

must keep clear. While in certain circumstances boats are prohibited from sailing above a proper course there is no rule that requires a boat to sail her proper course.

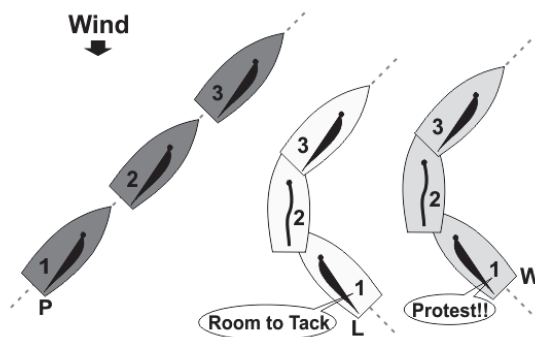
GBR 1964/2

CASE 10

Rule 20, Room to Tack at an Obstruction

If a boat hails for room to tack when 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.

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

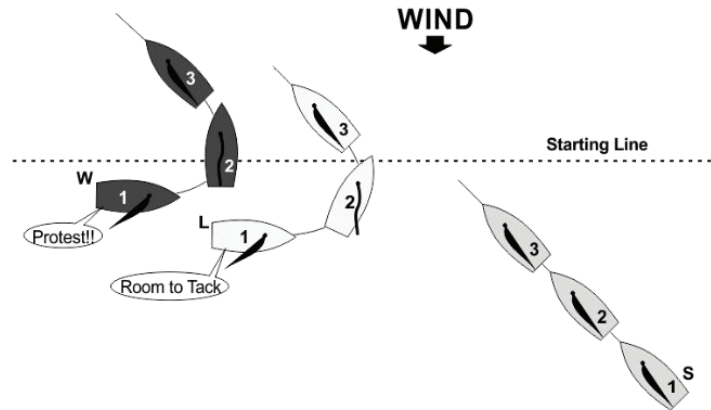
Although there is risk of collision between L and P, P is not an obstruction to L and W because neither L nor W is required to keep clear of her.

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.

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).