

## World Sailing Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

**B 001**

**Q&A 2017.001**

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### Situation

Two 50 foot boats are heading towards a breakwater in 20 knots of breeze. Boat A is 5 boat lengths to leeward and also 5 boats lengths ahead of boat B.

Boat A calls repeatedly for room to tack, but under the existing conditions the call cannot be heard by boat B.

### Question

If a call for room to tack is made when it cannot possibly be heard, is it still a valid hail for the purpose of rule 20.1? That is, does it place a responsibility under rule 20.2 upon boat B when there is no chance she could have heard the hail?

### Answer

No. The hail must clearly communicate the hailing boat's need to tack and be sufficiently loud to be heard in the prevailing conditions (Case 54). A hail that it is not reasonably possible that will be heard by the hailed boat is not considered a hail for the purpose of rule 20.1 and does not place any responsibility on boat B under rule 20.2(b) or (c).