

Competitive X-99 Boathandling

Chalk Talk Notes: Spinnaker Douses

Three Different Types

1. Leeward Douse

Happens when the boat is approaching a leeward mark on Starboard Tack

2. Windward Douse

Happens when the boat is approaching a mark on Port Tack

All mark roundings can have two distinguishing stages that are necessary for good execution of a tactical rounding:

- The Set-up where the spinnaker comes down
 - The rounding where the actual turn is executed
- Proper preparation in the Set-up stage is necessary for good execution in the Rounding stage.*

General Process

- 1. Raise the genoa**
- 2. Stow the spinnaker pole**
- 3. Bear away enough to control the spinnaker (if necessary)**
- 4. Trim the port spinnaker sheet around**
- 5. Release the starboard spinnaker sheet**
- 6. Release the halyard**
- 7. Gather the spinnaker into the hatch**

- 8. Head up around the mark**
- 9. Trim the jib and main and hike out**

The Driver

Procedure:

- 1. Communicate overlap with other boats**
- 2. Bear away for control of the spinnaker (if necessary in higher winds)**
- 3. Take a last look at options for the windward leg**
- 4. Communicate the rate of the turn and sheeting necessary**

A note on the finer points:

Start thinking and acting on the rounding early. Generally the last third of the leeward leg is spent considering how to set up for the best rounding. This also helps insure an inside position at the mark. While the best teams have crew members that understand how time, speed and distance are inter-related in the process, the driver may need to push the crew in starting the process early enough to execute at the rounding.

The Main Trimmer

Procedure:

- 1. Prepares the running backs for the turn**
- 2. Takes a last look around for opportunities on the coming windward leg**
- 3. Grabs the main sheet to trim during the rounding**
- 4. Fine tunes the traveler, running backstay and checkstay**

The Headsail Trimmer

The choreography between the positions depends on who is trimming the Port-side when the spinnaker needs to come down

Port-side trimmer:

- 1. Hands the spinnaker sheet to the starboard-side trimmer**
- 2. Runs forward the grab the port spinnaker clew**
- 3. Pulls the spinnaker back to the pit person**
- 4. Helps stuff the spinnaker into the bag**
- 5. Grabs the tail of the jib sheet to trim for the rounding if necessary**
- 6. Hikes out**

Starboard-side trimmer:

- 1. Takes both sheets the trim for the final moment**
- 2. Releases the starboard sheet**
- 3. Unloads the spinnaker sheet from the starboard winch**
- 4. Loads jib/genoa sheet onto the winch**
- 5. Trims headsail for the rounding**
- 6. Reloads the leeward running backstay for the main trimmer**
- 7. Clears the windward winch**
- 8. Loads the lazy jib sheet onto the windward winch to prepare for the next tack**
- 9. Hikes out**

The Pit

Procedure:

- 1. Presets the outhaul**
- 2. Hops in the companionway**
- 3. Raises the genoa**
- 4. Releases the spinnaker halyard**
- 5. Gathers the spinnaker in the bag**
- 6. Goes for the rail to hike out**

The Bowman

Procedure:

- 1. Stows the spinnaker pole on the boom**
- 2. Makes sure the spinnaker halyard is uncleated**
- 3. Grabs the starboard spinnaker sheet to overhaul if necessary**
- 4. Skirts the genoa**
- 5. Hikes out for the rounding**