

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Case 10

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

#### Purpose or Objective

Revise Case 10 to comply with the RRS 2017 and to provide a simple and clear statement of the obligations of boats when making and responding to a hail for room to tack.

#### Proposal

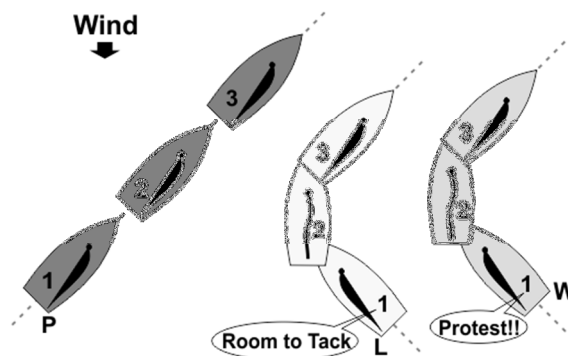
Delete existing Case 10 and replace with this new Case.

### CASE 10

#### **Rule 20, Room to Tack at an Obstruction**

*When a boat hails for room to tack and she is neither approaching an obstruction nor sailing close-hauled or above, she breaks rule 20.1. The hailed boat is required to respond even if the hail breaks rule 20.1.*

#### **Assumed facts for Question 1**



L and W are close hauled on starboard tack. L is on a collision course with P, a boat racing, close hauled on port tack. L hails W for room to tack; W responds and protests.

#### **Question 1**

How does rule 20 apply to this situation?

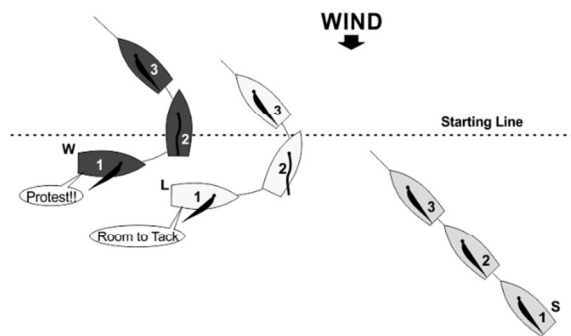
#### **Answer 1**

Although there is risk of collision between L and P, P is not an obstruction to L and W because neither L nor W is required to keep clear of her.

At the time L hails for room to tack, she is not approaching an obstruction and she breaks rule 20.1(a).

Rule 20.2(b) requires W to respond to the hail even if the requirements of rule 20.1 are not met. Therefore, W must either tack as soon as possible or hail “you tack” and then give room for L to tack and avoid her. When W responds, L must tack as soon as possible. W responds by tacking and breaks no rule.

### Assumed facts for Question 2



L and W are reaching along the start line on port tack. L is on a collision course with S, approaching the line close hauled on starboard tack. L hails W for room to tack. W responds and protests.

### Question 2

How does rule 20 apply to this situation?

### Answer 2

S is an obstruction to both W and L.

At the time L hails for room to tack, she is approaching an obstruction and will need to make a substantial course change to avoid it. However, because she is not sailing close-hauled or above, she breaks rule 20.1(b).

As in answer 1, rule 20.2(b) requires W to respond to the hail even if the requirements of rule 20.1 are not met. Therefore, W must either tack as soon as possible or hail “you tack” and then give room for L to tack and avoid her. W responds by tacking and breaks no rule. If L fails to tack, and for example sails astern of S, she also breaks rule 20.2(d).

### Current Position

Case 10 as withdrawn in accordance with approved submission 202-14,

Reason

The scenario in the original case 10 is obscure and some experts think it could not happen. This revision provides a simple and clear interpretation of the obligations on the hailing and hailed boats.