

420 Mainsheet Strop Settings

Until the crew is fully extended on the trapeze and the kicker is being used to stop the boom from lifting the strops should be set so that the mainsheet blocks are close together. Its best if they almost touch, as this will keep the boom close to the centreline.

With the boom close to the centreline maximum power will be generated by the main and the slot between the main and jib will be kept as wide as possible which will, in turn, allow the jib to be sheeted in more.

With the boom on the centreline and the jib sheeted in the highest pointing angle will be achieved. The boat on the left (in the pictures below) will be able to point higher than the boat on the right..



Correct strop length boom is close to the centreline



Strops too short boom is too far from the centreline





In conditions when the wind is up and down and mainsheet is already block to block its possible to pull on the windward strop to temporarily increase leech tension. The thin rope can cut into your hand so using a loop from the tail of the mainsheet to pull on the strop is a useful tip.

One other benefit of pulling on the windward strop is that it pulls the boom slightly to windward of the centreline. This will help the boat to point higher than normal and although it slows the boat slightly as well it can be used for short periods to climb off the startline and to hold a lane when approaching or exiting a mark.