

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



M 010

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Situation

Clarification of Rule 20.1(c): Rule 20.1(c) requires that a boat hailing for room to tack at an obstruction tacks as soon as possible after the other boat respond to the hail.

Question

If the hailed boat responds by tacking, when does the hailing boats obligation to tack begin,

- (a) when the hailed boat luffs to begin her tack, or
- (b) when the hailed boat passes through head to wind, or
- (c) when the hailed boat completes her tack?

Answer

The hailing boat shall tack once it is clear that the hailed boat is responding to the hail and it will be possible for the hailing boat to complete her tack.

'As soon as possible' includes variables such as the conditions and also the physical characteristics of the boats involved. For a keelboat in normal conditions this would in most circumstances be when it luffs to tack.