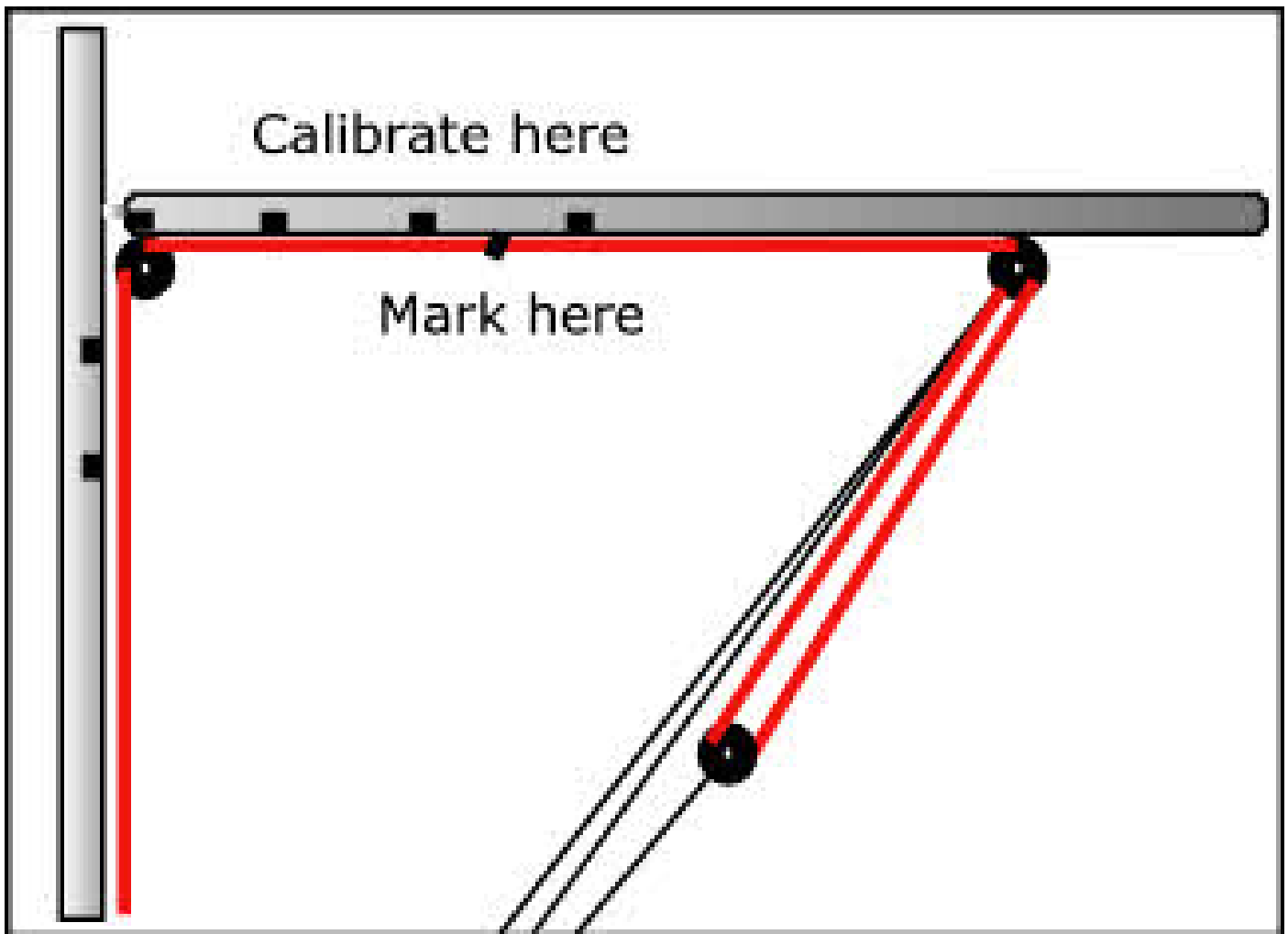


Calibrating your kicking strap



Setting it up

My suggestion is to put marks about 10cm apart along the boom from the kicker attachment point forward and then down the mast to deck level. Put a single mark on the control line so that when the kicker is in its most eased position (light winds run) the mark is roughly level with the kicker attachment to the boom. This should mean that when the kicker is fully on (strong winds beat) the mark on the control line is at deck level.

It usually needs some fine tuning but once it's setup correctly you have a guide calibrated guide to your kicker settings.

How to use it

I use it as a rough guide to how much kicker to use for a given wind strength, however I find it is at its most useful when rounding the leeward mark.

Check the position of your calibration mark once you are happy with your settings going upwind. The next time you round the leeward there will probably be boats everywhere and you won't have time to look up at the sail to check its set correctly. Just pull the kicker on until the mark is in the same place as last time and you can concentrate on tactics and boatspeed.