

# Sailing the Sloop 4.9

by Greg Goodall, Australian High Performance Catamarans

## General Sailing Philosophy of Catamarans

A number of years ago I heard the following quote applied to catamaran sailing.

**It doesn't matter where you are going as long as you are going there fast.**

The element of truth in this statement is that boat speed is ultimately important.

Go fast. Look for pressure then angles

(opposite priority compared to dinghies)

## Upwind sail and rig settings.

### Light Winds: 1 -5 knots

Luff Tension - just remove the major wrinkles down the luff.

Mast rotation - 45 deg.

Mainsheet - light, all telltales should be flowing.

Foot - ease foot to give 50mm camber in foot.

Mainsheet traveler - centered.

Jib leads - forward and inboard.

Jib sheet - light and constantly adjusted to keep the jib leech 10 - 50mm from the spreader arm.

### Light / Medium Winds : 5 - 10 knots.

Luff Tension - just remove the wrinkles down the luff. Pull on luff tension rather than easing mainsheet if you start to get over powered.

Mast rotation - 40 to 30 deg

Mainsheet - firm to hard, to stand up the leech for maximum power. All telltales should be flowing.

Foot - gradually flatten foot as the wind increases to 10knots.

Mainsheet traveler - centered.

Jib leads - forward and inboard.

Jib sheet -firm and constantly adjusted to keep the jib leech 10 - 50mm from the spreader arm.

### Medium Winds: 10 - 15 knots.

Luff Tension - pull down the luff to flatten the sail and to induce twist in the top of the sail. Max luff is usually required by 15knots.

Mast rotation - 30 to 20deg.

Mainsheet - firm to hard, ease the mainsheet in the gusts to control the power in the sail. The top windward telltales will be stalled, all other telltales should be flowing.

Foot - pull foot out flat and tight.

Mainsheet traveler - centered.

Jib leads - middle setting on trampoline loops.

Jib sheet - hard and constantly adjusted to keep the jib leech 10 - 50mm from the spreader arm.

### Strong Winds : 15- 20 knots.

Luff Tension - pull down the luff hard to flatten the sail as much as possible and to induce twist in the top of the sail

Mast rotation - 15 deg.

Mainsheet - firm to hard, ease the mainsheet in the gusts to control the power in the sail. The top 2 or 3 windward telltales will be stalled, all other telltales should be flowing.

Foot - pull foot out flat and tight.

Mainsheet traveler - centered.

Jib leads - aft and outboard.

Jib sheet - hard as possible and constantly adjusted to keep the jib leech 20 - 60mm from the spreader arm.

## Downwind sail and rig settings.

### Light Winds : 1 -5 knots.

Boat is sailed flat. Keep your weight forward to make sure the transom is not dragging.

Luff Tension - just remove the major wrinkles down the luff.

Mast rotation - 90 to 100 deg.

Mainsheet - light, allow sail to twist keep leeward telltales flowing.

Foot - ease foot to give 150mm camber in foot.

Traveler - out as far as it will go.

Jib barber haul - fully pulled on.

Jib sheet - light and constantly adjusted to keep telltales flowing.

### Light / Medium Winds : 5 - 10 knots.

Boat is sailed flat. Keep your weight forward to make sure the transom is not dragging.

Luff Tension - just remove the wrinkles down the luff.

Mast rotation - 90 deg.

Mainsheet - light to firm, to control leech twist for maximum power. All telltales should be flowing.

Foot - 150mm camber in foot.

Traveler - out as far as it will go.

Jib barber haul - fully pulled on.

Jib sheet - firm and constantly adjusted to keep telltales flowing.

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Many thanks to Greg Goodall for compiling this tuning guide.