

Troubleshooting Sail Trim

Problem	Reason	Cure	
SAILING TO WINDWARD	Boat won't point	Sail shape too full _____	Flatten sails.
		Draft too far forward _____	Adjust draft to 45% back in genoa, 50% back in main.
	Lee helm	Jib sheet lead too far outboard _____	Move genoa lead to inboard track or barber haul clew.
		Helm'sman steering too full _____	Come up until leeward genoa telltales stream.
Boat speed down (and making leeway)	Sails unbalanced _____	Move traveler to windward until top leech tell-tale breaks occasionally.	
	Helm'sman pinching _____	Head off. Keep windward genoa telltales streaming.	
		Sails over-trimmed _____	Ease jib sheet. Move sheet lead outboard. Ease main traveler.
	Sails too flat (not enough power) _____	Increase draft in main and jib.	
Excessive weather helm (constant rudder angle of more than 5°)	Leeches fluttering _____	Tighten leech lines.	
	Leeches severely cupped _____	Ease leech lines.	
	Main over-trimmed (Note: it is faster to set with forward portion of main lifting than with too much weather helm.) _____	If all main leech telltales are breaking, ease traveler. If top main leech telltales are breaking, ease mainsheet or vang.	
	Boat heeled excessively (too much sail) _____	Reef main. Reduce headsail.	
CLOSE REACHING	Excessive weather helm	Main over-trimmed _____	Ease traveler. Ease mainsheet.
		Genoa over-trimmed _____	Move genoa sheet lead outboard. Ease genoa until leeward telltales stream.
	Boat speed down	Boat heeled excessively (too much sail) _____	Reef main. Reduce headsail.
		Sails over-trimmed _____	Ease genoa until leeward telltales stream. Ease main traveler. Ease mainsheet.
BROAD REACHING	Boat yaws (drives both to windward and leeward)	Not enough sail _____	Unreef main. Increase headsail size.
		Sails over-twisted _____	Increase tension on boom vang. Move genoa lead forward. Check telltales.
	Boat speed down	Genoa over-trimmed, closing slot and killing main _____	Pole out genoa clew to leeward. Adjust height of whisker pole so that genoa telltales stream.
		Sails not trimmed properly _____	Check telltales on genoa and main. Pole out genoa clew. Check draft of main and genoa.
Boat broaches out of control to windward	Not enough sail _____	Shake out reef. Increase headsail size. Set spinnaker	
	Spinnaker sheet over-trimmed _____	Ease sheet.	
DOWNWIND	Boat speed down	Too much sail _____	Get spinnaker down. Reef or furl main. Reduce headsail size.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
WIND-GONS LIGHT	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SPINNAKER POLE OVER-TIMMED	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
BOAT STEERS WILDLY, OVER TO WINDWARD	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
BOAT ROLLS HEAVILY AND EENSIDELY	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
BOAT BROACHES OUT OF CONTROL	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SPINNAKER HOURGLASSES	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SAILS OVER-TWISTED FOR CONDITIONS AND/WIND OSCILLATIONS	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SPINNAKER BOULDERING WILDLY	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
BOAT BROACHES OUT OF CONTROL	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SPINNAKER HOURGLASSES	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.
SPINNAKER FILLS, OUT OF CONTROL, WHILE IMPROPERLY SET	Boat speed down	Not enough sail _____	Set spinnaker, or set second headsail opposite winged-out genoa. Ease main and tighten vang.
		Genoa not drawing _____	Wing out genoa on whisker pole opposite main.