

SEAS American 18 Whisker Pole Usage Guide

The SEAS/Monmouth American 18 day sailors are equipped with whisker poles. They are mounted on the front of the mast. See photo. Whisker poles are used to hold the jib out when sailing wing-on-wing or on a broad reach. See diagrams below. Following is a general guide on how to put the whisker pole into position, trim the sail, and remove the pole. This guide cannot cover every possible condition that may arise. Please ask for help from an experienced skipper if you are not comfortable using this guide and want to use the pole. Remember, use of the whisker pole is optional – it is not required. However it does help the boat to sail with more control when on a broad reach or run point of sail. And it is far safer than using the paddle to hold the jib out.

Things you need to know about the pole

- The jaws are spring loaded so they close when you release the control line and stay closed when in use
- To open the jaws hold the pole with one hand and *gently* pull the attached green control line away from the pole with your other hand until the jaw opens. An inch or two of pull is all you need.
- When covering the mainsail, wrap the front of the cover around both the mast and the pole.
- Be careful handling the pole so that it is not



dropped overboard. If it is dropped overboard, it will float for a while, but not forever. There is foam floatation inside; no testing has been done regarding how well nor how long it will float. Please take steps to recover immediately.

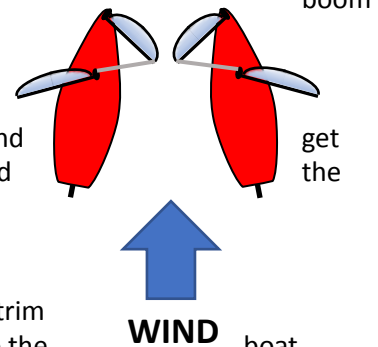
- These poles are somewhat fragile. Handle with care and they will serve us for many years. Heavy handling will break them.

- Skippers are responsible for any damage to the boats or loss of hardware. A pole this size cost about \$150.

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To use it:

- Steer the boat to a downwind heading, preferably on the border of broad reach and running
- Gybe the jib – move it to the opposite side of the boat from the boom
- Get into a comfortable, secure position near the mast
- open the lower jaw and remove the pole from the mast eye
- lower the pole out of the upper storage bracket
- always keep the entire pole in front of the mast. Do not let one end behind the mast – it can get tangled, someone can be injured, and pole can be damaged.
- clip one end of the pole on the working jib sheet at the jib clew
- clip the other end on the mast eye
- use the jib sheet to trim the sail – see below for guidance on sail trim
- maintain this heading. The helmsman must pay close attention to the heading relative to the wind. Deviating from this point of sail is boat dangerous.
- ***remove whisker pole from sail before gybing, coming about, and before turning upwind***



To remove it:

- get into position (preferably seated) to comfortably grasp the pole firmly with one hand to support it as you pull the green control line to release the pole from the jib sheet. The jib sheet should lift out of the jaw and the pole will be free to swing down
- release the pole from the mast
- stow the pole per instructions below
- trim the sails

To stow it:

- place one end of the pole in the upper bracket
- clip the other end on the mast eye

To trim the jib:

- There should be a telltale in the middle of the whisker pole. Adjust the working jib sheet so the telltale is streaming at right angles to the pole. Then trim the main sail so the line of the boom is parallel to the line of the whisker pole
- Alternatively, if there is no telltale on the whisker pole use a telltale on the shroud as a substitute or use the mast head wind indicator: the pole (and boom) should be at to the arrow.

