

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rules E1.3 and E2.1

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To improve communication between competitors when a boat hails for room to tack.

To generalise the rules for hails made by boats.

This submission contains 2 related proposals to change Appendix E rules.

Proposal 1

Amend rule E1.3(b) as follows. Note proposal 2 moves the deleted words to rule E2.1.

E1.3 Rules of Parts 1, 2 and 7

- (a) Rule 1.2 is deleted.
- (b) ~~In rule 20, hails and replies shall be made by the competitor controlling the boat.~~ **Hails under rules 20.1 and 20.3 shall include the words 'room' and 'tack' and the sail number of the hailing boat, in any order.**

No further changes

Current Position

As above

Reason

In radio controlled races with several boats rapidly approaching the shore, it is often impossible to identify the boats that will need to respond. However, competitors will be aware of a likely hail and a single hail from the boat nearest the shore clearly identifying her and stating her need to tack is recommended as the most effective way of improving rule observance in these situations. While the proposal requires specific words, it permits their use in any order. This reduces the risk of an invalid hail and makes, for example, "room for 95 to tack" a very quick, logical and simple hail.

Proposal 2

If proposal 1 is approved, amend rule E2.1 as follows:

E2.1 Hailing Requirements

- (a) A hail shall be made so that the competitors to whom the hail is directed might reasonably be expected to hear it.
- (b) **When a *rule* requires a boat to hail or respond, the hail shall be made by the competitor controlling the boat.**
- (c) The individual digits of a boat's sail number shall be hailed; for example 'one five', not 'fifteen'.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

This proposal generalises the obvious, but sometimes disputed, condition that hails by a boat are made by a competitor. At present, this is only stated in rule E1.3(b). It is also relevant for rule E2.3 (boat out of control) and rule E6.3 (hail of protest). Sailing instructions may also require similar hails.
