

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 19

A submission from the Deutscher Segler Verband

Proposal:**19 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION**

19.1 When approaching an *obstruction*, a boat sailing close-hauled or above may hail for *room* to tack and avoid another boat on the same *tack*. However, she shall not hail unless safety requires her to make a substantial course change to avoid the *obstruction*. Before tacking she shall give the hailed boat time to respond. The hailed boat shall respond by either

- (a) tacking as soon as possible, in which case the hailing boat shall also tack as soon as possible, or
- (b) immediately replying ‘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.

19.3 When rule 19.1 applies, the following arm signals are required in addition to the hails:

- (a) for ‘Room to tack’, repeatedly and clearly pointing to windward; and**
- (b) for ‘You tack’, repeatedly and clearly pointing at the other boat and waving the arm to windward.**

This instruction does not apply to boards.

Current Position:

There are different procedures required in case rule 19 applies:

Fleet Racing:	only a hail is needed (RRS Rule 19)
Match Racing:	a hail and arm signals of the helmsperson (Appendix C; C 2.7)
Unmired Fleet Racing:	a hail and arm signals of a crewmember (addendum Q; Q1.1)

Reason:

A few years ago we started to simplify the rules. It is very difficult for sailors, commentators or spectators to understand these existing differences.

The situation during a race, when rule 19 applies, is usually a situation when two or three boats are involved, therefore there is no reason to have three versions of the same rule. The current addendum Q is a good compromise requiring an arm signal from any crewmember.

If rule 19 is adapted to this proposal, rule Q1.1b and C 2.7 can be deleted.