

Loading Your Tasar In A Container

In order to fit 10 Tasars, dolly's, spars, foils and sails in a container, there is a lot of organization that needs to happen before and during the loading and unloading of the boats. If you have never packed your Tasar in a container before, here is some information to help you understand the process.

The TANSW committee will organize the transport company to deliver a container to the pickup location, transport it to the regatta, and return it to an unloading location at the end of the regatta. The container is usually a 40 foot high top that has extra tie off points at the top, bottom and ends of the container. As a guide, the cost will be approx. \$1300 per boat. Ensure that your insurance company is aware that it is being transported by container, as most standard policies do not cover it.

To assist in the loading process, the committee will ask each member for the expected date that they will be arriving at the regatta and be available to unload their boat. This sets the load order of the boats and the same load order will be used for the return.

On the day of packing, ensure you arrive at the loading point 1 hour before loading is due to start. This will allow time to get your boat and associated gear packed and ready. If you are unable to attend on the day of loading or unloading, you must appoint a proxy in your place. The entire process will take approximately 4 hours. Bring some food, plenty of water and a can do attitude with you. Everyone will help load every boat. Each container will have an allocated container master who will coordinate the loading and unloading.

You will need to bring these items.

1. Your boat (don't laugh, it has been forgotten before), along with your foils in a padded bag, spars and sails in sail bags.
2. A standard size aluminium dolly. If it is not a standard size, it will not stack properly and may damage boats in transit. If in doubt, talk to a committee member before the loading day. Ensure you have quick release clips for your wheels.
3. A minimum of 4 ratchet straps, 4x 25mm in good working condition. 50mm straps are difficult to attach to the tie down points, especially when there are multiple boats attached to the same point. Bunnings sell a 4 pack.

4. 2x 6m or longer lengths of 6 or 8 mm rope (preferably 6). Don't use mangy, old or damaged pieces.
5. 4x 2m lengths of carpet or foam underlay. Protects the boat from the straps.
6. Minimum of 3 hard foam blocks 200x200x100 (Clarke Rubber).
7. A single long bolt/nut, or multiple smaller bolts/nuts for the gudgeons (6mm).
8. Gaffa tape to secure the blocks (packing tape tends to lose its holding power in the heat).
9. Metho to remove tape marks at the other end.
10. Bubble wrap for your spars (and foils if not in a padded bag)
11. Scissors or packing knife.
12. A marker pen or tags.
13. Some zip lock bags.
14. A small step ladder or milk crate to help reach the top of the container. Only 2 per container needed.
15. A soft bag with your sailing gear, stays, PFD's etc. Make sure it is marked with your sail number.

When you arrive at the loading point, start by marking everything with your sail number and ticking them off your list. That also includes your dolly and each wheel. Also note that your boat will not be transported with its boat cover on, top or bottom as it makes it too difficult to handle.

- Bubble wrap your spars and foils, tape them up and put your sail number on each item. Remove the diamond wires from the struts to make it easier to pack. Place them with the other spars and foils next to the container, away from the doors.
- Ensure the sail bags have your sail number on the outside. Put them in a separate pile on the other side of the container, also away from the doors.
- Remove your jib cars and place in a zip lock bag (or tape up with bubble wrap if you can't remove them).
- Remove your mast step (optional but strongly suggested). Seen them wear a hole in the top of a container during a trip, and then break in the first race.
- Put the bolts through the gudgeons. Attach 1 piece of rope to the bolts as a loop with the 2 ends free.
- Attach the other rope through the U-bolt on the bow, as a loop with 2 ends free. Each of these is used to stop the boat from moving during transport.

- Tape the 3 foam blocks (see note 6 above) onto the boat, 1 at each rear corner and 1 at the bow behind the U-bolt.
- Remove every loose item from your boat and pack into a plastic bag. Especially ensure you remove the inspection ports and pack them. If you can't remove your mainsheet, tape it so it does not move and damage your boat.

When the time comes to load the boats, the container master will organize the order and placement within the container. The placement of the first 3 boats is critical to the success of the load, as it is a long day when you have to repack the whole container because the last boat stops the doors from closing.

When it is time to load, bring your boat, dolly and tie down straps to the container. You will be advised if it will be bow in or bow out. If you are on a side wall, 2 straps will be hung from the top with a large enough loop to pass a Tasar through. If you are on the ceiling, 2 straps will be strung across the container. Five people will move the Tasar into position, the 2 straps will be tightened to take the load, then the fore and aft ropes will be tied off in the final position. The final 2 straps will then be attached and all will be tightened. The owner of the boat (or their proxy) has the responsibility for the last tightening and checking of the straps and ropes. If a gap of less than 50mm exists between boats (as can happen on the ceiling), some extra padding may need to be taped in place to prevent the boats coming in contact with each other.

Move your dolly away from the doors and remove the wheels. Place the pins in a bag and tape them to the dolly (so you can find them at the other end). Don't leave them on the axle, they will be bent, broken or lost in transit. Dolly's can be loaded in the same order as the boats.

After 6 boats are loaded, the first load of dolly's will be put in the container. The spars will be placed on the floor next to the walls, then covered with main sail bags, while the foils will be placed inside the dolly's and covered with the head sail bags.

The next 3 boats will then be loaded on the ceiling and walls. The last boat will be on the floor in a manner that best suits the previous packing.

As there is very limited space in the container when it is fully loaded, keep your extra items to a minimum. Toolboxes will need to be wrapped in bubble wrap, everything else in soft bags. Bikes and other large items

will only be allowed if space permits and must be approved by the container master before loading.

When the container arrives at the regatta, it will be unlocked by the container master or their proxy. Under no circumstances attempt to remove a boat or equipment on your own. A minimum of 3 people, preferably 5, is required to remove a Tasar. While the container is at the regatta, equipment may be stored inside, but entirely at your own risk. The container will be locked at all times, so you will need to organize access if required with plenty of notice. When you are unpacking your boat, try to save any packing and padding for the return trip. Bundle them together, tie with your lengths of rope and attach to the walls of the container for use when repacking at the end of the regatta. Some sailors use large garbage bags for this as well.

The same criteria will apply when packing after the end of the regatta. Packing always takes place asap after the last race as often times members are travelling from early the next day.

The last item upon return will be the final clean of the container as a charge is levied on us if the container is not returned in a clean state.