

# *Competitive J/105 Boathandling*

## **Chalk Talk Notes: Introduction to Team Responsibilities**

### **The Driver**

- Helm
- Backstay
- Sometimes eases the main on set
- Communication needs for weight and sails

#### **A note on styles:**

It's the driver's job to guide the boat through the race, but it's not enough to simply hold the tiller or wheel and push it back and forth. The driver has to be good at communicating what he or she needs from the crew to accomplish what is necessary in the helm. Open and honest dialogue is the only way to excel here. Many people can hold the tiller, but few can truly engage the crew to assist in the process of driving the boat.

### **The Main Trimmer**

- Main sheet
- Traveler
- Assists with the spinnaker halyard on set
- Communicates fleet concerns

#### **A note on styles:**

Many prefer to place the tactician in the Main Trimming role because of the proximity to the driver. That way the two can communicate easily. This team member has to develop a feel for the boat's thirst for speed and ability to point so that he or she can make judgments that compliment or stay a step ahead of the driver in terms of understanding when the boat should be in acceleration, fine-tune or point mode on the racecourse.

**Copyright© 2002 Will Crump  
Team Satisfaction Inc.**

**Reproduction without consent is forbidden.**

## **The Headsail Trimmer**

- Jib sheets
- Spinnaker sheets
- Bowsprit on the set and douse
- Tackline on the set and douse
- Spin halyard on the douse
- Calls out wind, waves and overall fleet info

### **A note on styles:**

Some prefer to place the tactician in the Jib Trimming role because of the freedom this role has to look around off the boat on the upwind leg. This team member often has to understand what the boat feels like to drive in helping the driver sail the optimal downwind course with communication about pressure on the sheet.

## **The Mastman**

- Calls out wind and waves
- Outhaul
- Boom Vang
- Jumps the halyard on the set
- Gathers spinnaker on the douse
- Aggressively balances the boat
- Organizes lines whenever possible

### **A note on styles:**

The Mastman often contributes heavily to the organization of the team by eyeing and fixing problems before they happen. Teams without a figure in this role who has a strong feeling for prevention often find themselves with knotted halyards or sheets and the critical problems that result from that.

## **The Bowman**

- **Aggressively balances the boat**
- **Cunningham**
- **Helping spinnaker out of the hatch**
- **Furling the jib after the set**
- **Gathering the spinnaker on the douse**
- **Helps call out wind and waves**

### **A note on styles:**

This role may not require the rigid techniques associated with manipulating the spinnaker pole on a traditional keelboat, but he or she has to have a strong eye for organization and rigid methodology to maintain consistency and organization with such a huge spinnaker. In addition, he or she has to have a strong fundamental grasp of boathandling from a driver's perspective to assist in gear shifting and anticipating the snags that can develop at mark roundings.

## **The Sixth-Person**

- **Aggressively balances the boat**
- **Unfurls the jib on the douse**
- **Easing the spinnaker halyard and tackline on the douse**

### **A note on styles:**

Some teams swear by sailing with six because of the welcome extra set of hands this gives at certain points in the race. Adding the sixth into the cockpit routine requires strong coordination with the Headsail Trimmer, though.