

Pre-Regatta Boat Checklist

“Proper planning & preparation prevents poor performance!”

Rudder/Centreboard



- Check foils and hull for scratches.
If small scratch can polish out/wet & dry sandpaper.
If bigger scratch then fill and sand smooth.
*Be careful not to polish centreboard as this causes issues if you capsize, you will keep slipping off it!



- Check tiller doesn't hit traveller cleat and if it does, prop up by packing something underneath it inside the rudder box to elevate it (Eg Old Credit Card).

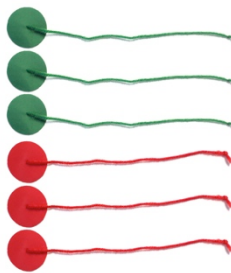


- Check rudder is firmly secured with bolt tight so that it can't come up.

Sail



- Wear in new sail for 2-3 sessions (avoiding strong winds). Preferably by sailing with it, but if too windy can be done onshore as in photo above to avoid flapping.
- Store sail rolled on a tube or rolled by itself to avoid creases.



- Ensure tell tales are applied in correct spots with 1 set visible for steering. Light/thin woolen tell tales are the most sensitive and won't stick to the sail as easily as the standard Ronstan ones.
- New concave batten tip is placed on the inboard end of the batten to prevent the batten slipping by the elastic in the batten pocket.
- Check sail number (and country code if required) is correct and applied prior to arriving.

View country code issues here:

http://www.laserinternational.org/sites/default/files/Matrix_ver5_Sheet1.pdf



Hull



- Check for wear on strap at hiking strap bolts and the hiking strap rope.
- Replace friction pad prior to major regattas so that centerboard stays down. Good to take a spare to regattas.
- If using a thick hiking strap (eg Zhik) check bolts are gripping thread properly. Sometimes if not screwed down properly bolts don't reach thread.
- Check hull for any water/leaks.
- Flip boat over and identify/repair any cracks on gunwhales.
- Check venturi opens and closes properly. If not working may have to flip the boat over and unscrew the whole venturi to replace rubber rings/bands inside.



Spars

- Check spars for straightness and if bent replace.
- Check spars for signs of corrosion/cracks on all fittings and if visible replace.
- Check bottom section for signs of significant wear/cracks at deck level.
- Check all rivots and if loose re-rivot. If holes oversized may need to use bigger rivots or replace.


Ropes/Fittings

- If Velcro not sticking replace clew strap.
- Ensure you have a mast tie down rope (legal requirement).
- Ensure traveller rope cleats under tension (thick dynema usually best).
- Check all ropes and control lines.
If frayed replace with enough time (at least 3 sessions) so that the new ropes aren't too oily and slippery.



- Use of thin Yellow 5.5mm Rooster Mainsheet encouraged as it easily runs through blocks and is more sensitive in lighter winds.
- Check mainsheet not frayed and if it is either end for end or replace.
- Check traveller block for cracks/signs of wear.



-  Check vang key isn't cracked.

To see some of the other Laser tips and tricks here:

<http://www.lasersailing.com.au/laser-tips-and-tricks/>

Spares – As a coach I am always more than happy to take your spares out on the coach boat at regattas and would prefer you were prepared and had them than not!