

Reporting Committee – Racing Rules

Other Committee –

Room to Tack at an Obstruction
Racing Rules of Sailing, Rule 19.1

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

PROPOSAL:

19 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION

19.1 When safety requires a ~~close-hauled~~ boat sailing close-hauled or above to make a substantial course change to avoid an *obstruction* and she intends to tack, but cannot tack and avoid another boat on the same *tack*, she shall hail for *room* to do so. Before tacking, she shall give the hailed boat time to respond. The hailed boat shall either

- (a) tack as soon as possible, in which case the hailing boat shall also tack as soon as possible, or
- (b) immediately reply ‘You tack’, in which case the hailing boat shall tack as soon as possible and the hailed boat shall give *room*, and rules 10 and 13 do not apply.

19.2 Rule 19.1 does not apply at a starting *mark* surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to *start* until they have passed them or at a *mark* that the hailed boat can fetch. When rule 19.1 applies, rule 18 does not.

CURRENT POSITION:

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REASON:

To give the protection of rule 19 to a boat that is sailing above close-hauled. This may be because she had been close-hauled, and had luffed to try to avoid the obstruction, only to find that she could not succeed without tacking; or because she was tacking from port to starboard tack to keep clear of a starboard tack boat, only to encounter, after passing head to wind but before having reached a close-hauled course, an obstruction that she could avoid only by reverting to her original tack, which would need the other boat to give her room to

tack. The diagram shows a further example where the 2 port tack boats are luffing each other.

