

## Faster Fevas – Boat setup

### General

The rig is very simple on the Feva, and whilst it is beautifully easy to put together for novices, there are a few 'tweaks' which can help make the boats easier to sail and faster. Don't get too carried away with adjusting all of this whilst sailing – it will be much faster keeping your head out of the boat and concentrating on sailing than continually altering the settings.

Firstly, the rig: Without spreaders, and with no taper to the mast, it will be too stiff and over-straight for light airs, but will then bend too much for strong airs.

Secondly, the sails: The shape of the new Dacron jibs is a great improvement over the radial-cut original mylar ones. If you haven't got one yet – go buy one! The upper leech is more open on the Dacron ones, and also the luff tension is adjustable. The mylar also will shrink with salt and sunshine, which make the sails become 'baggy'. Make sure you wash the mainsail with fresh water each time it gets salty – it will give it a longer racing life. Make sure the bolt-rope gets its fair-share of water too – they also shrink. And yes, we all know this – don't leave the sails to flap in the wind – it wrecks them. Great for sailmakers, but not so good for your pocket.

Foils: Do look after them. Don't leave them in the boat when not in use – you will find they will distort in the heat.

Trailing: These are plastic boats, and like all plastics they will bend and distort – specially with heat and loads. So when you get home, don't forget to loosen off those tight straps.

Finally, the rig-controls: Make sure these work effectively and below are a few suggestions as to how they can be better set up.

### Light wind mode:

The secret here is to make sure the slot doesn't close up too much.

- 1) Make sure the sheet is not over-tightened, as the last inch or so just tightens the leech.
- 2) Loosen off the jib-halyard – this will rake the rig back in the boat, which in turn will induce mast-bend to flatten the mainsail and additionally open the leech of the jib. Note: it is easier to loosen than tighten when you are on the water, so set off with it tighter than you think you will need, then loosen it just before the start.
- 3) Lengthen the mainsheet bridle so the boom can be centrelined without putting too much tension in the mainsail leech
- 4) Kicker – off
- 5) Outhaul – medium tight
- 6) Mainsheet – 1:1
- 7) Make sure the tabling on the jib is quite loose before you go afloat. A few horizontal creases is fast.
- 8) Cunningham – loose enough to have a few horizontal creases in the mainsail.

**Medium wind:**

As soon as the wind is strong enough for the crew to fully sit out. Here the shrouds should be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole down.

- 1) Make sure the jib-halyard is tight.
- 2) Tighten the kicker, but take care not to overdo it and stop the top tell-tale on the main from flying.
- 3) Shorten the bridle so the mainsail leech can be tightened when the boom is centrelined.
- 4) Outhaul – medium. Make it tighter in flat water, and out a little if there is a chop or waves.
- 5) Mainsheet – 1:1
- 6) Jib tabling – tighten a bit so you can still just see horizontal creases. Vertical creases up the luff are very slow!
- 7) Cunningham – just a few horizontal creases now. If in doubt, it is better to have less on than too much.

**Strong wind**

Now you are having to find the best ways to lose power. If it is really strong before you launch, drop the shrouds down 2 holes, tighten the jib tabling, and rig the mainsheet with 2:1 purchase before you go afloat. Also make sure the bridle is short enough to be able to bring in the mainsheet.

Then in order of importance:

- 1) Really tighten the jib-halyard so that the jib-luff does not sag too much. Don't worry about the slot, it will open naturally as the mast bends.
- 2) Outhaul – really tight
- 3) Kicker – tight
- 4) Cunningham – progressively tighten – again, don't overdo it.
- 5) Hike hard – real hard!

**Very Very strong wind**

Fevas come into their own when it is blowing dogs off chains. Tighten everything, go out and have fun! Fevas will really fly with the kite up, and you can enjoy watching the miserable faces of owners of Mirrors/420s who are either stuck ashore or are upside down waiting for rescue!

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