Symmetrical Spinnaker – Launch & Retrieval Guide

SETUP (80% of success)

1. Rig the sail
- Head → spinnaker halyard
- Clews → port + starboard sheets thru Twings
  • Sheet = leeward trimming line
  • Guy = windward sheet (to pole)

2. Attach the pole
- One end to mast ring
- Outboard end clips to guy

3. Rig pole controls
- Topping lift (holds pole up)
- Foreguy / downhaul (holds pole down)

4. Pre-set pole height
- Keep roughly horizontal (level with clew)

5. Run lines cleanly
- Outside lifelines and forestay
- No twists

6. Pack sail
- Windward clew + guy on top
- Ready to launch leeward of forestay

HOIST (End-for-end method)

1. Sail on a broad reach
2. Set the pole (clip to mast, attach to windward sheet, square back)
3. Pre-tension guy (pole out 2–3 ft from forestay)
4. Hoist quickly and continuously
5. Trim as sail fills
6. Final trim (pole ⊥ apparent wind, slight luff curl)

TRIMMING LOGIC

- Pole controls POSITION
- Sheet controls SHAPE

Adjustments:
- Pole forward → reaching
- Pole aft → deeper downwind
- Raise pole → opens leech
- Lower pole → stabilizes

DOUSE (Leeward – standard)

1. Head to broad reach
2. Ease sheet
3. Blow guy (controlled)
4. Trip pole off guy
5. Gather sail behind main
6. Lower halyard steadily
7. Contain sail (avoid water)

COMMON FAILURES

- Pole misaligned (too high/low)
- Poor hoist timing
- Unloaded guy
- Shrimping (sail in water)
- Forestay wraps

CORE PRINCIPLE

Guy + Pole = Position
Sheet = Shape