



Flying Headsails – Summary and Q&A

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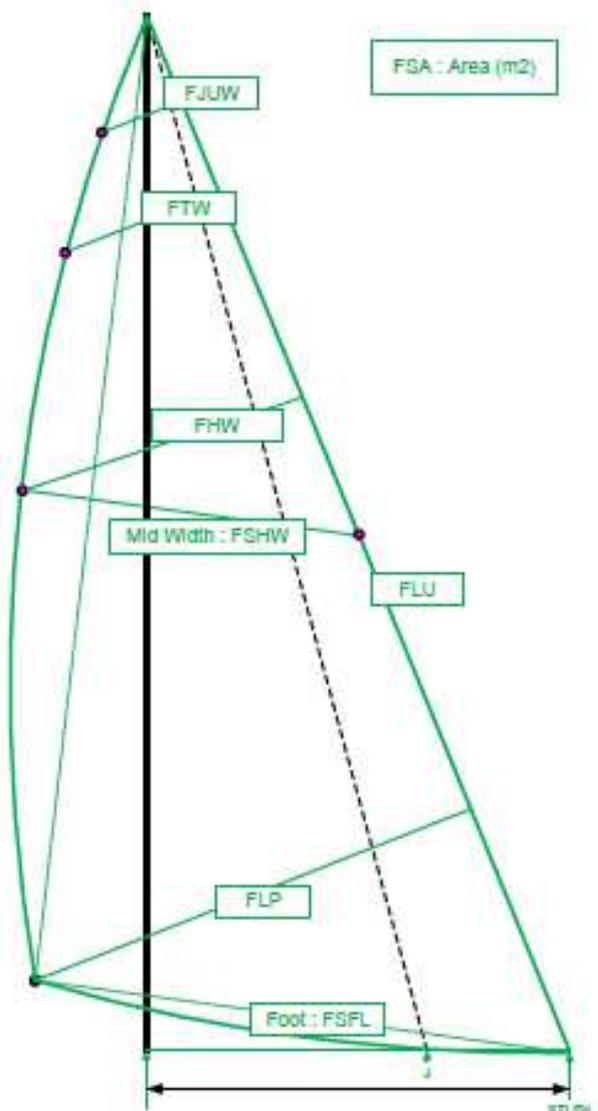
1. SUMMARY

A Flying Headsail is:

- Set Forward of the Forestay – either to the bow or a bowsprit
- The Half Width (FSHW) must be equal to or greater than 62.5% of foot length and less than 75% of foot length (FSFL);
 - If the Half Width is less than 62.5% of foot length the sail must be rated as a headsail. (This will increase the rating)
 - If the Half Width is greater or equal to 75% of foot width the sail must be rated as a spinnaker. (This will reduce the rating)
- No Battens
- It is not a mandatory requirement but typically these sails will be set on a furling device.
- The sail may not be set partially furled or reefed.



Acronyms



2. LIMITATIONS



The following limitations are requirements for a sail to be classed as a Flying Headsail. If it is not a Flying Headsail the sail must be rated as a Headsail or a Spinnaker depending on the FSHW/FSFL ratio.

Half Width to Foot Ratio: = FSHW/FSFL

Minimum FSHW = FSFL * 0.625

Maximum FSHW = FSFL * 0.749

STLFHmax – This is calculated for a specific sail using the formula: - **STLFHmax = FSFL – (0.25 * J)**

The sail must not be set further forward than the STLFHmax stated on the certificate. If STLFHmax is mid span of the bowsprit it may be that the bowsprit will not be strong enough at this point and the sail will need to be set further aft.

The STLFH cannot be declared by an owner and there is no rating benefit of declaring a STLFH that is shorter than STLFHmax.

If the calculated STLFHmax is less than the value of J then the sail must be rated as a headsail.

Number of Flying Headsails – The number of Flying Headsails carried whilst racing is a rated value shown on the certificate. A boat shall not have more than the rated number of Flying Headsails on board whilst racing. A boat that has 2 Flying Headsails but is only rated for 1 Flying Headsail aboard may change between races/events subject to IRC Rule 21.1.5(d).

3. QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Q - Can a Flying Headsail be set on the Forestay like a standard headsail?

A – NO, to be classed as a Flying Headsail the sail must be tacked down forward of the forestay.

Q – Can a Flying Headsail be set with a Whisker Pole to Leeward?

A – YES, if the boat is rated for Whisker Pole(s). The rating impact for whisker poles increases if a boat is also rated for Flying Headsails.

Q – Can other Headsails (i.e. Staysails) be set at the same time as a Flying Headsail?

A – YES, additional headsails may be set at the same time as a Flying Headsail. These sails must be no larger than the rated headsail area (HSA) & maximum headsail luff length (HLUmax).

Q – Can a Headsail (Jib Top, Yankee etc) be set forward of the forestay if a boat is not rated for Flying Headsails?

A – YES, a boat does not need to be rated for a Flying Headsail to fly a Headsail forward of the forestay. As long as the sail area is less than the rated headsail area (HSA) & maximum headsail luff length (HLUmax) it is a headsail and may be set flying forward of the forestay up to STL.