



**Flying Scots**  
Adult Sailing Program

# Sail Trim & Rig Tuning

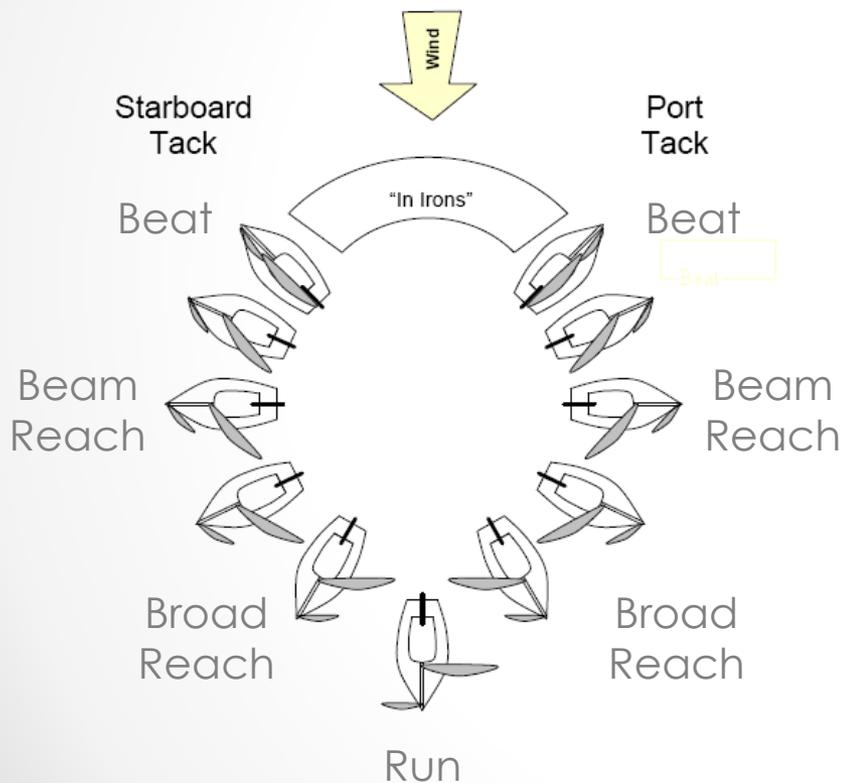
## Right of Way Rules

# Tell Tales



- Tell-tales are small ribbons on the sail or rigging that can be used to show wind direction or behavior – they react before the sail so can be used to help sail the boat more efficiently.
- Tell-tales on the jib indicate the airflow over the sail. When tell-tales are “breaking” or “fluttering” airflow is disturbed and you are not sailing efficiently for the sail as it is trimmed –
  - ***Beating – correct by steering the boat***
  - ***Reaching/Running – correct by trimming the jib***
  - ***Wind velocity can affect tell-tales (lifting up in heavier air, drooping in light air), but that’s not “breaking” or “fluttering”***
- Main sail tell-tales can be used for fine-tuning. Generally, streaming back is desirable.

# Using Tell-Tales to Determine Point of Sail



Check the tell-tales on your shrouds (side stays):

- 45 degrees off the wind? Beating
- 90 degrees off the wind? Beam Reach
- Wind over aft quarter? Broad Reach
- Wind behind you? Running (are you preparing to jibe?)

Adjust your centerboard and sails to your point of sail

# Jib Tell-Tales: Beating



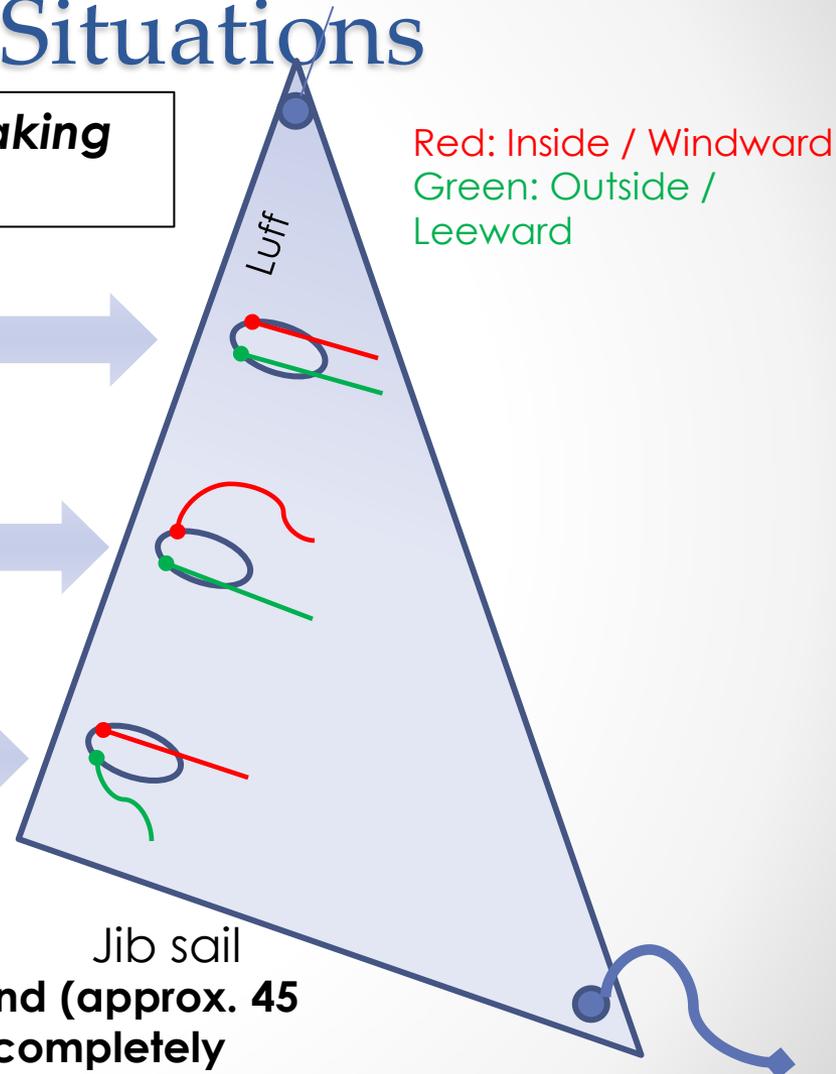
## Three Tell-tale Situations

**When beating skipper should correct breaking tell-tales by steering the boat**

(1) Both streaming back – course steered is as close to the wind as possible

(2) Windward (inside) tell-tale is breaking you are “pinching” & need to fall off

(3) Leeward (outside) tell-tale is breaking – head up (steer closer to the wind)



**Jib tell-tales when beating - sailing close to the wind (approx. 45 degrees) with sails trimmed in, centerboard down completely (jib shown here on port tack)**

# Jib Tell-Tales: Reaching

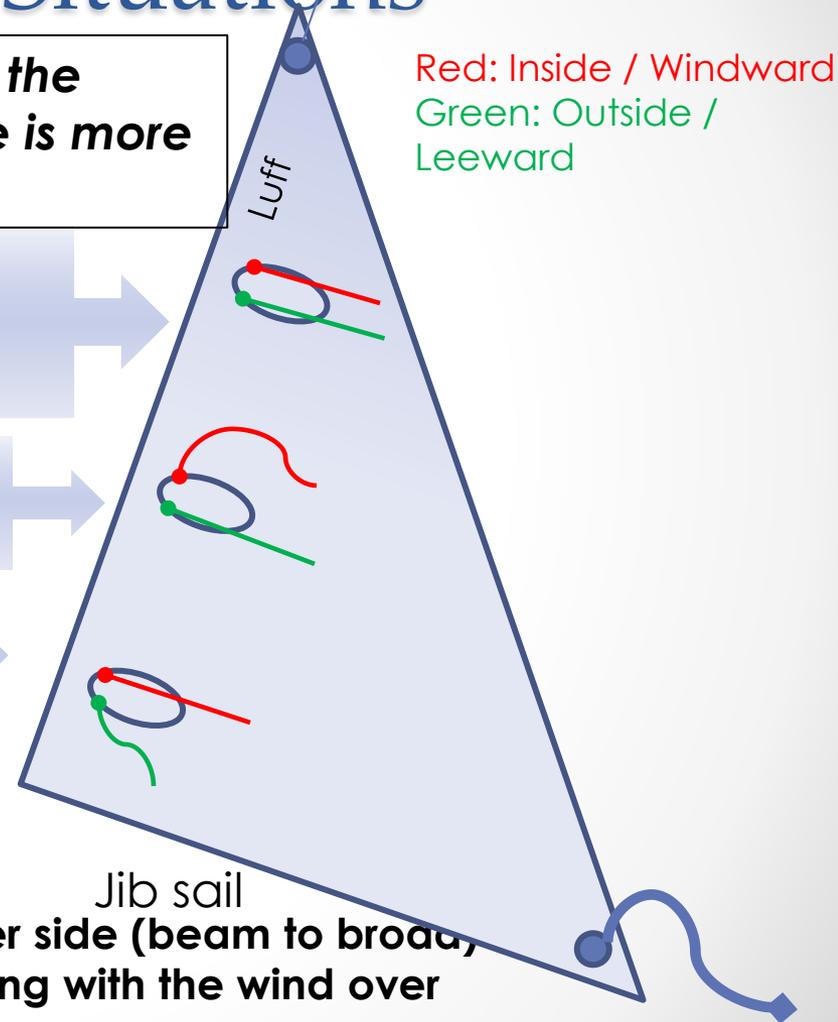
## Three Tell-tale Situations

**When reaching or running trim the jib to the conditions, but the leeward (outside) tell-tale is more important**

(1) Both streaming back – jib is trimmed correctly for the point of sail

(2) Windward (inside) tell-tale is breaking – trim the jib sheet

(3) Leeward (outside) tell-tale is breaking – ease the sheet



Jib tell-tales when reaching - sailing with wind over side (beam to broad), of boat, centerboard partially up, or running - sailing with the wind over the stern of the boat, centerboard up  
(jib shown here on port tack)



# Sail Trim Tips

- Jib's outer telltale is more important than inner
- Trimming is a constant activity
- When in doubt, **let it out** (then trim in slightly)
- Match general amount of ease/trim in both jib and mainsail



# Part 2 – Right of Way Review ...



# Right of Way Concepts

## AVOID COLLISIONS

- Right of Way rules are designed to prevent collisions. However, you have an obligation to avoid a collision, even if another boat is in violation of the rules
- With other sailboats, know the **POW** rules and how to identify what tack other boats are sailing
  - POW rules say which boat is Burdened Vessel and must maneuver to KEEP CLEAR if necessary to avoid collision
- Hold your course if you are Privileged Vessel; make it clear to the other vessel that you are holding course

# Right of Way – Vessel Types



## MORE MANEUVERABLE BOATS KEEP CLEAR

- Boats under sail have the right of way over power boats because boats under power are **more maneuverable**
  - The exception to this is any boat that needs to stay in a channel, such as a freighter
  - Sailboats overtaking powerboats, however, must stay clear
  - Sailboats under power are considered powerboats
- Human-powered boats have the right of way over sailboats (and, thus, powerboats also)
- All boats underway must stay clear of stationary boats (anchored, drifting, beached)



# Right of Way – Sailboats

When sailboats meet, three basic rules apply:

1. **PORT KEEPS CLEAR OF STARBOARD** – When two boats meet on opposite tacks, the boat on the port tack must give way to the boat on starboard tack. This rule prevails over all others, and applies to all points of sail.
2. **OVERTAKING BOAT MUST KEEP CLEAR** – When boats are on the same tack, a boat clear astern (behind) another boat must keep clear while overtaking. Simply put, this means that a faster boat behind another boat may not run into it, but must go around when passing.
3. **WINDWARD KEEPS CLEAR OF LEEWARD** – When boats are on the same tack, the windward boat must keep clear of the leeward boat. In other words, the boat closest to the wind must keep clear.

# Right of Way – Special Situations



- OBSTRUCTION AND SEA ROOM – If two boats are near shore, a buoy, dock or other obstruction, the skipper of the boat that will not be able to clear the obstruction may hail for “sea room”. The other boat must alter course immediately (even if the right-of-way boat), or temporarily yield the right-of-way, so as to allow the hailing boat to avoid the obstruction.
- HAILING – A right-of-way boat must hold course or hail before making an alteration of course which may not be foreseen by the other boat or when asserting right of way.
- TACKING OR JIBING – A boat which is either tacking or jibing shall keep clear of a boat sailing on a tack. When two boat are both tacking or both jibing at the same time, the one on the other’s port side shall keep clear.



# Questions?

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