

# \*\*Sailing Solutions

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**\*TOPPER SPEED\*** So your boat is fully prepared and you are ready to use your new controls. New controls! - what controls have you got to make your Topper go faster and perhaps more to the point what do they control?

	Controls:
Mainsheet	the angle of the sail to the hull
Horse	the position of the mainsheet block across the boat
Kicker	the bend the mast and therefore the fullness of the sail
Outhaul	the depth of the sail especially in the lower third
Downhaul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ the position of the maximum depth of the sail</li> <li>☞ the bend of the mast</li> <li>☞ the openness of the leach</li> </ul>
Daggerboard	the drag downwind and the leeward slip upwind

Not many controls then. No rig tension, no mast rake, no jib sheeting angles. You can concentrate on getting the few right and more quickly begin to enjoy learning to race other boats. More complicated classes will have many more controls to master before they can get down to the fun!

**SETTINGS.** Develop your sense of speed and adjust controls around these suggested start points:

☞ *..medium winds and flat water: (hiking fully and not overpowered)..*

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>75mm from block to block</i>	<i>90+ run by lee- gusts bear away</i>
Horse	<i>As tight as possible</i>	<i>As tight as possible</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up slack + a little more</i>	<i>Eased - leach just able to flick open</i>
Outhaul	<i>Finger length from boom</i>	<i>Hand length from boom</i>
Downhaul	<i>Leave some horizontal creases</i>	<i>off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>down</i>	<i><math>\frac{3}{4}</math> up</i>
Balance	<i>Almost flat</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>As far forward as possible</i>	<i>As far forward as possible</i>

☞ *..medium winds and waves: (waves tending to upset the boat upwind)..*

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>75mm from block to block</i>	<i>90 - play the waves</i>
Horse	<i>As tight as possible</i>	<i>As tight as possible Tight</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up slack + a little</i>	<i>Off - leach just able to flick</i>
Outhaul	<i>Looser than flat water</i>	<i>Slightly tighter than flat water</i>
Downhaul	<i>Take out all the creases</i>	<i>off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>down</i>	<i><math>\frac{1}{2}</math> to <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> up</i>
Balance	<i>Slight heal to leeward</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>250mm back from above</i>	<i>Forward and back-ride the waves</i>

☞ **..Over powered: (fully hiking and letting mainsheet out upwind)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>As above - let off in gusts</i>	<i>As far out as you dare. 80 max</i>
Horse	<i>As tight as possible tight</i>	<i>As tight as possible Tight</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up slack + lots more!</i>	<i>As much off as you feel safe with!</i>
Outhaul	<i>Width of wrist from boom</i>	<i>Hand length from boom</i>
Downhaul	<i>Loads-until front stops backing</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	$\frac{1}{4}$ up	$\frac{1}{2}$ up
Balance	<i>Almost flat</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>250mm further back</i>	<i>Well back- prevent nosedive</i>

☞ **..Looking for more power..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>300mm off block to block</i>	<i>90+ and by the lee</i>
Horse	<i>As tight as possible tight</i>	<i>As tight as possible Tight</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up the slack</i>	<i>Off until leach starts to flick</i>
Outhaul	<i>Width of wrist</i>	<i>Length of hand</i>
Downhaul	<i>Slack</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>Down</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ up
Balance	<i>Very slightly healed to leeward</i>	<i>Healed to windward - neutral helm</i>
Trim	<i>Forward</i>	<i>Forward-stern out of water</i>

☞ **..Looking for any power at all! (very little wind)..**

control	upwind	downwind
Mainsheet:	<i>300mm off block to block</i>	<i>90+ and by the lee</i>
Horse	<i>Allow shackle to cross tiller</i>	<i>Allow shackle to cross tiller</i>
Kicker	<i>Take up the slack</i>	<i>Until leach starts to flick</i>
Outhaul	<i>Reasonably tight-finger length</i>	<i>Reasonably tight-finger length</i>
Downhaul	<i>off</i>	<i>Off</i>
Daggerboard	<i>down</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ up
Balance	<i>Leeward heal- reduces friction</i>	<i>Well healed to leeward</i>
Trim	<i>forward</i>	<i>On bulkhead</i>

☞ Many experienced helms talk about getting feedback from the tiller extension. Grip it loosely and it will tell you things. Make a change to a setting and feel the effect.

☞ ***These settings are only start points - make your own mind up.***

Further advice needed? Feel free to phone 01243 379444

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