

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 20.4

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose

For safety, when hails made under rule 20 may not be heard, to require appropriate additional or alternative signals.

Proposal

Add new rule 20.4:

20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails

- (a) When conditions are such that a hail may not be heard, the boat shall instead make any appropriate signal that clearly indicates her need for *room* to tack. This rule also applies to other hails required by rule 20.**
- (b) The notice of race or sailing instructions may specify a communication channel or alternative signal and require boats to use it to make hails under rule 20.**

Current Position

None. The proposed rule is new.

Reason

Rule 20 is primarily a safety rule and, therefore, it is particularly important that communications made under rule 20.1, 20.2(c) or 20.3 are successfully delivered.

In races for large boats, or multihulls or foiling boats that can slow dramatically when they tack, boats are often so far apart when a hail must be made that it is unlikely that an oral hail will be heard.

Proposed new rule 20.4(a) requires boats to use an appropriate signal when communicating under rule 20 in conditions in which a hail may not be heard. New rule 20.4(b) enables either the organizing authority or the race committee to require boats to use a signalling method specified in the notice of race or sailing instructions.

The wording of the proposed rule was chosen to enable the rule to accommodate future changes in the technology for communicating between boats.