

Competitive 420 Boathandling

Chalk Talk Notes:

Introduction to Team Responsibilities

Team Goals

Regardless of whether racing or fooling around, both driver and crew have a couple of goals in common.

They are:

1. Steering the boat
2. Getting the most out of being on the water

Most team breakdowns can be traced back to a compromise in one of these areas. It's here that focusing on positive building blocks allows a team to learn quickly, and consequently, a race is about learning quickly too. So, it should come as no surprise that the teams that can get the communication and boathandling down in order to focus more on learning what's happening off the boat are the most successful.

The Crew

- Jib sheets
- Vang
- Cunningham (smart-pig)
- Outhaul
- Centerboard

In the Club 420 the crew also handles the

- Trapeze
- Spinnaker Sheets
- Spinnaker Pole

A note on styles:

Because the crew is really considered the "glue" to the team, consistency in each action is very important to creating

consistent results in boathandling. So, make sure that you feel as if you are working out a “system” of your own that you can create a routine from.

The Driver

- Mainsheet
- Tiller

In the Club 420 the driver also handles the

- Spinnaker halyard on the set and douse
- Spinnaker sheets on the gybe

A note on styles:

Because the driver really needs the crew’s constant and active participation in steering the boat, a large part of this job is about open, honest and motivating communication that encourages a dialogue about “what’s needed” when things aren’t quite right or can be improved.