



## Ultimate 20 Preparation Guide

Your preparation goals should be to ensure that your boat and gear:

- Are safe and strong enough not to fail in any condition.
- Present a clean profile to the wind and water.
- Allow smooth, easy and hazard-free control of all adjustments.

### Hull

The factory finish on a new Ultimate 20 requires little attention. The class rules do not allow fairing so just make sure the bottom is clean.

### Keel and Rudder

Just like the hull, class rules do not allow fairing of the keel and rudder. The rudder preparation is as simple as keeping it in a cover during travel and making sure it is clean. Check the trailing edge of both the rudder and the keel to make sure they are square and smooth. This prevents the blades from humming at high speeds. Since the keel is raised and lowered every time the boat is launched, it can become scratched. It is important to make sure the keel trunk is clean and the plastic shim blocks are sanded smooth so as not to scratch the keel. By using a lubricant such as soap, the keel will raise and lower easier.

When trailering the Ultimate 20, the keel can move around inside the trunk, which leads to keel damage. To prevent this, insert rags or shims into the trunk from the top to wedge the keel into place so it will not move. Also, tie a line from the top of the keel to the mast step to hold it forward.

### Rig

The rig requires only the minimum amount of work as follows:

- Install a Dinghy Model Windex on the mast crane.
- Tape the ends of the spreaders to protect the spinnaker.
- Place black tape marks around the spreaders at 2", 4" and 6" to use as trimming reference marks.
- Install a short piece of shock cord around the front of the mast, attached to both lower shrouds at 8" below the spreaders to prevent the spinnaker halyard from getting caught during the spinnaker set.
- Polish the mast with a coat of silicone-based marine wax.

### Deck Layout

The class rules do not allow modification to the deck layout, but there are a few small items that will improve your boat handling. These are as follows:

- Use a maximum length forestay per class rules.
- Install a 6" soft batten or piece of poly tubing to prevent the spinnaker sheets from going under the spinnaker pole during outside jibes.
- Lubricate the spinnaker pole with dry Teflon.
- Mark the pole extender line for maximum pole extension.
- Install backing plates under the deck for the lifeline stanchions.
- Drill out two holes in the jib tracks between each factory hole.
- Use tapered "Y" spinnaker sheets so sheets do not snag on the furled jib during jibes.