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Dart Sails & Covers

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Guide to Genoa Trim, their controls and guide to approximate settings

Wind Strength in Knots (true)	0 - 6	6 - 1 0	11 - 15	15 - 20	20 +
Upwind goal for pointing or speed	Maximum Speed, do not try to point!	maximum speed, only try to point when up to maximum speed	maximum speed , only try to point when up to maximum speed	Maximum pointing mode, but do not point too high in waves or out of tacks	Sail as close winded as you dare!
Aim for sail shape - upwind	Quite full, draft at about 42°	Quite full, draft at about 40°	Medium depth, draft at about 40°	Quite Flat, draft at about 38°	Very Flat, bladed out, draft at about 35°
Aim for sail shape - reaching	Maximum depth, draft at about 46°	Maximum depth, draft at about 45°	Maximum depth, draft at about 45°	Medium depth, draft at about 45°	Medium depth, draft at about 45°
Likely sail selection	Light No.1 Genoa	Light No.1 Genoa	Medium / Heavy No.1 Genoa	No.2 Genoa	Jib
Backstay (Mast Bend) Upwind	None (to maximise forestay sag)	None (slight as getting powered up)	Slight to medium	Medium - Hard when getting overpowered	Maximum (until you get overbend creases out of Mainsail clew)
Headsail Halyard tension Upwind	Hand tight. Luff should have wrinkles	Just over hand tight, be careful on the winch	Quite hard	Hard	Maximum
Sheet tension (distance foot is off shrouds at deck)	Well eased, foot just inside guard rails	About 2" off the shroud base	Touching shroud base	Touching shroud base	Use Jib, if stuck on a genoa. You may well need to ease the sheet so the foot is 2" off the shroud base to depower, but keep pointing
Headsail Tell tales	All streaming parallel	All streaming parallel or inside just lifting	Inside tell tale just lifting to 25° up, with perhaps the top tell tale lifting slightly more than the others	Inside tell tale just lifting to 45° up, with perhaps the top tell tale lifting slightly more than the others	Bottom inside tell tale should be lifting to 45° up with higher tell tales lifting towards 75°
Twist Upwind (distance leech off the top spreader)	Leech twisted about 15° to leeward or about 5" off the spreader	Leech twisted about 10° to leeward or about 2" off the spreader	Minimal twist. Leech twisted about 5° to leeward, leech touching top spreader	Leech twisted about 10° to leeward or about 2" off spreader; more if need to depower.	Leech twisted about 10° - 15° to leeward or about 2" off spreader; more if need to depower.

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Guide to Jib Trim, their controls and guide to approximate settings. For boats without Genoas

Wind Strength in Knots (true)	0 - 6	6 - 1 0	11 - 15	15 - 20	20 +
Upwind goal for pointing or speed	Maximum Speed, do not try to point!	maximum speed, only try to point when up to maximum speed	maximum speed , only try to point when up to maximum speed	Maximum pointing mode, but do not point too high in waves or out of tacks	Sail as close winded as you dare!
Upwind goal for sail shape	Quite full, draft at about 42°	Quite full, draft at about 40°	Medium depth, draft at about 40°	Quite Flat, draft at about 38°	Very Flat, bladed out, draft at about 35°
Reaching goal for sail shape	Maximum depth, draft at about 46°	Maximum depth, draft at about 45°	Maximum depth, draft at about 45°	Medium depth, draft at about 45°	Medium depth, draft at about 45°
Likely sail selection	Code 1 Jib	Code 1 Jib	Code 2 (AP Jib)	Code 2 (AP Jib)	Code 3 or heavy weather Jib
Backstay (Mast Bend) Upwind	None (to maximise forestay sag)	None (slight as getting powered up)	Slight to medium	Medium - Hard when getting overpowered	Maximum (until you get overbend creases out of Mainsail clew)
Headsail Halyard tension Upwind	Hand tight. Luff should have wrinkles	Just over hand tight, be careful on the winch	Quite hard	Hard	Maximum
Sheet tension Laterally	Well eased, may even barber haul to leeward	Well Eased	Close in. Use about half inhauler if applicable	Maximum in. Use full inhauler, unless speed is slow (ease inhauler out of the tacks)	Use maximum inhauler unless in big waves or boat is slow.
Headsail Tell tales	All streaming parallel	All streaming parallel or inside just lifting	Inside tell tale just lifting to 25° up, with perhaps the top tell tale lifting slightly more than the others	Inside tell tale just lifting to 45° up, with perhaps the top tell tale lifting slightly more than the others	Bottom inside tell tale should be lifting to 45° up with higher tell tales lifting towards 75°
Twist Upwind (distance leech off the top spreader)	Leech twisted about 15° to leeward	Leech twisted about 10°	Minimal twist. Leech twisted about 5° to leeward.	Leech twisted about 10° to leeward; more if need to depower.	Leech twisted about 10° - 15° to leeward; more if need to depower.