

## Slalom putokaz za opremu

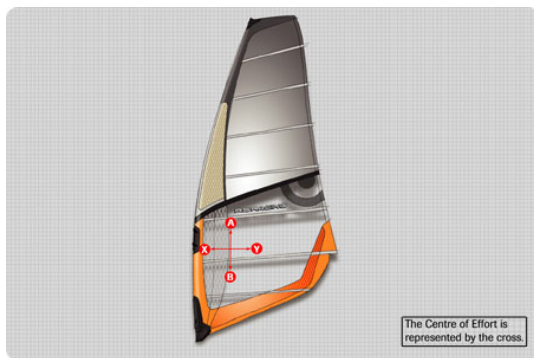
Napisao Németh Lehel  
utorak, 19 maj 2009 10:54

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**Stranica u izradi, posetite nas ponovo uskoro.**

<http://www.neilpryde.com/insiders-guide/insiders-guide/slalom-speed-part-one-equipment.html>

SLALOM! SPEED! Part One: Equipment



**INTRODUCTION** Without a doubt there is a resurgence of interest in slalom and speed-sailing. Wherever you look – on the professional circuit, in national championships as well as at a local level – people are again interested in going fast.

Like all windsurfing equipment choosing speed and slalom gear involves an element of trial and error and personal preference but in part one of a two-part article, Jon Squires takes a look at the basics of slalom sails, boards and the combination of equipment you'll need to get on the pace.

Part two will cover off all you need to know about slalom setup, tuning as well as an introduction to race tactics.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The equipment used for slalom has evolved significantly over time but the *big* changes that have taken place since the mid-1990's are that boards have got

**shorter**

and

**wider**

, while sails have become

**larger**

and

**flatter**

.

### BOARDS

The change in board shapes has been due to the need to generate more speed and control, while also making them more effective across a wider wind range.

By making a board shorter, the designer can reduce the 'moment' effect that will influence the fore and aft trim. Trim has a big influence on control. Simply put – if you make a board shorter (*within reason!*)

, you improve its control. This is of course a simplification of a complex problem involving the variables of rocker, plan shape

*and*

length but you get the idea.

To give you an example, a 'classic' slalom board from 1995 was around 270cm long and 52cm wide with a volume around 75-80lt. Nowadays, a slalom board designed for a similar amount of breeze (15 – 30kts) will measure 245 x 60cm, while the volume will be about 90lt.

In fact, the biggest determinant of a boards 'purpose' is its **width** and **volume**. Length is now virtually meaningless as all boards are about the same length!

The **width** of the board will determine it's usefulness across different wind strengths. In the same way a Formula board planes early due to it being 1.0m wide, a slalom board will benefit from the same logic. Consequently, light wind slalom boards are often as wide as 80-85cm. Conversely, as the board gets narrower it becomes suitable for use in progressively higher winds. In theory at least, it has more speed potential; this is the reason why speed boards are so narrow – sometimes as little as 42cm wide.

To demonstrate these differences, the outline drawings show three different types of board. Each one reflects the designers' objective by way of a different outline while the length hardly changes.

*Captions: BOARDS. These are the captions that go with the board drawings. In the drawing, the **speed** board is on the left, the **medium** wind slalom board is in the middle and the **light** wind board on the right.*

#### **SPEED BOARD (242 x 48cm; 68lt.)**

*This is a highly specialised board designed for one thing: SPEED. To minimise resistance (drag), wetted surface area is kept to a minimum. Therefore, the board is narrow and has a tiny 'pin' tail. To help trim the board aft, the foot-straps and fin box are located as far back as possible. For this reason, having an excellent fin is imperative; typically it is all that is in the water.*



