly this will let it fly steady with the sheet considerably more eased than a sail either set or cut incorrectly. Setting the outer end of the pole at the right height is the key to this.

2. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?:

If the spinnaker can set with its sheet more eased, then so can the jib and mainsail without suffering backwinding.

Keep all the sails setting but keep them as far off the centreline as possible, and you create a rig strong on drive and acceleration, low on heeling and drag.

If the spinnaker is over-sheeted, then so will be the jib and the mainsail. **Nothing** destroys boatspeed more effectively than oversheeting the sails on a reach. The whole rig stalls.

3. There is a very simple rule. The spinnaker pole's outer end should be tilted towards whichever part of the luff is collapsing first as the spinnaker sheet is eased.:

If the **upper** luff collapses, move the pole end **UP**
If the **lower** luff collapses, **LOWER** the pole end.

There is a pole setting that lets a large proportion of the luff roll in on itself at mid-height without the whole sail collapsing.

Set your pole height to this rule on a shy reach on a manageable day and it will be fine for all points of sailing in most conditions. Make sure your spinnaker pole height adjuster is marked clearly at this setting.

Do not worry too much about the position of the inboard end of the pole on the mast, it is the height of the outer end which really matters.

Some final points.

- a. Have a slightly lower pole setting for very light airs, to keep the sail more symmetrical when the clew cannot be prevented from drooping.
- b. Kevlar or Spectra sheets make a huge difference to setting the pole effectively near the forestay in stronger winds. Mark the sheet / guy at the cleat with the pole almost touching the forestay.
- c. Less kicking strap and loads of cunningham tension on the mainsail will help you carry the spinnaker on a windy shy reach. Extra backstay will have much the same effect.
Keep the JIB sheeted 'loose'.
- d. Do not raise the pole end in strong wind. It does not help.
- e. **Pole height is the key to offwind boat speed and easy spinnaker handling.**