

Jan 15, 2024 Note to the ExCom:

The MC has received two requests to consider moving the forestay turnbuckle to an above deck location. These requests were made to aid limited mobility owners adjust the rake and tension of their rigs without going up under the foredeck.

While the MC supports the concept of making the boat easier to sail for the owners with limited mobility. The complexity of corresponding changes limits the practicality of this option. Additionally, allowing this option to only sailors with limited mobility would be difficult at best, and impossible at worst. Setting criteria defining what we mean by “limited mobility” and then enforcing it is more than could be expected for our volunteer organization.

Details of change

Moving the turnbuckle into the above deck position isn't just inverting the standard turnbuckle and forestay extender. It will require more changes to make it workable. As we have continued exploring this idea, the number of supporting changes has expanded. Here are required (supporting/corresponding) changes:

- Lengthen the forestay extender so the swage clears the deck enough to allow the wire to bend to the angle of the forestay and NOT bend the threaded rod which threads into the turnbuckle.
 - The wire could be lengthened alone or the another (perhaps shorter) turnbuckle could be used in place of the FSI supplied part. Whatever end is used on the forestay extender needs to be well clear the forestay deck hole so the wire doesn't have bending stresses at the swage.
- The extender wire would have to be lengthened so the jib tack shackle can continue to capture the forestay at the same time as the tack. If the shackle exerts side force on the turnbuckle end, it will accelerate wear on the threaded post/swage of the turnbuckle.
- The standard FSI turnbuckle uses seizing wire to prevent rotation. Without these the rig tension will self-adjust. The necessary seizing wire/carter pins can greatly increase the likelihood of snagging the spinnaker.

- A Sta-Master turnbuckle or the like could be a solution but would require a new forestay extender and taping as well.
- The lower jib hanks will very likely have to be moved to accommodate the location of the turnbuckle.
- The forestay length will likely have to be shortened to accept the size of the turnbuckle.

Alternate Solution

There is no doubt that this change can be successfully engineered by the boat owners. The question becomes why allow it when the Class already endorses the use of a multi hole adjuster plate at the forestay/forestay extender junction. This is used to make rig tension/rake adjustments from above the deck. Additionally, it's my understanding that the Ronstan version of this plate has two parallel rows of holes which allows for fairly small changes in rig tension/rake – perhaps as little as the equivalent two turns of the turnbuckle. This seems like the best solution to changing rig tension from above deck.

Conclusion

The MC has determined that the current design of the forestay, extender, turnbuckle, etc. is the only Class legal arrangement. No modifications are allowable.