

**The
CALL BOOK
for MATCH RACING
2025**

**using the
2025 – 2028 Racing Rules of Sailing**

**World Sailing
December 2024**

As the leading authority for the sport, World Sailing promotes and supports the protection of the environment in all sailing competition and related activities throughout the world.

Contact details for the World Sailing Executive Office:

World Sailing
Office 401, 4th Floor
3 Shortlands
London W6 8DA

United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 20 3940 4888

Email office@sailing.org

Website [sailing.org](https://www.sailing.org)

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Foreword

Match Racing has continued to develop as an important part of our sport. It is conducted extensively from club level through to the highest levels of competition, including the America's Cup.

The Call Book has been developed and refined since 1992. The calls have been developed with the input from sailors and umpires alike with the aim of enabling as much consistency as possible and resolving any doubt amongst sailors and umpires about the correct call to be made in situations referred to in the Call Book.

In drafting the calls, care has been exercised to minimise the difference between fleet, team and match racing in terms of the rules in Part 2 of the racing rules; however, it is recognized that match racing is a separate discipline and that there are some differences from the other forms of racing.

The publishing of the Call Book is governed by World Sailing Regulation 20. This means that it is authoritative for umpired match racing only. It also means that changes can only be made through the same submission procedures as changes to the rules themselves.

However, World Sailing Policy M1 also provides for a system with rapid response calls. Calls proposed under this system should be presented in a format similar to existing calls and sent to the World Sailing office. Any diagrams should preferably be in 'Boats', TSS or 'Sail Replay' (all special boat drawing programs). A call approved as a rapid response call will be immediately communicated to all IU's and MNA's. It will also be posted on the World Sailing website <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racingrules/> .

I would particularly like to thank the Match Racing Rules Working Party for the substantial work that they have undertaken in producing this edition of the Call Book.

The Racing Rules Committee trusts that competitors and umpires will continue to provide input to the Racing Rules Committee for further development of the Call Book.

Ana Sanchez del Campo Ferrer

Chair

World Sailing Racing Rules Committee

December 2024

Preface

I thank the Match Racing Rules Working Party and those who have helped with the publication of this updated version of the Call Book for Match Racing. Finally, thanks to the many sailors and umpires who have commented and made suggestions for improvement to the book. We welcome future comments for improvement.

Calls are entered into different sections of this book based on where they are most likely to happen.

All diagrams are limited to 2-dimensional snapshots of each incident. They cannot show the wind strength, the waves, the heel and speed of boats and all the many other things that contribute to a real-life scenario. They should therefore not be used too literally, but rather as a tool to help recognise quickly and clearly the situation being addressed.

At the back of the book there is an index of the rules listed in the call titles.

The Match Racing Rules Working Party will make recommendations on submitted calls and approved rapid response calls to the Racing Rules Committee in time for the annual meeting each year.

It is our intention to have available, online, an up to date Call Book at the beginning of each year after the World Sailing Annual Conference to include any new calls approved by the Racing Rules Committee. These calls will be added into the relevant sections.

Richard Slater, Chair

Match Racing Rules Working Party

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Index of the Rules Listed in the Calls Titles

Notes on the text

1. Unless otherwise indicated, the wind is blowing from the top of the diagram.
2. The phrase ‘a downwind course’ has been replaced by ‘a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind’ in the rulebook (see rule C7.2(a)(2)). The Call Book has been changed to use this phrase.
3. Where appropriate, the phrase ‘windward leg’ has been replaced with the phrase ‘leg of the course to a windward mark’ and ‘run’ or ‘downwind leg’ has been replaced with ‘the leg of the course to a leeward mark’ (see rule C7.2(a)).
4. Any call involving contact will also involve rule 14. However, as explained in the General Principles for Umpire Decisions, rule 14 has no impact on the immediate umpire decision and is therefore not addressed in each separate call.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR UMPIRE DECISIONS

Four general principles apply to umpire decisions:

1. Last Point of Certainty

There are many occasions when umpires are required to judge the exact moment when the state of a boat, or her relationship with another boat, changes. Examples are: passing head to wind, establishing an overlap, approaching the line to start, etc.

In such cases the umpires will apply rule C2.5 (7) Last Point of Certainty and assume that the state of a boat, or her relationship to another boat, has not changed until they are certain that it has changed. For example, a boat is not judged 'beyond head to wind' until the umpires are certain that she is so.

2. Disagreement between Umpires

Disagreement or doubt about the facts in a situation may be resolved by applying rule C2.5 (7) Last Point of Certainty.

In many situations the 'Yellow' umpire has the responsibility to observe 'Yellow', while the 'Blue' umpire is observing 'Blue'. In these circumstances additional weight will be given to the observations of the appropriate umpire. When disagreement or doubt remains, and there has been no contact between the boats, the umpires will display the green and white flag. However, if there has been contact, the umpires will penalize both boats (twin penalty).

3. Rule 14: Avoiding Contact

When there has been contact there is a possibility that rule 14 has been broken. However, a breach of rule 14 will not affect any decision made by the umpires in response to flag Y being displayed.

When the umpires decide that a boat required to keep clear or to give room or mark-room is to be penalized for breaking another rule of Part 2, a breach of rule 14 does not result in an additional penalty under rule C6.5. When a right-of-way boat or a boat entitled to room or mark-room breaks rule 14 she is exonerated by rule 43.1(c) if there is no damage or injury. If there is damage or injury, this is subject to protest under rule C6.1.

However, the umpires will initiate a check for damage to be carried out immediately after finishing. If damage is found, the umpires may impose a penalty under rule C8.7 or, if a penalty of more than one point is appropriate, act under rule C8.4 to inform the protest committee.

4. Definition: Room, and meaning of 'in a seamanlike way'

World Sailing Case 21 states that 'extraordinary' and 'abnormal' manoeuvres are unseamanlike.

However, actions that are not seamanlike in a fleet of many boats may be considered seamanlike in a situation with only two boats. Thus, in match racing some manoeuvres might be considered normal that would be considered abnormal in other racing, and therefore 'seamanlike way' will be interpreted somewhat more broadly in match racing.

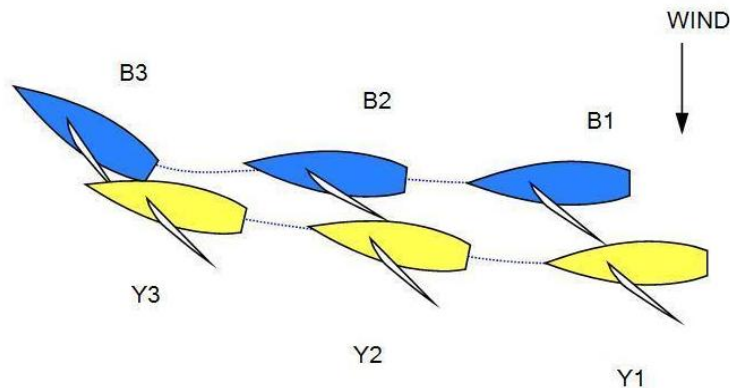
Any manoeuvre, however, that puts a boat or her crew at unreasonable risk of damage or injury is unseamanlike. The umpires will judge each incident on the basis of the boat's actions in relation to the conditions of wind and water that she is experiencing.

MR CALL A1

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**
Definitions **Keep Clear**

Question 1

Yellow and Blue are sailing parallel courses. Blue has adequate room to move away but nevertheless maintains a parallel course. After about 10 seconds Yellow luffs slowly and from the moment the luff starts, there is no longer any means of Blue avoiding Yellow. Blue luffs and there is contact. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Penalize Blue. When Blue has had an opportunity to keep clear but then sails so close to Yellow that any luff by Yellow will result in contact, Blue fails to keep clear and breaks rule 11.

Question 2

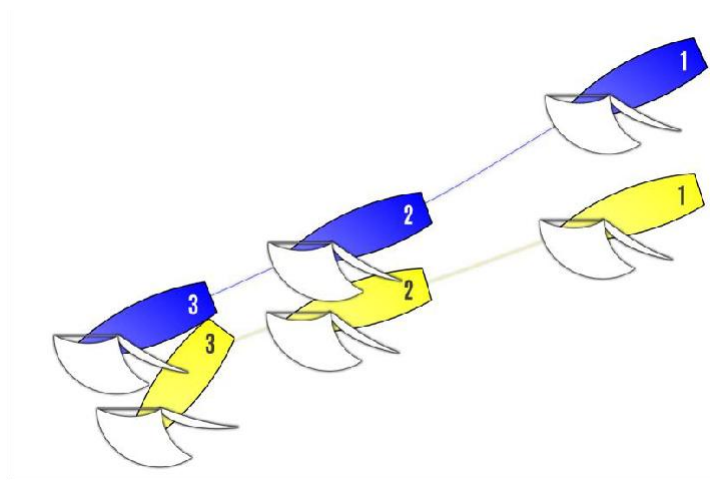
Would the answer be different if Blue came down, or Yellow sailed a slightly higher course thereby causing the separation between the boats to decrease?

Answer 2

No.

Question 3

Blue is sailing a converging course with Yellow. Blue has adequate room to move away but nevertheless maintains a converging course. At position 2, Blue changes course to a parallel course and the sails of Blue make contact with Yellow. Flag Y is displayed at position 2 and the umpires penalize Blue for breaking rule 11. While Blue's sail is in contact with Yellow, Yellow bears away promptly and there is contact between the hulls. Flag Y is displayed at position 3. What should the call be?



Answer 3

Display the green and white flag.

Blue was properly penalized for breaking rule 11 at position 2 as she was not keeping clear.

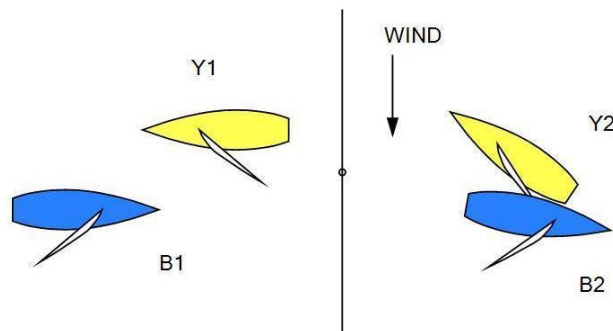
Rule 16.1 is a limitation on Yellow to allow Blue to continue to fulfil her requirement to keep clear when Yellow changes course. In this case, Blue was not keeping clear prior to Yellow changing course; therefore, Yellow did not break rule 16.1.

MR CALL A2

Rule 10 On Opposite Tacks Rule 16.1 Changing Course

Question 1

Yellow and Blue approach each other. As they pass, Blue is keeping clear to leeward. Yellow luffs and as a result Blue is unable to respond to keep clear. The stern of Yellow makes contact with the port side of Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?

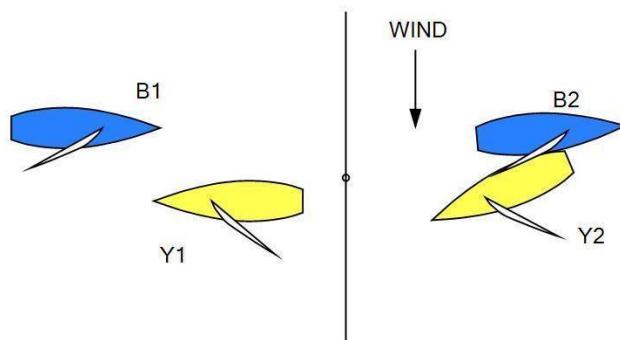


Answer 1

Penalize Yellow. Yellow breaks rule 16.1 by changing course without giving Blue room to keep clear.

Question 2

Yellow and Blue approach each other. As they pass, Blue is keeping clear to windward. Yellow bears away. Blue is unable to respond and there is contact. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

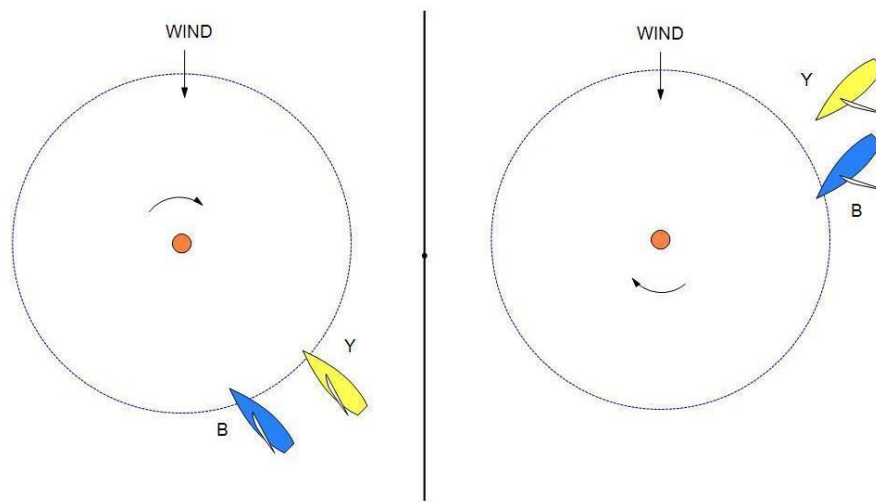
Penalize Yellow. Yellow breaks rule 16.1 by changing course without giving Blue room to keep clear.

MR CALL A3

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.9 (18.1)	When Rule 18 Applies
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)

Question 1

Blue and Yellow are approaching a mark to be left to starboard. What is the latest time Blue may luff?



Answer 1

Rule C2.9 (18.1) begins to apply when any part of the hull of either boat is in the zone. From this moment, if Blue luffs and thereafter has to bear away in order to give Yellow mark-room, then Blue breaks rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)). Blue does not break rule 18.2(a)(1), if she is able to luff while giving mark-room. Yellow is required to keep clear under rule 11. However, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b) if she, while sailing her proper course to round or pass the mark, breaks rule 11 because Blue fails to give her mark-room.

Question 2

If Blue has to bear away to give mark-room, when is she required to do so?

Answer 2

Blue is required to bear away promptly from the moment the first of the boats is in the zone.

MR CALL A4

Definitions Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap and Keep Clear

Questions

When the spinnaker is not set, is a spinnaker pole in 'normal position'

- (i) when one end is attached to the mast and the other end is projecting beyond the bow, or
- (ii) in the case of an extendable bowsprit-type pole, it is not retracted as fully as it can be
- (a) when the spinnaker is, or is being, set up approaching or passing a mark?
- (b) when hoisting or lowering the spinnaker?
- (c) when beating to windward?
- (d) during pre-start manoeuvres?

Answers

The general test when addressing these questions is 'Is this how the boat would normally be sailed, in the absence of other boats?' This leads to the following more specific answers:

(a) and (b), for both (i) and (ii):

Yes, if it is the regular practice for the pole to be in that position in the circumstances and the umpires are not of the opinion that the pole had been set up prematurely, or left in position too long, for the purpose of obtaining a tactical advantage (such as the establishment of an artificial overlap).

(c) and (d), for (i);

Yes, if it is the regular practice for that boat to carry her spinnaker pole in that position. It would not be regular practice if, for example, a boat had her spinnaker pole projecting during pre-start manoeuvres but then removed it for starting, or started without the pole projecting then later changed its position so that it was then projecting.

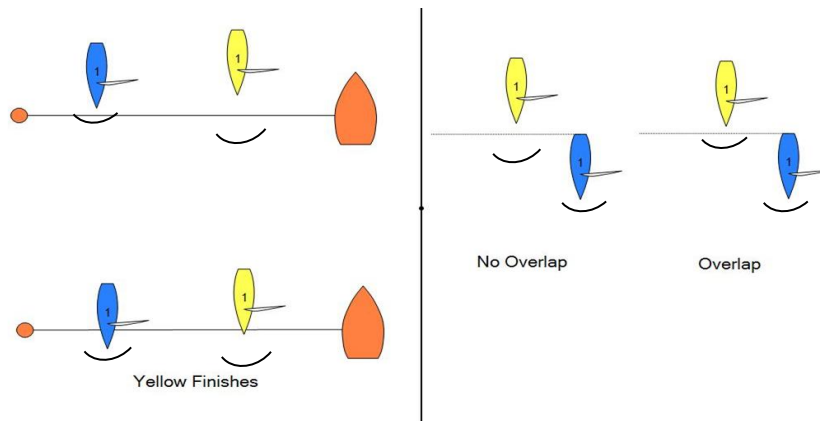
(c) and (d), for (ii): No.

MR CALL A5

Definitions **Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap and Finish (rule C2.1)**

Question 1

At a close finish on a leg of the course to a leeward finish line, Yellow eases her spinnaker halyard, sheet and guy so that the sail is further ahead of her bow than normally. When does she finish? What action should the umpires take?



Answer 1

The definition Finish (rule C2.1) makes it clear that a boat finishes when her hull crosses the finishing line, and the umpires should therefore take no action.

Question 2

Would the situation be different when two boats approach a leeward mark and there is a question about whether they are overlapped?

Answer 2

For the purpose of overlap, a spinnaker in normal position would be taken into account. However, if the umpires see the halyard eased they may judge that it is no longer in normal position and use the hull (or equipment in normal position) to determine whether there is an overlap.

Question 3

Would the answer be different if Yellow was in the process of taking down the spinnaker?

Answer 3

No. A spinnaker in the process of being set or taken down is not 'equipment in normal position' in the context of the definition where this term is used.

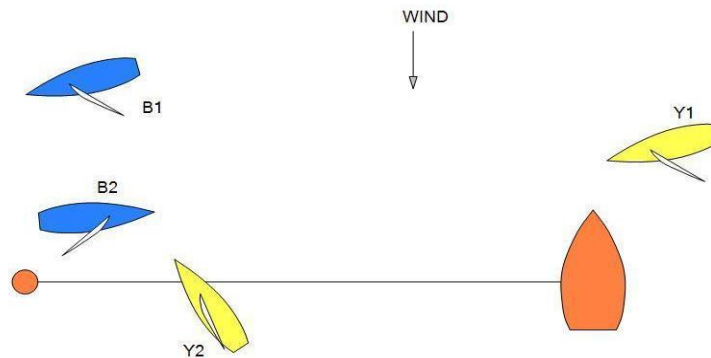
MR CALL B1

Rule C4

Requirements Before the Start

Question 1

Blue is not outside her assigned end of the starting line at the preparatory signal. As a result, Yellow is able to prevent her from crossing the line within the two-minute period. Blue did not cross the line from the course side before starting. What should the umpires do?



Answer 1

Penalize Blue twice. One is for breaking rule C4.1, because she was not outside her assigned end; the other is for breaking rule C4.2, because she did not cross the line from the course side within the two-minute period. These rules were broken in two separate incidents, and therefore each requires a penalty.

Question 2

If a boat has not crossed within the two-minute period, is she still obligated to cross before starting?

Answer 2

No. Although she has broken rule C4.2, there is no requirement that she cross the line after the two-minute period has ended.

MR CALL B2

Rule C8.1

Rule Changes

Rule C9.3

Requests for Redress or Reopening; Appeals; Other Proceedings

Question

The preparatory signal for a match is made before the umpires have arrived in the course area. It is evident to the race committee on the starting line that Yellow has failed to meet a pre-start requirement (see rule C4). May the race committee initiate a post-race hearing?

Answer

No.

The race committee may not protest a boat for an alleged breach of a rule for which penalties may be imposed by umpires (see rule C8.1).

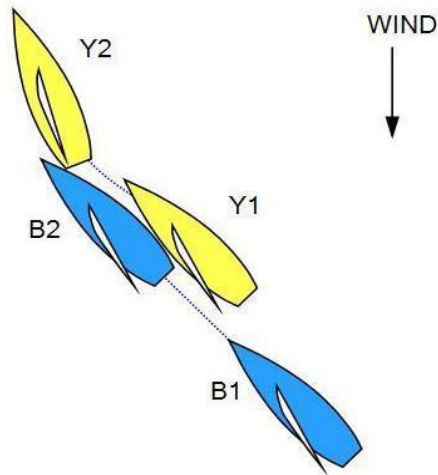
Similarly, if the umpires had been present and they had not signalled a penalty, again no further action could be taken (see rule C9.3).

MR CALL B3

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule 15 **Acquiring Right of Way**

Question

Blue establishes an overlap from clear astern. Yellow luffs immediately, and her stern hits Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Rule 11 required Yellow to keep clear and rule 15 required Blue to initially give Yellow room to keep clear.

If Yellow luffed so that she did not take unnecessary room (see World Sailing Case 24), then Blue broke rule 15. Penalize Blue.

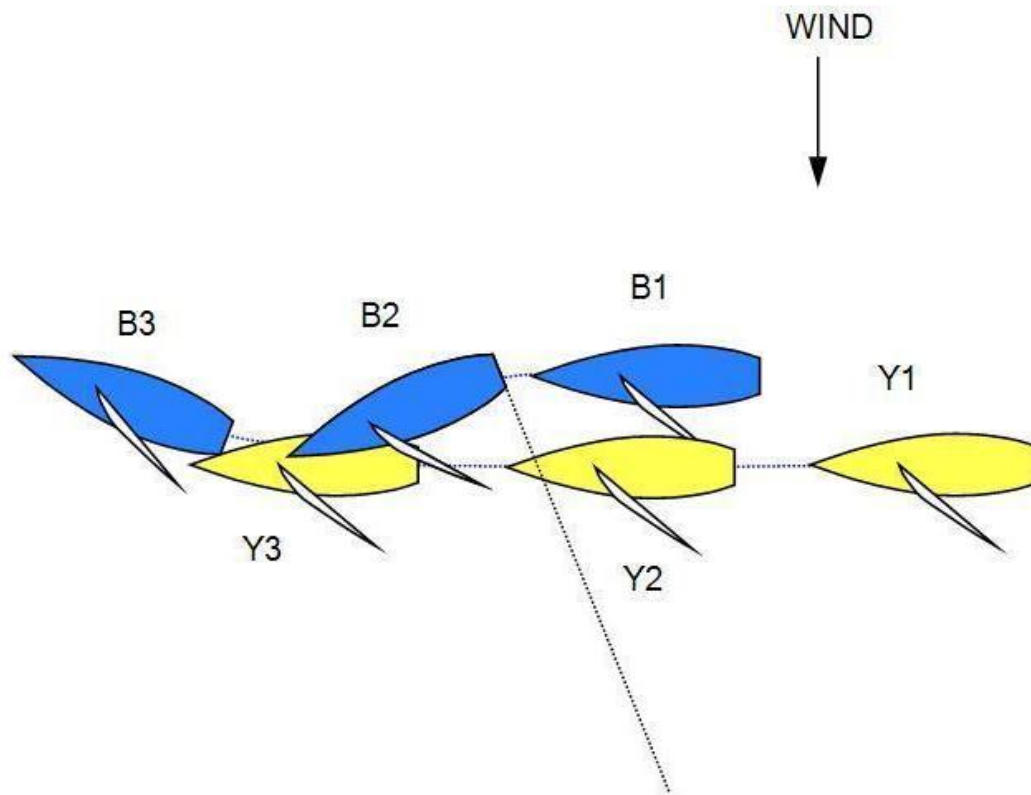
If Yellow clearly took more room than was necessary, then Yellow broke rule 11. Penalize Yellow.

MR CALL B4

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule 15 **Acquiring Right of Way**

Question

Blue and Yellow are on the same tack, with Blue clear ahead. Yellow is moving faster than Blue. Blue bears away and the boats become overlapped. Blue then turns the other way and there is a collision. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

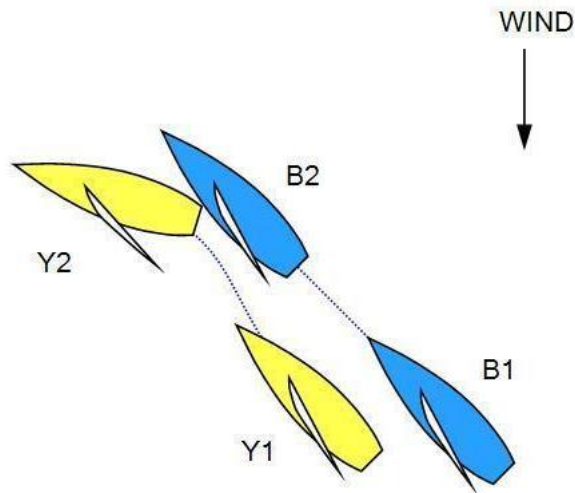
Penalize Blue. When Blue bears away, Yellow acquires right of way, at least in part, through Blue's actions. Therefore, the second part of rule 15 applies, so she does not have to give Blue room to keep clear.

MR CALL B5

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**

Question

Yellow and Blue are sailing parallel courses. Yellow bears away hard and Blue is unable to keep clear. Contact occurs. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Yellow. Yellow is a right-of-way boat changing course. She did not give Blue room to keep clear and therefore broke rule 16.1.

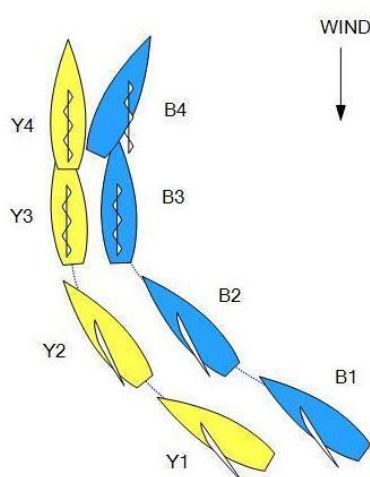
If Yellow had borne away slightly and immediately made contact with Blue, then Blue was not keeping clear under rule 11. Penalize Blue.

MR CALL B6

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule C2.6 (13.1) **While Tacking or Gybing**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**

Question 1

Yellow, a leeward boat, luffs head to wind, and Blue luffs in response, so that both reach positions side by side, head to wind. Blue continues to change course and passes head to wind. In so doing she makes contact with Yellow. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



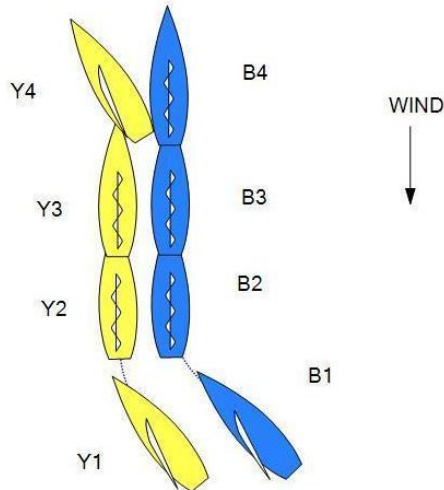
Answer 1

If, when Yellow begins her luff, Blue immediately responds and continues to do what she is able to do to keep clear throughout the incident but there is contact anyway, then Yellow is not giving Blue room to keep clear and she breaks rule 16.1. Penalize Yellow.

If Blue could have kept clear, but either responded too slowly, not enough, or over rotated, then Blue has broken rule 11 or rule C2.6 (13.1). Penalize Blue.

Question 2

In similar circumstances, Blue responds and when head to wind, she remains so for a time. Then Yellow bears away and their sterns make contact. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

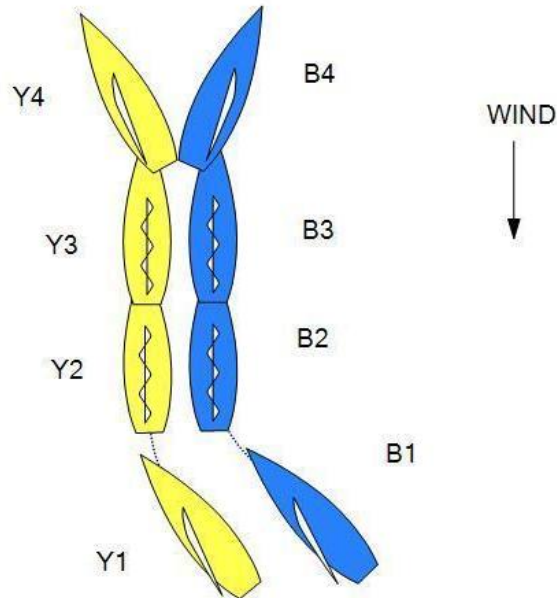
If Yellow's change of course immediately results in contact with Blue, Blue was not keeping clear and broke rule 11. Penalize Blue.

If there was more distance between them, and Yellow bears away hard giving Blue no room to keep clear, then Yellow breaks rule 16.1. Penalize Yellow.

The umpires' decision is based on the distance between the boats, the nature of Yellow's bear-away and the efforts of Blue to keep clear.

Question 3

In similar circumstances, Blue keeps clear, but when head to wind, she maintains it for a time. Blue then passes head to wind, and slightly later Yellow bears away and their sterns make contact. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 3

When Blue passes head to wind, the boats are no longer overlapped on the same tack and the second part of the definition of Keep Clear no longer applies.

If the contact would have occurred without Yellow bearing away, Blue broke rule 13.1. Penalize Blue.

If the contact would not have occurred without Yellow's bearing away, Yellow broke rule 16.1. Penalize Yellow.

MR CALL B7

Rule 10 On Opposite Tacks

Rule 16.1 Changing Course

Position 1: Before the start Yellow and Blue are on opposite tacks with both boats head to wind. After some time both begin moving astern.

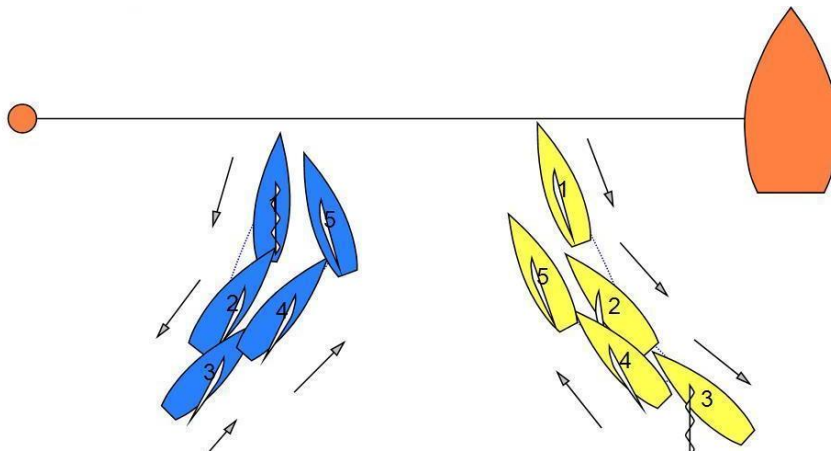
Position 2: Both reach a close-hauled course, but continue moving astern.

Position 3: Blue begins to move forward on a course to pass in front of Yellow. Yellow continues to move astern.

Position 4: Yellow begins to move forward, and from this moment Blue can no longer pass in front of Yellow. Blue immediately luffs to tack.

Position 5: Blue tacks, but before she reaches close hauled Yellow luffs to avoid contact.

Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Display the green and white flag. Although Yellow did not appear to change compass course between positions 2 and 4, she did change course by reversing the direction in which she was travelling (astern to ahead). Rule 16.1 required Yellow to give room to Blue, which she did by luffing at position 5.

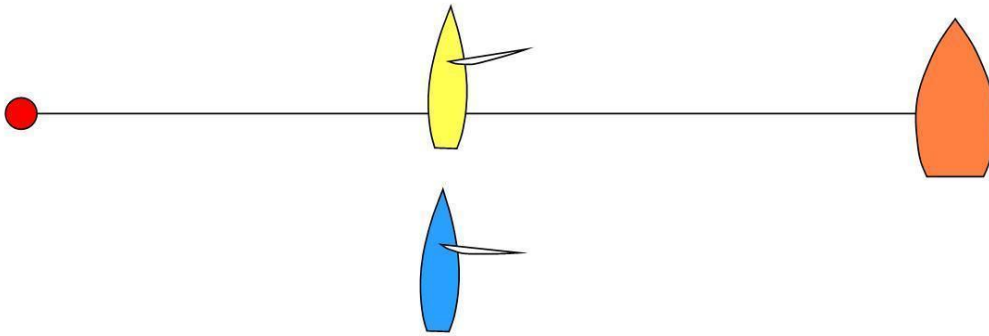
MR CALL B8

Rule 12 **On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped**
Definitions **Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap**

Question

In the pre-start, Blue and Yellow are both on the same tack with Yellow clear ahead. Both boats start moving astern and are still not overlapped.

Which boat has the right of way?



Answer

According to the definition Blue is clear astern and therefore required by rule 12 to keep clear.

Whether one boat is clear astern of another or overlapped with her does not depend on the direction of motion of either boat.

MR CALL B9

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**

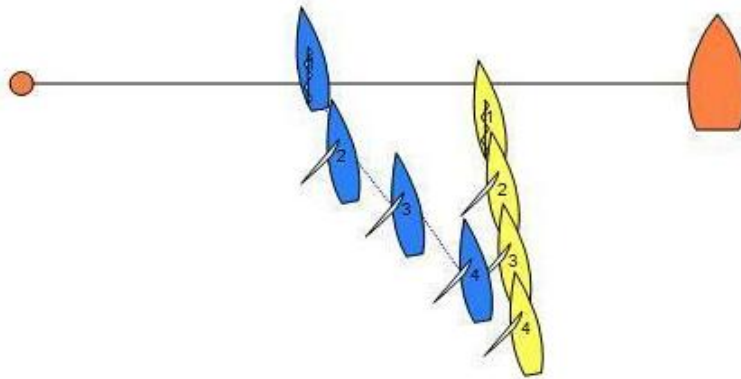
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**

Rule C2.11 (21.3) **Backing a Sail (deleted)**

Question 1

Initially both boats are stationary on starboard tack, but then start moving astern by backing their mainsails.

From position 2, Blue pushes harder on her mainsail and at the same time sculls forcefully on the windward side to make the boat move rapidly sideways (crabbing). Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Rule 21.3 regarding moving astern or sideways through the water does not apply (see rule C2.11). However, when Blue, the right-of-way boat, begins travelling to windward between position 2 and 3, she is changing course and must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 16.1.

If, when Blue begins crabbing, Yellow immediately responds and continues to do all she can to keep clear (including crabbing to windward herself) but is unable to keep clear, then Blue is not giving Yellow room to keep clear and breaks rule 16.1.

Penalize Blue.

If Yellow could have kept clear, but either responded too slowly or not enough, then Yellow has broken rule 11. Penalize Yellow.

Question 2

Would the answer be different if Blue began crabbing from her stationary position 1?

Answer 2

No

MR CALL B10

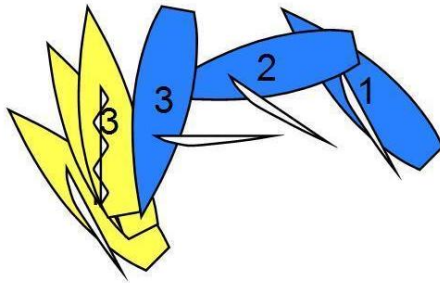
Rule C2.5 (7)	Last Point of Certainty
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 14	Avoiding Contact
Rule 16.1	Changing Course

Question

Blue, the windward boat, bears away hard to pass behind Yellow. Yellow luffs shortly after Blue begins to bear away. Blue keeps clear in position 2.

In position 3 both boats are passing each other's windward side. There is contact between the boats. Both boats display flag Y.

What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Blue as the keep-clear boat unless Yellow breaks rule 16.1 by changing course without giving Blue room to keep clear.

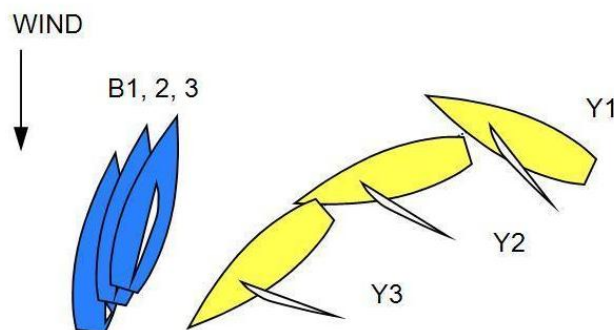
As stated in rule C2.5 (7), the umpires will assume that the state of a boat or its relationship with another has not changed until they are certain that it has changed. The umpires cannot be certain which is the right-of-way boat in position 3. Their last point of certainty was that Yellow was the right-of-way boat.

MR CALL B11

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule C2.6 (13.1)	While Tacking or Gybing
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)

Question 1

Before the start Yellow and Blue are separated and not on a collision course. Blue intends to tack but after passing head to wind she loses way. Before Blue gets to a close-hauled course, Yellow bears away towards Blue. Blue is unable to take any avoiding action that would prevent a collision if Yellow were to stop bearing away. However, Yellow continues to bear away and passes astern of Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Display the green and white flag. Yellow's change of course required her to give Blue room to keep clear under rule 16.1 and Yellow complies by bearing away continuously. Blue is sailing within the room to which she is entitled under rule 16.1, and is therefore exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for her breach of rule 10. The same answer would apply if Blue had succeeded in completing her tack and lost way.

Question 2

Would the answer change if Blue's helmsman had intentionally handled his boat so as to lose steerage and to place it in a situation where it would not be possible to keep clear if Yellow should change to a collision course?

Answer 2

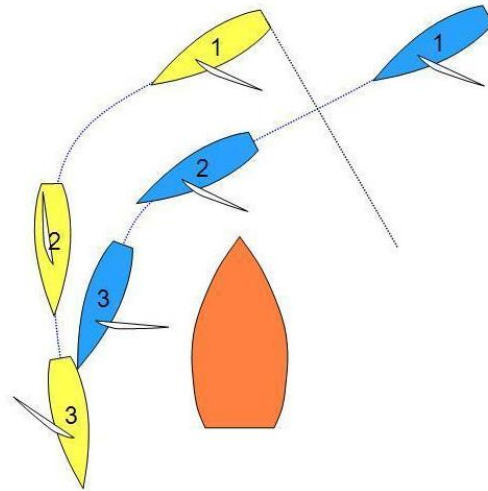
No. No rule prohibits Blue from being in the position she was in here, whether or not she does so deliberately.

MR CALL B12

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 15	Acquiring Right Of Way
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 19.2(b)	Giving Room at an Obstruction

Question

Before the start Yellow and Blue, reaching on starboard tack, approach an anchored boat. When Yellow is at the obstruction, she is clear ahead of Blue. Yellow passes to windward of it, bears away alongside it, then gybes in order to sail around its stern. Very soon after Yellow gybes, Blue is still on starboard and gains a small inside overlap. Blue changes course trying to avoid contact with Yellow but there is contact. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Yellow.

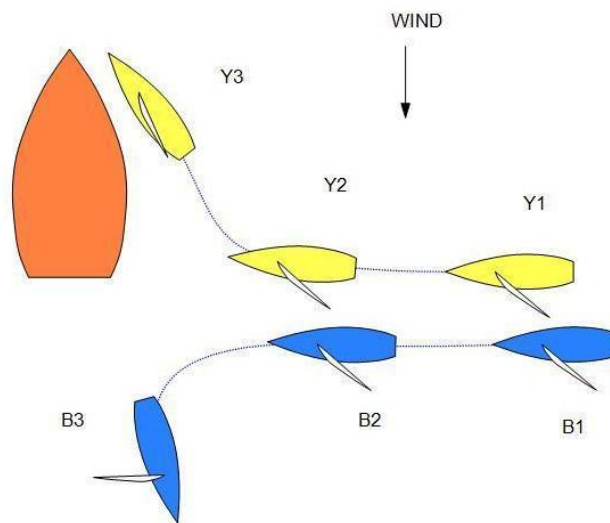
It was possible for Yellow to give room to Blue from the time the overlap was established. Blue becomes the right-of-way boat under rule C2.6 (13.2) when the foot of the mainsail of Yellow crosses the centreline. Yellow gives up her right of way, so rule 15 does not apply. Yellow must give room to Blue under rule 19.2(b), and keep clear of Blue under rule 10.

MR CALL B13

Rule 19.2(b) Giving Room at an Obstruction

Question

Before the start, and before approaching any starting mark to start, Yellow and Blue approach a large moored boat with Yellow half a length ahead. It appears that Blue intends to pass across the stern of the large boat, and that Yellow requires room to pass on the same side on the inside of Blue. Blue does not bear away to give room, and at the last moment Yellow avoids the large boat by luffing sharply and going to windward of it. Before the bow of Blue reaches the stern of the large boat, she gybes away so that she does not pass its stern. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Blue. The large boat was an obstruction. Unless Blue elects to pass to windward of it from sufficiently far away, Yellow may assume that they are both going to bear away and pass below the obstruction. It follows that Blue must give room. By not doing so, she broke rule 19.2(b).

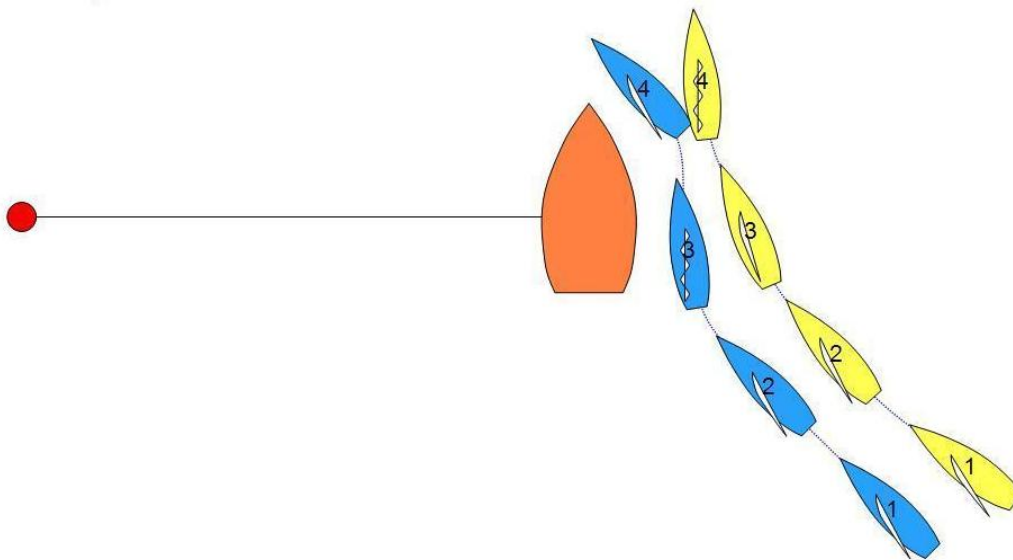
MR CALL B14

Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 19.2(b)	Giving Room at an Obstruction
Definitions	Mark and Obstruction

Question

The situation occurs in the pre-start, with approximately 2 minutes to the starting signal. The race committee vessel is also a starting mark.

Between situations 3 and 4 Blue makes a big and rapid change of course, backing her jib to bear away, and does not give Yellow room to keep clear. There is contact between Blue and Yellow. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

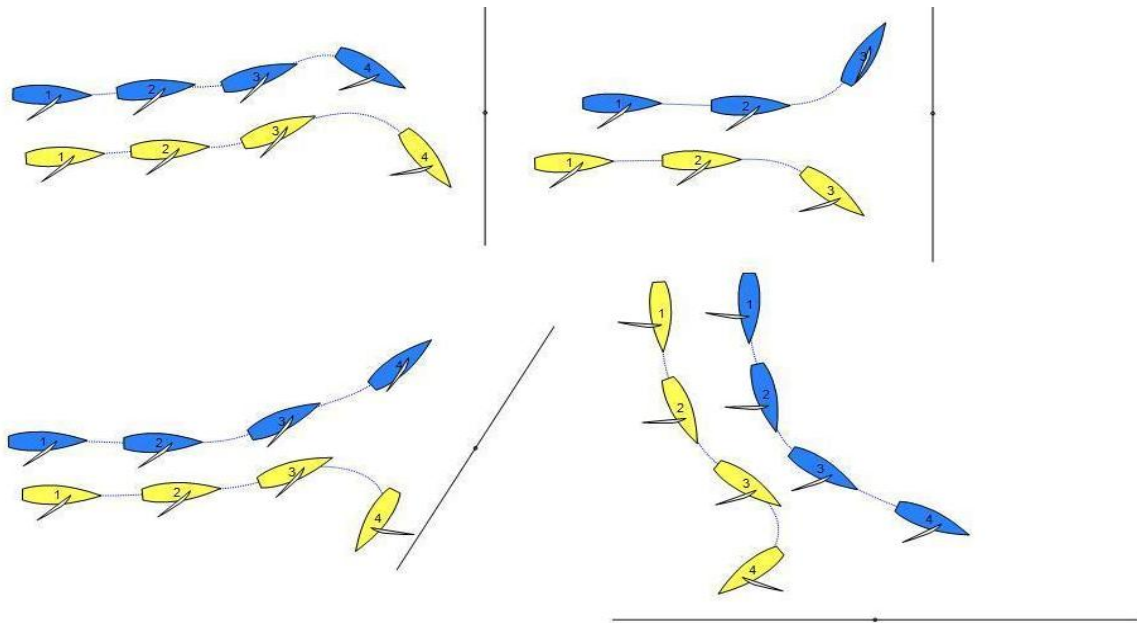
Penalize Blue. Rule 19, together with the relevant rules of Section A and B, apply when the boats are not approaching the starting mark to start. Yellow was giving Blue room between her and the race committee vessel (an obstruction). When Blue, a right-of-way boat, changes course she must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 16.1. She did not give Yellow room to keep clear and broke rule 16.1.

MR CALL B15

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**
Rule 19.2(a) and (c) **Giving Room at an Obstruction**

Question 1

Blue and Yellow are overlapped on port tack, with Yellow as the leeward, right-of-way boat. They approach a continuing obstruction on courses that make it clear that Yellow is the inside boat, or at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the shoreline so that it is unclear which boat will be the inside boat when they reach the obstruction. Yellow begins to luff or maintains her course and Blue keeps clear. When Yellow is approximately one and a half lengths from the obstruction she suddenly bears away and passes the obstruction to port leaving Blue clear astern. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?

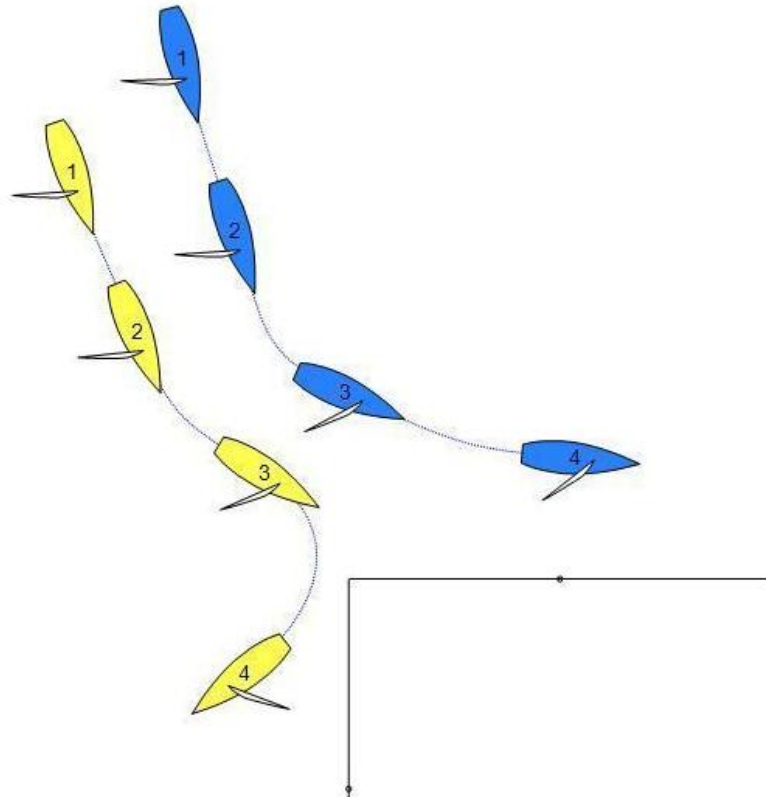


Answer 1

Display the green and white flag. Rule 11 applies, and rule 19 also applies when it becomes clear that the boats are at the obstruction. Yellow has right of way and can choose to luff or bear away as she pleases provided she complies with rule 16.1. If Yellow and Blue bear away to pass the obstruction to port, Yellow must give room to Blue while the boats are overlapped. If Blue becomes clear astern, she must comply with rule 19.2(c). In the situations shown, no rules are broken.

Question 2

In the pre-start, Blue and Yellow overlapped on port tack approach the outer end of a dock. Before the boats are at the obstruction, Yellow, to leeward, luffs slightly and Blue keeps clear. Yellow suddenly bears away, leaving the obstruction to port. Blue leaves the obstruction to starboard. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Display the green and white flag.

Yellow has right of way and may choose to luff or bear away as she pleases provided she complies with rules 16.1 and 19.2(a).

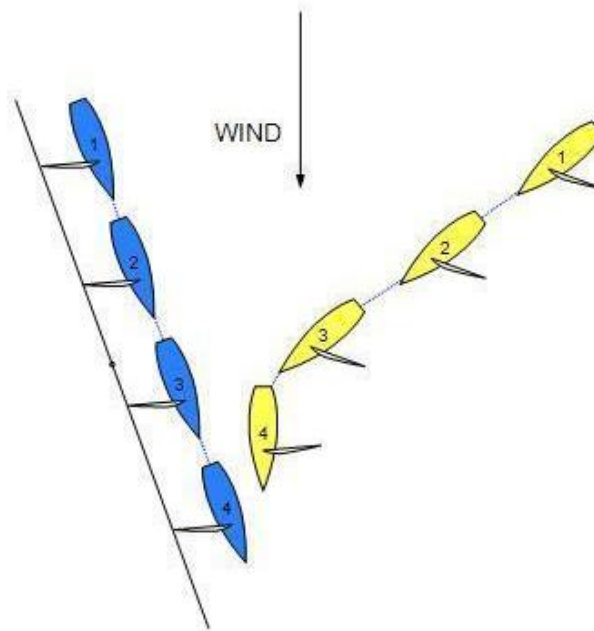
MR CALL B16

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 19.2(b)	Giving Room at an Obstruction
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

Question 1

Yellow and Blue are both sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Blue, on port tack, is sailing along a continuing obstruction. Yellow, on starboard tack, is approaching the obstruction on a collision course with Blue. Yellow bears away and avoids Blue.

Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



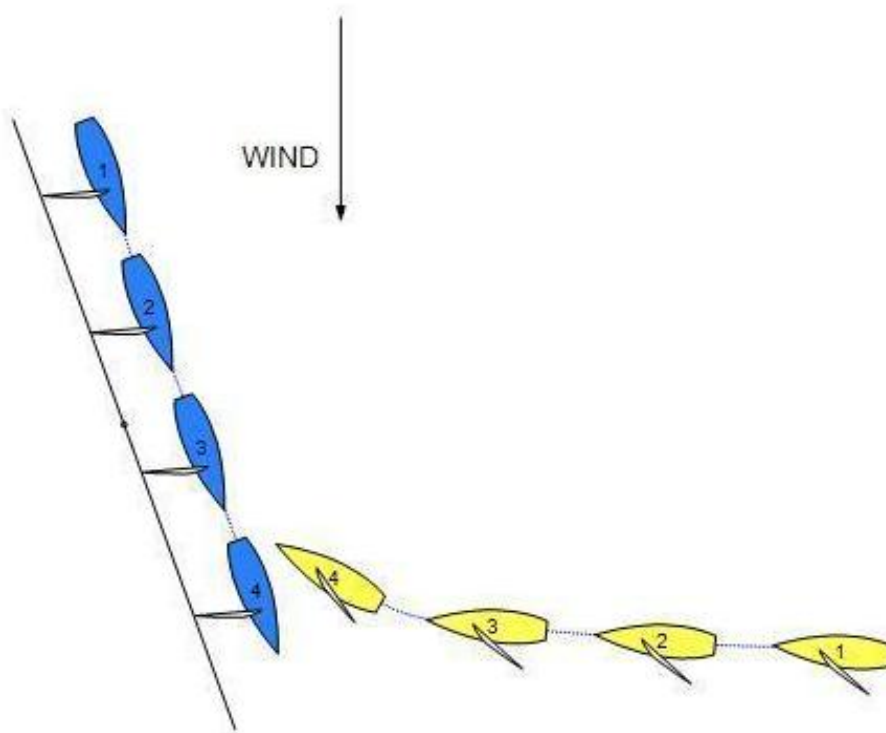
Answer 1

Display the green and white flag. Both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind and are overlapped. Yellow is the outside boat and is required by rule 19.2(b) to give Blue room between her and the obstruction. By bearing away to give room between positions 3 and 4 Yellow fulfilled her obligation under rule 19.2(b).

At position 3 Yellow needed to take avoiding action; therefore, Blue was not keeping clear under rule 10. However, Blue was sailing within the room to which she was entitled under rule 19.2(b) and is therefore exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

Question 2

Blue is sailing a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind on port tack along a continuing obstruction. Yellow is sailing an upwind course on starboard tack and is approaching the obstruction on a collision course with Blue. When it is obvious that Blue is not going to change course, Yellow luffs and avoids Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Penalize Blue.

The definition Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap only applies between boats on opposite tacks when both are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Since Yellow is not sailing at more than ninety degrees from the wind, the boats are not overlapped and rule 19.2(b) does not apply. Yellow does not have to give room to Blue. When Yellow has to luff, Blue does not keep clear and breaks rule 10.

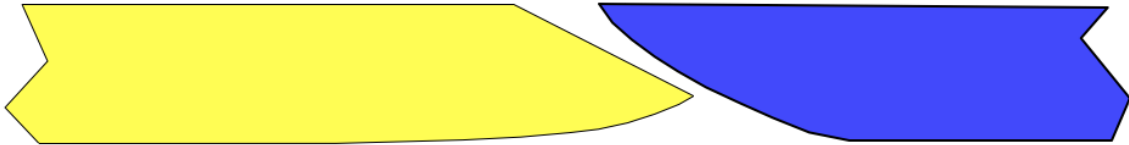
MR CALL B17

Definitions

Keep Clear

Question

When Blue, a keep-clear boat, passes her bow over Yellow's transom, is Blue keeping clear?



Answer

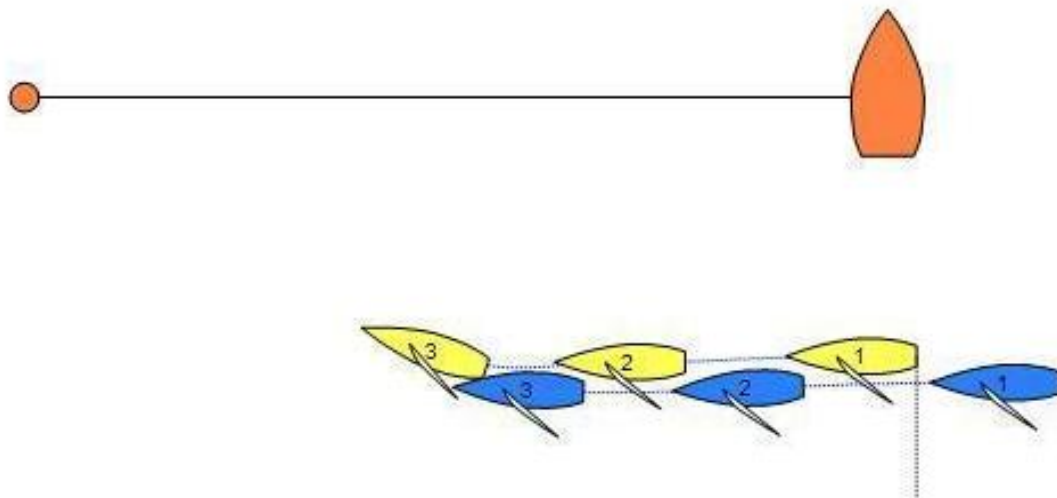
Yes.

MR CALL B18

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 12	On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped
Rule 15	Acquiring Right of Way

Question

Yellow and Blue are beam reaching on starboard tack in the pre-start with Yellow clear ahead and slightly to windward of Blue's course line. Yellow releases her sail, and Blue creates an overlap to leeward, without either boat changing course. The separation between the boats is only a few centimetres. Yellow luffs to keep clear and there is immediate contact. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Blue. Blue obtains right of way as a result of Yellow reducing speed. While the change in speed is a consequence of an action by Yellow, an increase or decrease in speed is not in itself an 'action' within the meaning of the second part of rule 15.

Therefore, rule 15 applies when Blue acquires right of way. As Blue creates the overlap so close that Yellow has no possibility of keeping clear, Blue does not give Yellow room to keep clear and breaks rule 15.

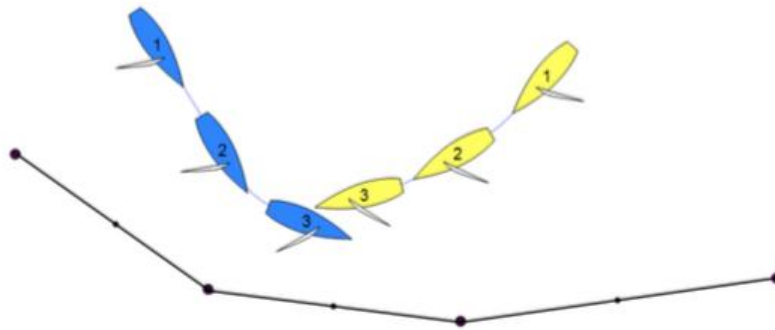
MR CALL B19

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 19.2	Giving Room at an Obstruction
Definitions	Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap, Obstruction, Keep Clear and Room

Question 1

Prior to the start, Yellow, on starboard, and Blue, on port, are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Both boats are sailing towards an obstruction.

At position 3, Yellow luffs to avoid Blue and displays flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Penalize Blue.

Yellow is the right-of-way boat and the umpires are certain that Yellow has chosen to pass the obstruction on her port side (see rule 19.2(a)).

For the purpose of rule 19, the determination of inside and outside boat is relative to the right-of-way boat and the obstruction when the boats are at the obstruction. As Yellow is passing the obstruction on her port side, any boat that is on the port side of Yellow is an inside boat and any boat on the starboard side of Yellow is an outside boat.

At position 2 Blue is the keep-clear boat that also has to give Yellow room at the obstruction. Yellow changes course from positions 1 to 2 and Blue has room to keep clear. After position 2, Blue fails to keep clear and give Yellow room to pass the obstruction.

Question 2

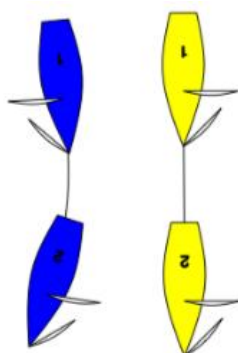
Would the answer be different if Blue was sailing parallel and close to the obstruction?

Answer 2

No.

Question 3

Prior to the start, Yellow, on starboard, and Blue, on port, are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind and both boats are sailing towards an obstruction. Yellow is on a course that the umpires cannot be certain as to the side Yellow will pass the obstruction. Blue changes course to starboard and displays flag Y.



Answer 3

Display the green and white flag.

Rule 19.2(b) applies when two boats are at an obstruction. In order to determine the inside and outside boat, the umpires need to be certain whether the right-of-way boat has chosen to pass the obstruction on her port side or on her starboard side.

At position 2, the right-of-way boat is sailing perpendicular to the obstruction. Therefore, it is not possible to clearly identify which boat is the 'inside' boat. When the umpires are not certain which boat is the 'inside boat,' no part of rule 19 creates any obligations, and rule 11 requires Blue to keep clear.

MR CALL C1

Rule C2.5 (7)

Rule 11

Section C

Rule 19.2(b)

Last Point of Certainty

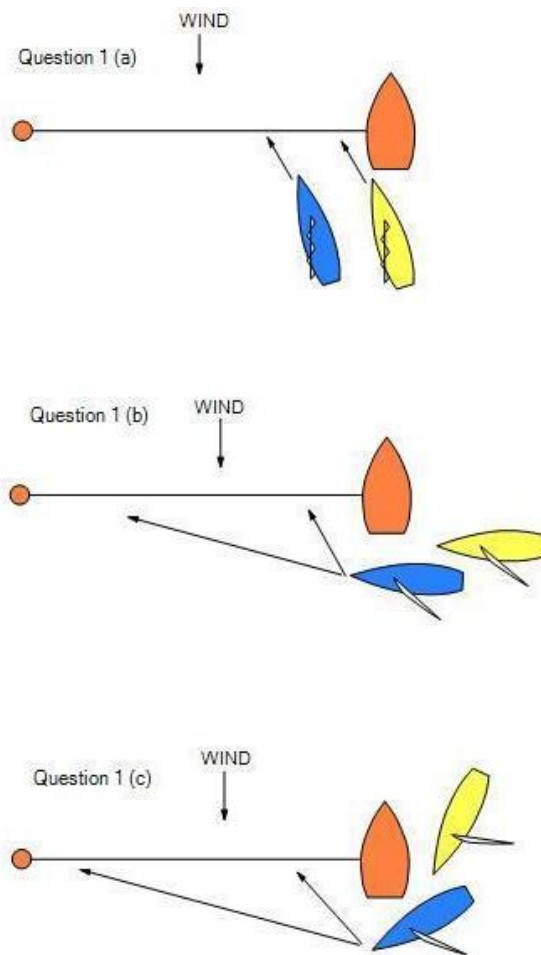
On the Same Tack, Overlapped

At Marks and Obstructions: Preamble

Giving Room at an Obstruction

Question 1

Blue and Yellow are approaching the race committee vessel end of the starting line. How do the umpires decide if they are approaching a starting mark to start?

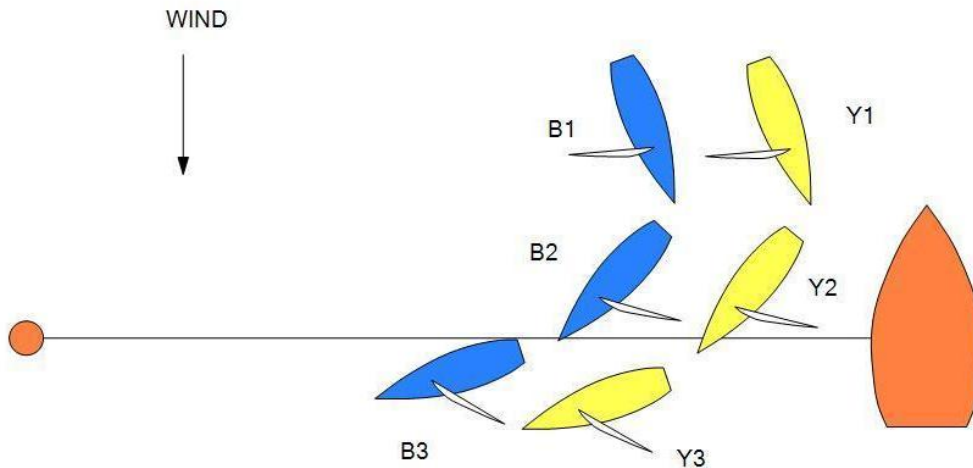


Answer 1

In each of Diagrams a, b, and c the boats may be approaching a starting mark to start. The umpires will use the speed and course of the boats in the prevailing conditions and the time remaining before the starting signal to decide if they are approaching a starting mark to start. Since match race starting lines are short, the boats may even be approaching the far end (Diagram b). However, until both umpires agree that the boats are approaching to start, they will decide that they are not (see rule C2.5 (7)).

Question 2

Before starting Blue and Yellow are on the course side of the starting line sailing a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind on port tack. Blue gives room for Yellow to pass the race committee vessel. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Display the green and white flag.

A boat cannot be approaching a mark to start until approaching to pass the mark on the required side. At position 1, Yellow was entitled to room under rule 19.2(b), which was given. This also applies when both boats have been recalled.

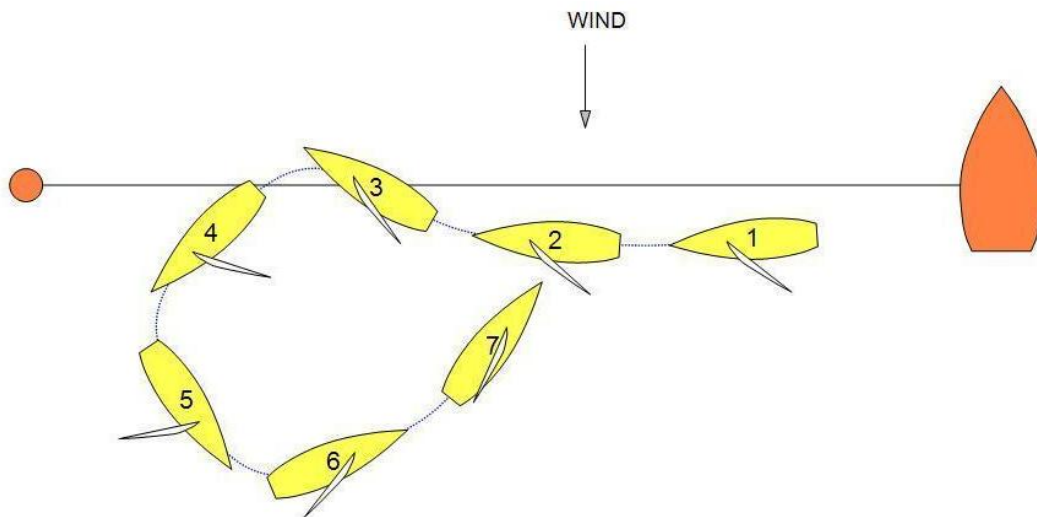
MR CALL C2

Rule C7.2(a) **All Penalties**

Rule C7.3(c) **Penalty Limitations**

Question

A boat that has been penalized during the pre-start is reaching down the line just before starting. At the starting signal she luffs just enough to cross the starting line and before becoming close-hauled, she bears away, gybes, and sails off on a close-hauled course on the other tack. Has she taken the penalty as required by rule C7.2(a) and C7.3(c)?



Answer

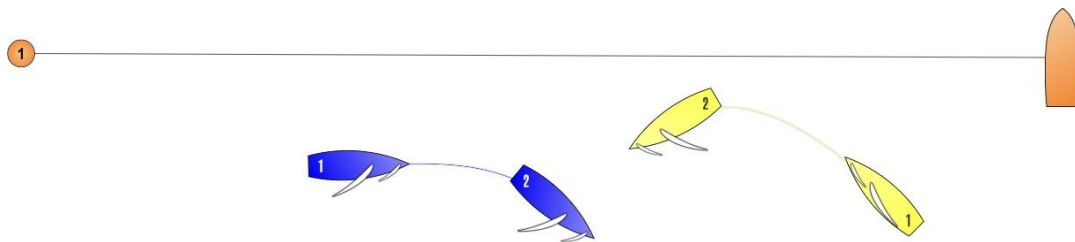
Yes. The boat was required to start before taking her penalty, but she did not have to begin taking it from a close-hauled course.

MR CALL C3

Rule 10 **On Opposite Tacks**
C2.7 (16.2) **Changing Course**
Definitions **Room**

Question 1

At position 1, the starting signal has been made but Yellow and Blue have not started. At position 2, Yellow bears away below a course that is ninety degrees to the true wind. Blue has to immediately bear away to keep clear. There is a Y flag. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Penalize Yellow for breaking C2.7 (16.2).

Call L9, Answer 3, provides the interpretation of when boats should be considered to be sailing on the same leg. Here, after the starting signal, both boats are sailing to the windward mark. Therefore, the boats are on a leg to the windward mark.

Question 2

Would the answer to Question 1 be different if Yellow had started and Blue had not?

Answer 2

No

Question 3

Would the call be different, if the boats are above the starting line, or its extensions at the starting signal and are signalled OCS?

Answer 3

If the boats are above the line, or its extensions, at the starting signal, and the umpires are satisfied that Yellow's change of course is consistent with her proper course (to sail a course to start), then the umpires should display the green and white flag. If the umpires agree that Yellow is sailing a course that is not her proper course, then they should penalize Yellow.

MR CALL D1

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Definitions	Keep Clear and Room

Question 1

Shortly after the start Yellow and Blue are close-hauled on port tack. The boats are overlapped and Yellow is keeping clear to windward. As the boats pass to leeward of mark L, an inflatable buoy that is not a mark on this leg, Blue luffs and Yellow responds. Yellow stops luffing when she hits the mark amidships, which causes Blue to curtail her luff. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?

Answer 1

Penalize Blue. When Blue, the right-of-way boat, changes course she has to give room according to rule 16.1. It is not seamanlike to hit a mark.

Because mark L is not a mark on this leg, rules C2.9 (18) and C2.15 (31) do not apply.

Question 2

Would the answer be the same if the boats were passing to leeward of an object that was not big enough to rank as an obstruction, but nevertheless limited her ability to respond and/or could cause damage to the hull or foils?

Answer 2

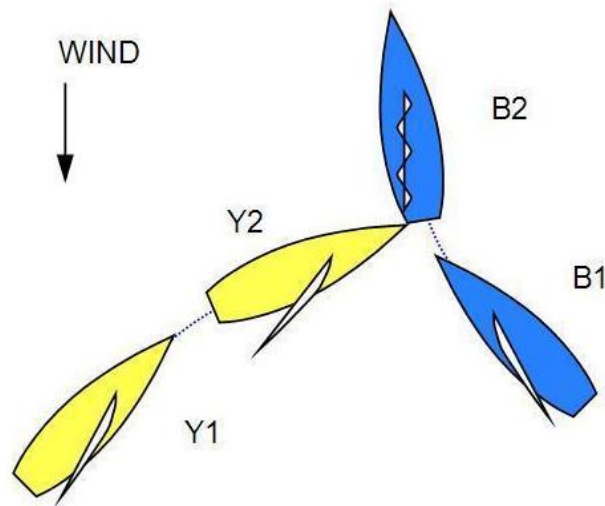
Yes. Provided Yellow was initially keeping clear, Blue must give her room to respond in a seamanlike way when she changes course.

MR CALL D2

Rule 10 **On Opposite Tacks**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**

Question

Blue and Yellow approach one another on a leg of the course to a windward mark. As Yellow bears away to pass Blue's stern, Blue luffs. Yellow attempts to bear away more but there is contact between the port quarter of Blue and the bow of Yellow. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Provided the umpires are satisfied that Yellow was keeping clear before Blue luffed, Blue broke rule 16.1 by changing course without giving Yellow room. Penalize Blue.

MR CALL D3

Rule 20.2(b) Room to Tack at an Obstruction: Responding

Question

Approaching an obstruction, Yellow and Blue are sailing upwind on the same tack. Blue hails and signals Yellow for room to tack. Yellow believes that Blue is sailing below a close-hauled course and she ignores the hail. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?

Answer

Penalize Yellow. The hailed boat must always respond to the hail in accordance with rule 20.2(b).

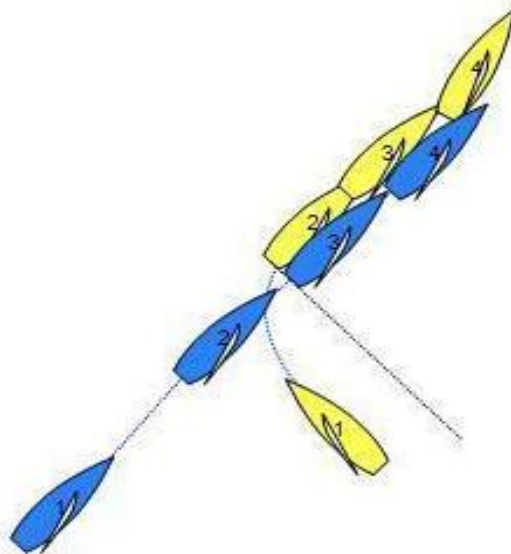
In addition, if Blue hailed for room to tack when it was clear that she was sailing below a close-hauled course, then Blue broke rule 20.1(b). Penalize Blue.

MR CALL D4

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 12	On the Same Tack, not Overlapped
Rule 15	Acquiring Right of Way
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)

Question 1

Yellow and Blue are on a beat to windward with Yellow on starboard tack and Blue on port tack. Yellow passes head to wind and completes a tack clear ahead and slightly to windward of Blue's course line. Her tack slows Yellow down, and Blue creates an overlap to leeward, without either boat changing course. The separation between the boats is only a few centimetres. Yellow luffs to keep clear and there is immediately contact. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Blue has no need to alter course before Yellow completes her tack. After Yellow completes her tack Blue has room to keep clear by bearing away if needed, so Yellow fulfils her obligation under rule 15 to initially give Blue room to keep clear. When Blue shortly thereafter acquires right of way by establishing a leeward overlap, Blue must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 15.

If, when the overlap is established, Yellow makes every effort to keep clear but is unable to do so, then Blue breaks rule 15. Yellow breaks rule 11 but is exonerated by rule 43.1(b). Penalize Blue.

However, if Yellow does not make every effort to keep clear and Blue, after initially giving room, is then required to take avoiding action or there is contact, then Yellow breaks rule 11. Penalize Yellow.

Question 2

Would the answer be different if Yellow completed the tack clear ahead and further to windward, but was moving forward at slower speed than Blue and slipping sideways reducing the separation between Blue and Yellow.

Answer 2

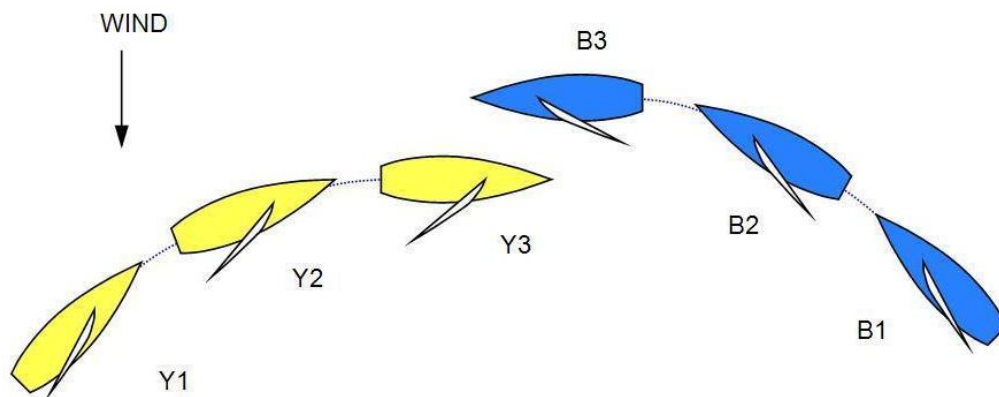
No.

MR CALL D5

Rule 10 **On Opposite Tacks**
Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**

Question 1

On a leg of the course to a windward mark, Blue and Yellow approach one another. At approximately four hull lengths from Blue, Yellow bears away to avoid Blue. Blue then bears away, so that the boats remain on a collision course. Yellow and Blue continue to bear away in the same way, until they finally pass one another with the wind approximately abeam. At no time does Blue sail a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Display the green and white flag. The relevant rule is 16.1, but Blue has not broken it, because throughout the incident she has given Yellow room to keep clear.

Question 2

In similar circumstances, Yellow's course would allow her to cross ahead of Blue, but Blue luffs to a collision course and Yellow tacks away in a seamanlike way. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?

Answer 2

Display the green and white flag. As in Question 1, the relevant rule is 16.1, and although Blue has forced Yellow to change course, she has not done so without giving her room to keep clear.

MR CALL D6

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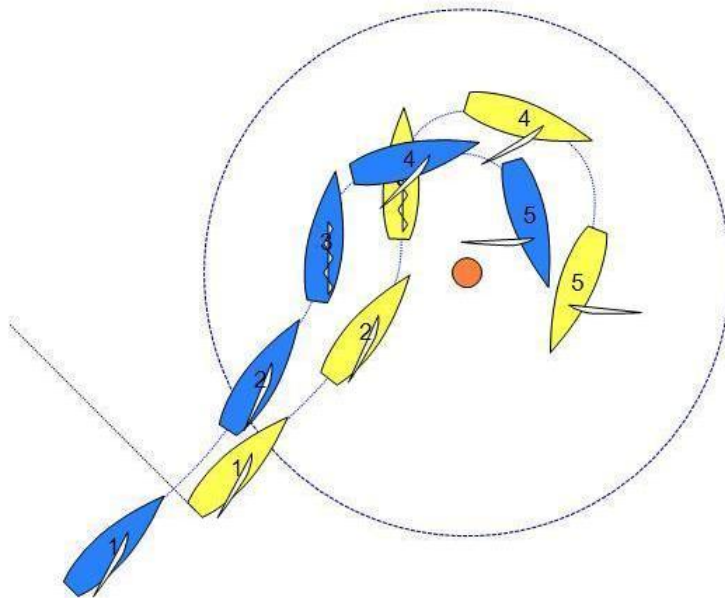
MR CALL E1

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.6 (13.2)	While Tacking or Gybing
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))	Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question

Yellow and Blue are approaching the windward mark on port tack. Yellow enters the zone clear ahead of Blue. Yellow then luffs above her proper course before rounding the mark. Blue bears away to a course between Yellow and the mark. Yellow gybes onto starboard. When next to the mark and while sailing her proper course, Yellow is forced to bear away to avoid Blue.

Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Blue.

When Yellow enters the zone clear ahead, rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)) applies and requires Blue to thereafter give Yellow mark-room. Mark-room is room for Yellow to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark. When Yellow luffs after position 2, she is not sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, and therefore rule 16.1 requires her to give Blue room to keep clear. Yellow gives room and Blue keeps clear.

From position 3 to position 5, Yellow is sailing her proper course, which includes gybing at position 5. Throughout this time Blue is required under rule 18.2(a)(2) to give Yellow room to sail her proper course, which she fails to do.

Blue has neither given Yellow mark-room, nor allowed her to sail her proper course. Penalize Blue and if Yellow at the same time breaks rule C2.6 (13.2), she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

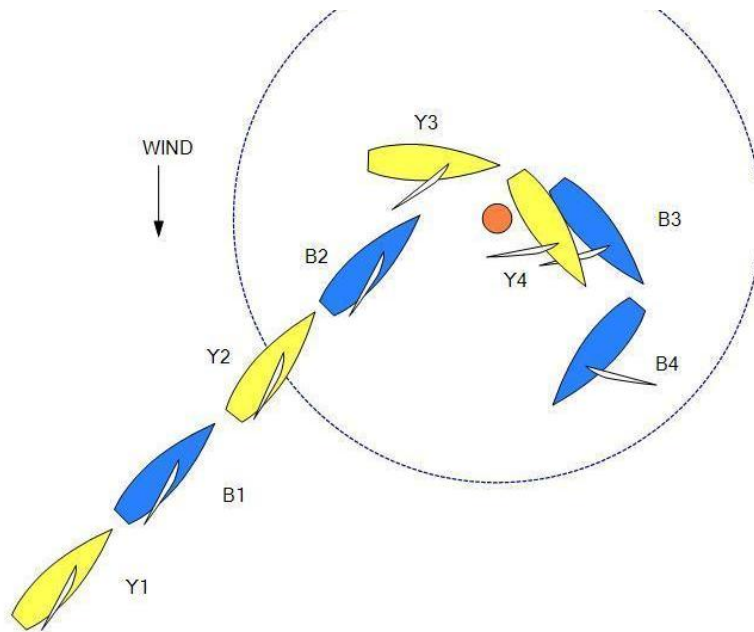
MR CALL E2

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)) Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)

Rule 43.1(b) Exoneration (room or mark-room)

Question

Blue and Yellow approach the windward mark on port tack with Blue clear ahead at the zone. The mark is to be rounded to starboard. After passing the mark, Blue immediately gybes onto starboard tack. How far beyond the mark may Blue sail before gybing and still be entitled to mark-room?



Answer

Blue is entitled to room to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark on the required side (see rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))).

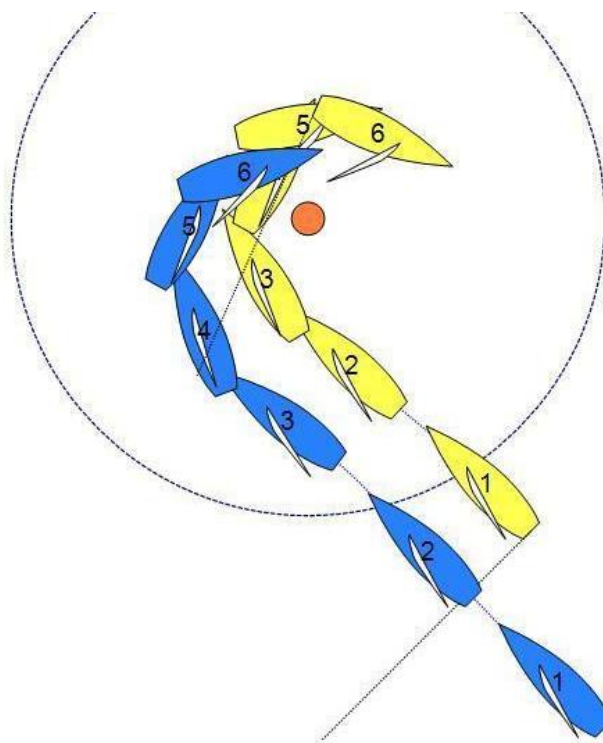
At position 3, Blue is on the next leg of the course and the mark is clear astern of her. Therefore, Yellow has given Blue mark-room as required and rule 43.1(b) no longer applies. If Blue gybes after this point, she will be subject to rule C2.6 (13.2) and then rules 15 and 16.1.

MR CALL E3

Rule 15	Acquiring Right of Way
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a))	Giving Mark-Room
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2)

Question 1

Yellow enters the zone clear ahead of Blue. Both boats tack and continue to round the mark. Blue becomes overlapped inside Yellow. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

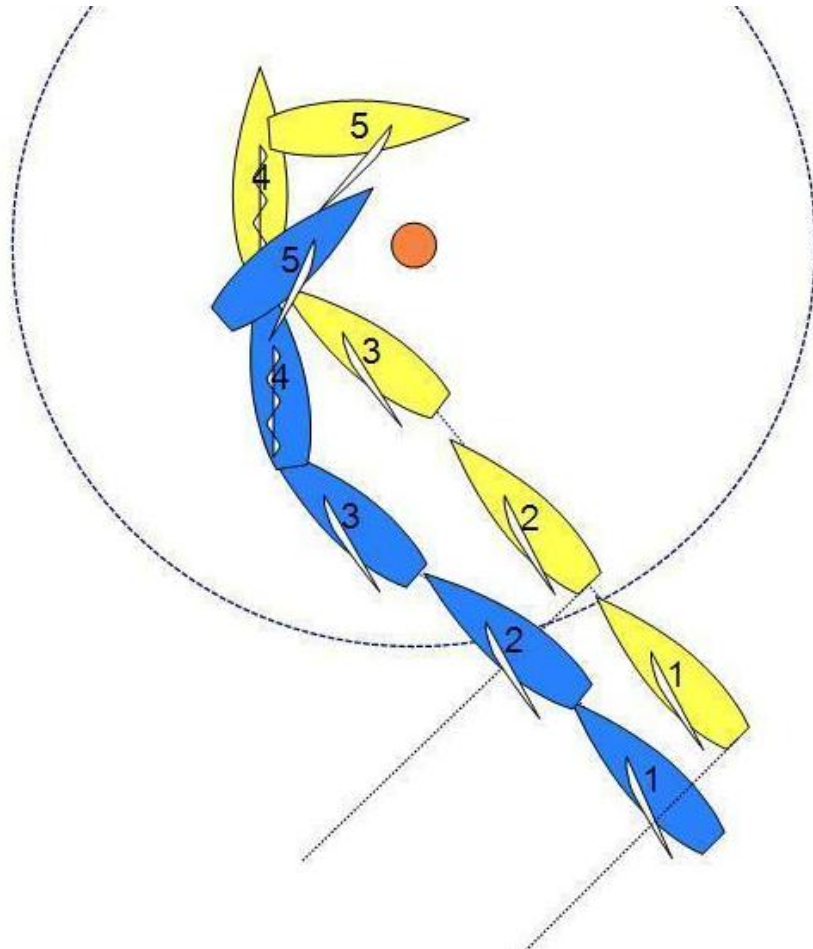
When Yellow enters the zone, rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)) applies until Yellow has rounded the mark.

At position 6, Yellow has not yet completed rounding the mark. If Yellow cannot sail her proper course around the mark without needing to avoid Blue, Blue breaks rule 18.2(a)(2). Penalize Blue. If Yellow at the same time breaks a rule, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

If Yellow is able to sail her proper course around the mark with no interference, display the green and white flag.

Question 2

Yellow and Blue enter the zone overlapped. Both boats tack and continue to round the mark. Blue becomes overlapped inside Yellow. Yellow's boom touches Blue's hull. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 2

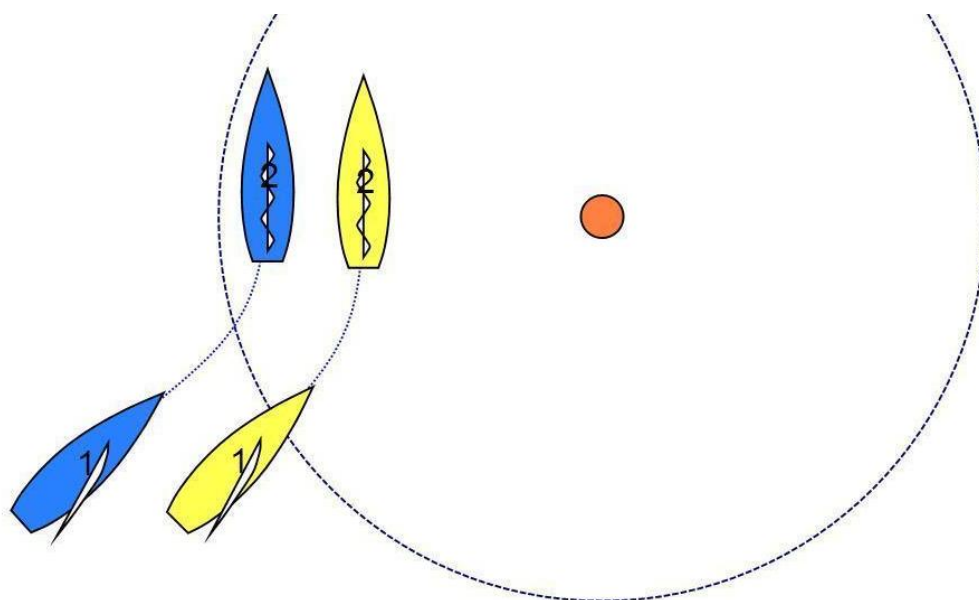
Penalize Blue. See Answer 1, except that rule 18.2(a)(1) is the applicable rule.

MR CALL E4

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Room

Question

Blue and Yellow approach the windward mark overlapped on port tack with Yellow to leeward and on the layline at the zone. Before Yellow rounds the mark she luffs head to wind. Blue responds to the luff and keeps clear. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Display the green and white flag.

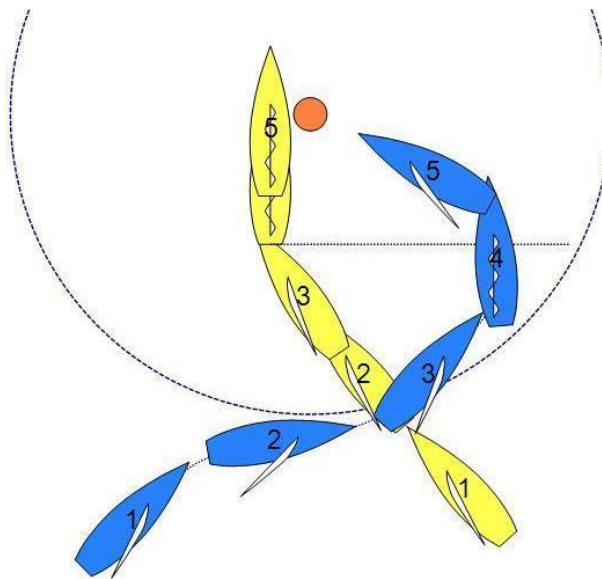
Blue is required by rule 11 to keep clear and by rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) to give mark-room, and she does so. When Yellow luffs, she is not sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled; therefore rule 16.1 requires her to give Blue room to keep clear. However, nothing in the rules prevents Yellow from sailing above her proper course while the boats are rounding or passing the mark.

MR CALL E5

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)

Question 1

Yellow on starboard tack and Blue on port tack, both close-hauled, are approaching the windward mark to be left to starboard. Blue bears away and passes astern of Yellow. When Yellow reaches the zone, she is overlapped and on the inside of Blue. Yellow luffs slowly and nearly stops head to wind with the mark abeam. While Yellow is luffing, Blue tacks to starboard and bears away towards the mark. Yellow does not give room at the mark, and Blue luffs to avoid a collision. Flag Y is displayed by Blue. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Display the green and white flag.

When Yellow reaches the zone, she is inside boat and therefore entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) until she has rounded or passed the mark. Blue keeps clear of Yellow and gives Yellow mark-room.

Question 2

Would the answer be different if Blue completes her tack outside the zone?

Answer 2

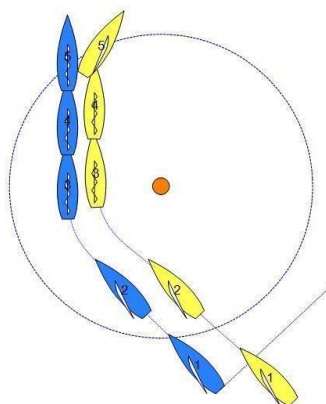
No.

MR CALL E6

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.6 (13.1)	While Tacking or Gybing
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2)

Question

Blue and Yellow on starboard tack approach the windward mark, to be left to starboard, with Yellow overlapped on the inside of Blue at the zone. After passing the port-tack layline both boats luff head to wind. At position 3 Blue has given Yellow enough room to tack. Both boats continue forward with the gauge between the boats reducing until, before leaving the zone, Yellow passes head to wind. There is contact as Yellow's stern swings. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Blue. When Yellow enters the zone overlapped on the inside of Blue, rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) applies and requires Blue to thereafter give Yellow mark-room, which is room for Yellow to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark. When Yellow continues straight after position 3, she is not sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled. Rule 11 requires her to keep clear of Blue and she does so.

At position 5, while still in the zone, Yellow tacks which is her proper course, and Blue fails to give her room to do so. Blue breaks rule 18.2(a)(1). Because Yellow is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for breaking C2.6 (13.1).

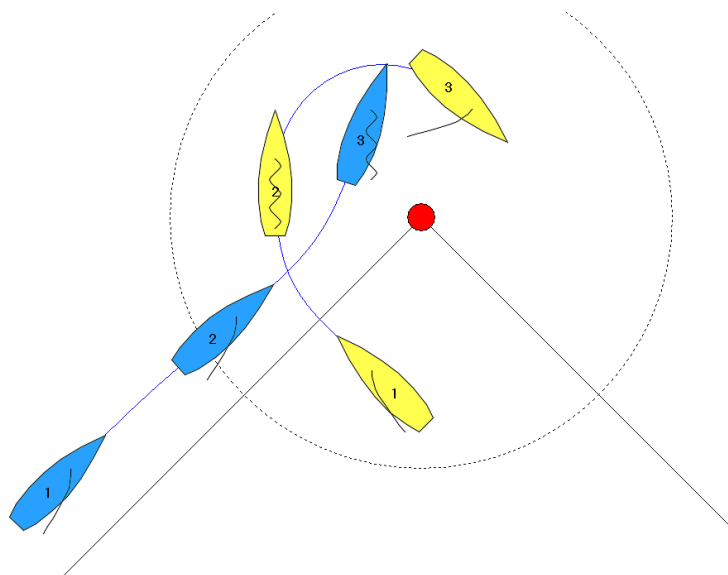
Note: Rule C2.9 (18.3(b)) does not apply in positions 3 and 4, because Yellow is not the right-of-way boat.

MR CALL E7

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Rule C2.9 (18.3(b))	Tacking or Gybing
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question 1

Yellow and Blue approach the windward mark on opposite tacks with Yellow on starboard. Yellow keeps on sailing on starboard beyond her proper course to round the mark before she passes head to wind. Yellow then bears away on her proper course to round the mark and Blue has to luff to give mark-room to Yellow. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

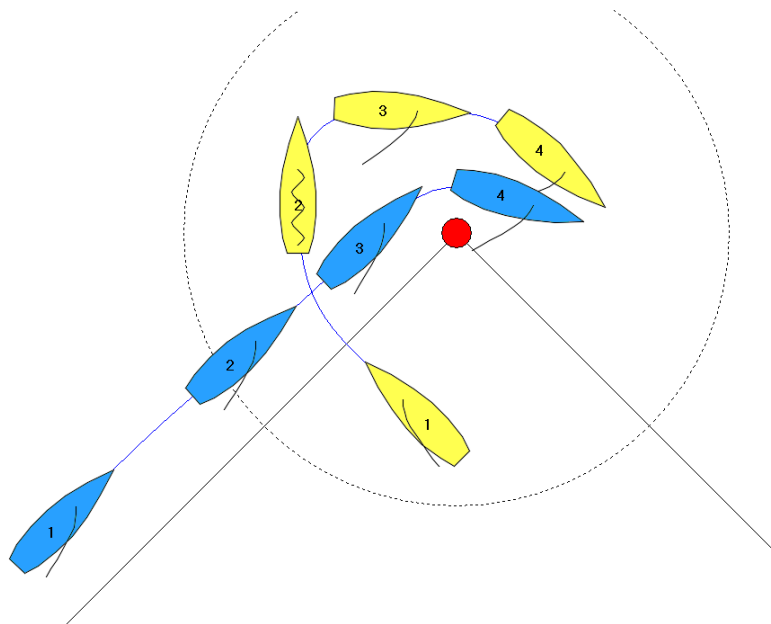
Display the green and white flag.

Yellow broke rule C2.9 (18.3(b)) when she sailed farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course, however, she did not affect Blue's course during the time rule 18.3(b) applied. Therefore, she is exonerated by rule 18.3(b) for breaking that rule. Once Yellow passed head to wind rule 18.3(b) no longer applied.

By luffing up behind Yellow, Blue gave Yellow mark-room. No rules are broken.

Question 2

The situation starts as in Question 1, but after Yellow passes head to wind, Blue sails in between Yellow and the mark. When Yellow bears away to round the mark on her proper course there is contact between the boats. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Penalize Blue.

Yellow was entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) and, from the moment she began luffing to round the mark, she was sailing her proper course to round the mark. Therefore, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for her breach of rule 11. Blue failed to give Yellow mark-room as required by rule 18.2(a)(1).

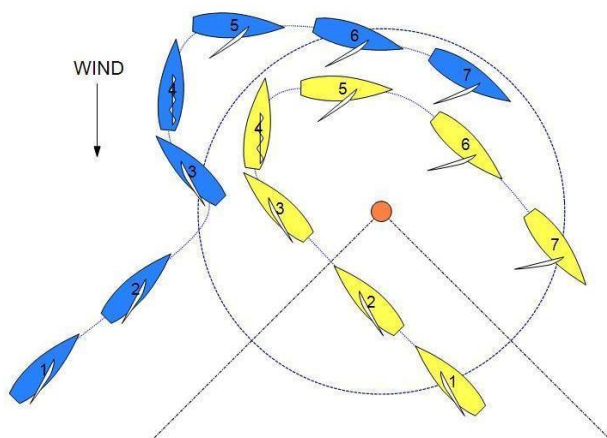
Yellow broke rule 18.3(b) before she passed head to wind, but is not penalized for that breach (see Answer 1).

MR CALL E8

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule C2.6 (13.1)	While Tacking or Gybing
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Rule C2.9 (18.3(b))	Tacking or Gybing
Rule C6.5(b)	Umpire Decisions
Rule C8.3	Penalties Initiated by Umpires
Definitions	Keep Clear, Mark-Room (rule C2.2), Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question 1

Blue on port tack and Yellow on starboard tack are approaching the windward mark on a collision course. The umpires agree that Yellow sails beyond the point where her proper course would be to tack to round the mark. Blue tacks to starboard and keeps clear of Yellow. Flag Y is displayed at position 4. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Penalize Yellow with a red flag (or possibly a double).

When Yellow first enters the zone overlapped inside Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)). However, as an inside overlapped right-of-way boat, Yellow breaks rule C2.9 (18.3(b)) by sailing farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course before she changes tack, and in doing so she affects Blue's course. Display the yellow flag.

A boat is in a 'controlling position' when she is ahead and able to manoeuvre towards the next mark without impediment, or she is in a position to be able to impede, affect or change the actions of the other boat without breaking a rule.

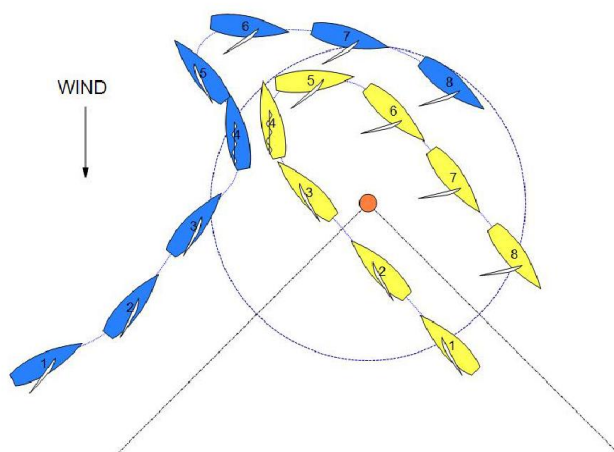
Because Yellow could not force Blue to tack without breaking rule 18.3(b), she was not in a 'controlling position' in this situation. By breaking rule 18.3(b) and forcing Blue to tack Yellow gained a controlling position.

If the umpires were satisfied that Yellow has broken rule 18.3(b) deliberately or has gained an advantage by breaking the rule after allowing for a penalty, they would give Yellow a second penalty under rule C8.3. See also MR Call M2.

If the umpires were not satisfied that either of these conditions existed, the umpires would give Yellow a red-flag penalty under rule C6.5(b).

Question 2

Blue on port tack and Yellow on starboard tack are approaching the windward mark on a collision course. The umpires agree that Yellow sails beyond the point where her proper course would be to tack to round the mark. Blue tacks to starboard to avoid Yellow, but before she reaches a close-hauled course Yellow has to luff to avoid Blue. Both boats display flag Y at position 4. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Penalize Yellow with a red flag (or possibly a double) and Blue.

Blue breaks rule C2.6 (13.1) by not keeping clear while tacking. Because Blue is neither compelled to break a rule, nor entitled to room or mark-room, she is not exonerated for her breach.

Yellow, the inside overlapped right-of-way boat, breaks rule 18.3(b) by sailing farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course before she changes tack, and affects Blue's course while doing so.

Coming into the situation, neither boat was in a controlling position because neither boat could impede, affect or change the other boat's course while complying with the

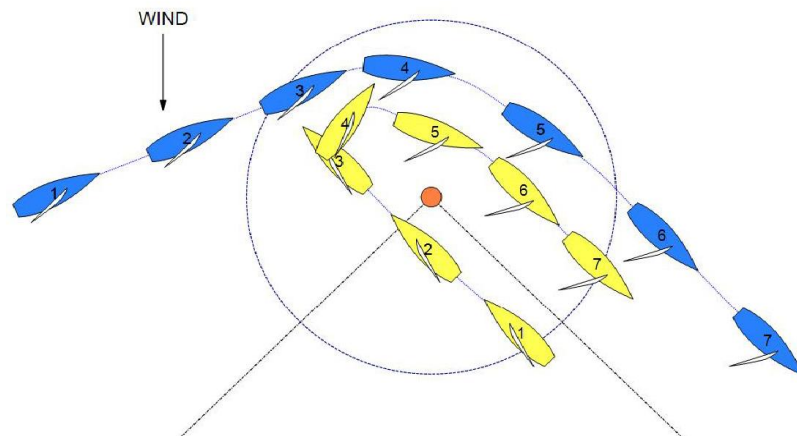
applicable rules. See Answer 1. By breaking rule 18.3(b), Yellow gained a controlling position on Blue.

If the umpires were satisfied that Yellow broke rule 18.3(b) deliberately or gained an advantage by breaking the rule after allowing for a penalty, they would give Yellow a second penalty under rule C8.3. This should be a red-flag penalty under rule C5.3 (red and second yellow flag) so that Yellow is behind Blue in the race. See also MR Call M2.

If the umpires were not satisfied that either of these conditions existed, the umpires would give Yellow a red-flag penalty under rule C6.5(b) (yellow and then red flag). This would put Yellow behind Blue and Blue would still have a penalty.

Question 3

Blue on port tack and Yellow on starboard tack are approaching the windward mark on a collision course. The umpires agree that Yellow sails beyond the point where her proper course would be to tack to round the mark. Blue holds her course. Yellow has to tack to avoid Blue. Both boats display flag Y at position 4. What should the call be?



Answer 3

Penalize Blue with a red flag (or possibly a double) and Yellow (with possibly a double).

Yellow, the inside overlapped right-of-way boat, breaks rule 18.3(b) by sailing farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course before she changes tack and affects Blue's course while doing so (Blue is unable to bear away to round the mark).

Blue breaks rule 10 by not keeping clear. Because Blue is neither compelled to break a rule, nor entitled to room or mark-room, she is not exonerated for her breach.

Coming into the situation, neither boat was in a controlling position because neither boat could impede, affect or change the other boat's course while complying with the applicable rules. See Answer 1.

If the umpires were satisfied that Yellow broke rule 18.3(b) deliberately, they would give Yellow a second penalty under rule C8.3. See also MR Call M2.

By breaking rule 10, Blue has gained a controlling position. If the umpires were satisfied that Blue has broken rule 10 deliberately or has gained an advantage by breaking the rule after allowing for a penalty, they would give Blue a second penalty under rule C8.3. See also MR Call M2.

If the umpires give both Yellow and Blue a double penalty, then Blue's second penalty should be a red-flag penalty under rule C5.3 (red and second blue flag) as Blue gained a controlling position. This would put Blue behind Yellow and Yellow would still have a penalty.

If the umpires were not satisfied that either of these conditions existed, the umpires would give Blue a red-flag penalty under rule C6.5(b).

MR CALL E9

Rule C2.9 (18.1)

When Rule 18 Applies

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))

Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)

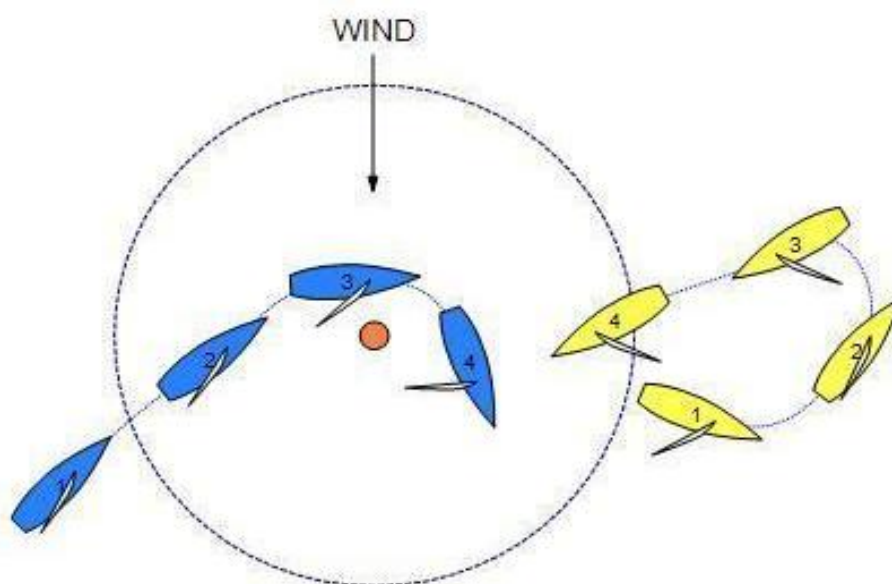
Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

Question

Yellow enters the zone of a windward mark clear ahead of Blue, passes the mark and sails completely out of the zone. Yellow then completes a penalty just before position 3 and is on starboard tack on a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Blue on port tack is bearing away to round the windward mark.

Does rule C2.9 (18) apply between Yellow and Blue?



Answer

Yes. When Yellow first enters the zone clear ahead of Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)). Rule 18 ceased to apply when Yellow was on the next leg and the mark was astern of her (see rule C2.9 (18.1)).

When Yellow left the zone, the boats were not overlapped. As Blue remains in the zone she is considered the first boat to reach the zone when rule 18.2(a) is re-applied. Blue is therefore entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2).

MR CALL E10

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)) Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)

Rule C2.9 (18.2(b)) Giving Mark-Room (rule re-applied)

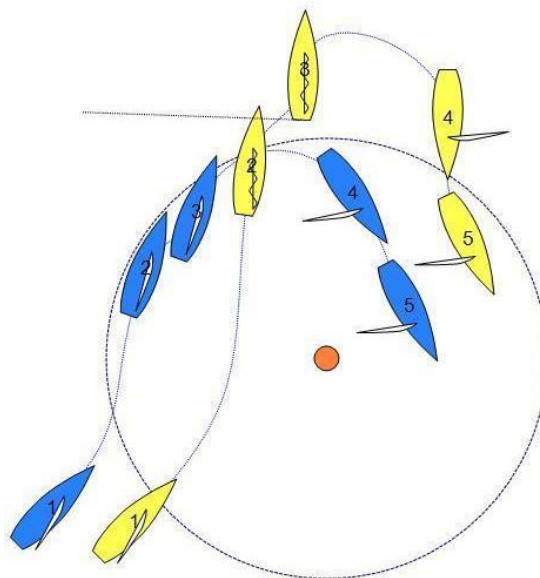
Question

Blue and Yellow approach the windward mark on port tack with Blue overlapped to windward at the zone. The mark is to be rounded to starboard.

Instead of rounding the mark, both boats slow down and continue sailing to windward. At position 3 Yellow leaves the zone while clear ahead of Blue. Blue remains inside the zone.

As the boats bear away they become overlapped again, this time with Yellow overlapped outside Blue.

At position 5, flag Y is displayed by Yellow. What should the call be?



Answer

Display the green and white flag.

When Yellow first enters the zone overlapped inside Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)). However, Yellow's entitlement to mark-room ceases at position 3 when she leaves the zone (see rule 18.2(b)). At this point the boats are not overlapped.

As Blue remains in the zone she is considered the first boat to reach the zone when rule 18.2(a) is re-applied. Blue is therefore entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2). Yellow gives mark-room to Blue.

MR Call E11

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.9(18.2(a)(1))	Giving Mark-Room (overlapped)
Rule 19.1(b)	Room to Pass an Obstruction
Definitions	Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap and Keep Clear

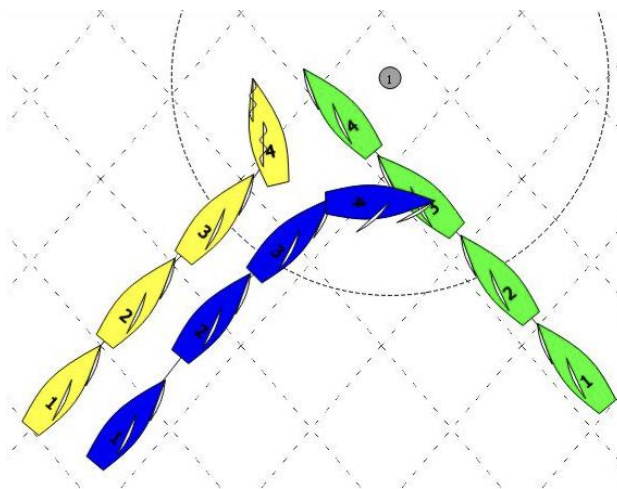
Question 1

Yellow and Blue in one match and Green in another match are overlapped approaching the windward mark. The mark is to be rounded to starboard.

When Green enters the zone, she is overlapped with Yellow and Blue, who are overlapped on port tack. Yellow and Blue are on a collision course with Green.

Blue does not hail for room to tack. At position 3, Blue bears away and passes close behind Green. Yellow luffs and tacks to avoid Green and displays flag Y.

What should the call be?



Answer 1

Green is an inside overlapped boat and therefore entitled to mark-room from Blue and Yellow under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(1)). Blue is an inside overlapped boat relative to Yellow and therefore entitled to mark-room from Yellow under rule 18.2(a)(1).

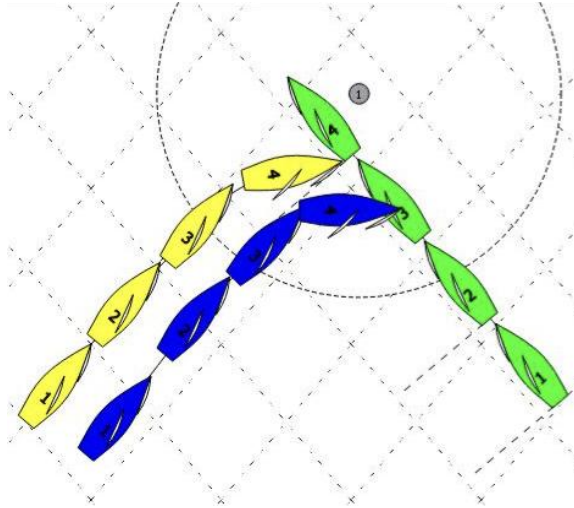
If Yellow gave Blue room to tack but Blue did not tack, display the green and white flag. Yellow has given mark-room to both Blue and Green and Blue has given mark-room to Green. Note that rule 19 does not apply, see rule 19.1(b).

If Yellow did not give Blue room to tack as part of Blue's proper course, and/or Blue's obligation to give Green mark-room, penalise Yellow. Blue does not need to

hail nor make arm signals for room to tack as the room required to be given by Yellow is mark-room as required by rule 18.2(a)(1), not room as required by rule 20.

Question 2

The situation is the same as in Question 1, but instead of luffing and tacking, Yellow bears away with Blue to pass behind Green and there is contact between Yellow and Green. Blue displays flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Penalize Yellow.

Rule 19 does not apply, therefore Blue is not required to give Yellow room to pass between Green and herself. Yellow fails to keep clear of (and give mark-room to) both Green and Blue under rules 10, 11, and 18.2(a)(1).

MR CALL G1

Rule 15 Acquiring Right of Way

Question

On a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind, Yellow establishes an overlap to windward of Blue with her spinnaker. Yellow bears away, without breaking the overlap, and overlaps Blue to leeward.

Does rule 15 apply?

Answer

Yes. At the moment Yellow becomes right of way as the leeward boat, rule 15 begins to apply.

MR CALL G2

Rule 16.1 Changing Course

Definitions Room

Question 1

Blue is sailing to leeward of Yellow. Both boats have spinnakers set. Blue luffs Yellow. What are the obligations on Blue and Yellow?

Answer 1

Yellow is required to keep clear and Blue is required to give Yellow room to respond to her luff. While Yellow is able to keep the majority of her spinnaker filled and drawing she is not entitled to additional room to drop her spinnaker.

If Blue continues her luff so that Yellow, in order to keep clear, has to luff beyond the point where she can keep her spinnaker filled and drawing, then Blue must give Yellow room to drop her spinnaker.

Whether or not Yellow drops her spinnaker at that time, she is still required to keep clear. If she does not drop her spinnaker at that time, then Blue is not required to give her additional room to drop the spinnaker later in that incident.

Question 2

If Yellow does not drop her spinnaker and passes head to wind to keep clear, is Blue giving Yellow room to keep clear in a seamanlike way?

Answer 2

Yes. Blue may continue to luff as long as she has previously given Yellow room to drop her spinnaker.

Question 3

Does either answer change if Blue does not have a spinnaker set, or has a different type of spinnaker set?

Answer 3

No.

Question 4

Does the same line of reasoning used in Questions 1 to 3 also apply to boats on opposite tacks?

Answer 4

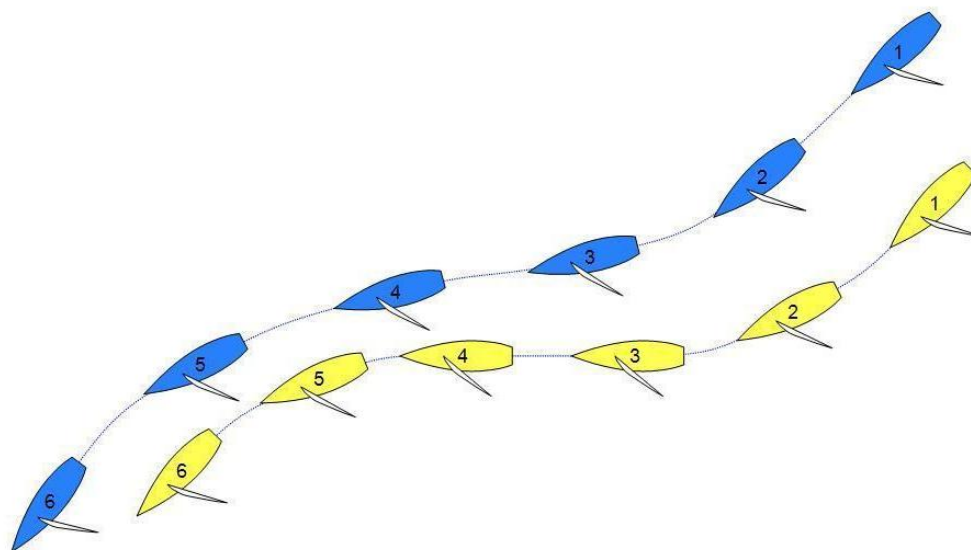
Yes.

MR CALL G3

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule C6.5(b)	Umpire Decisions
Rule C7.2	All Penalties
Rule C8.3	Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question 1

Yellow and Blue are sailing a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind with Blue overlapped to windward of Yellow. Yellow luffs slowly and Blue responds, but Blue's response is not enough for her to keep clear. There is contact between Blue's spinnaker and Yellow's rigging. Blue is blocking Yellow's wind and she overtakes Yellow. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 1

If Blue could have kept clear but either responded too slowly or not enough, then Blue has broken rule 11. Penalize Blue.

If in addition the umpires are satisfied that Blue has broken a rule deliberately or has gained an advantage by breaking the rule after allowing for a penalty, they would give Blue a second penalty under rule C8.3. If the umpires were not satisfied that either of these conditions existed, but are satisfied that Blue gained a controlling position because of the breach, the umpires would give Blue a red-flag penalty under rule C6.5(b). See also MR Call M2.

Question 2

Would the answer be different if the Yellow had an outstanding penalty?

Answer 2

No. However, if Blue was given a red-flag penalty under rule C8.3, this would not offset Yellow's outstanding penalty (see rule C7.2(e)). Blue would have to take her penalty as soon as reasonably possible under rule C7.3(d), and Yellow would still have an outstanding penalty.

Question 3

Would the answer be different if the boats are getting closer to the finishing line and Yellow has an outstanding penalty?

Answer 3

No. However, in this situation it is more likely that the conditions for a double penalty are met.

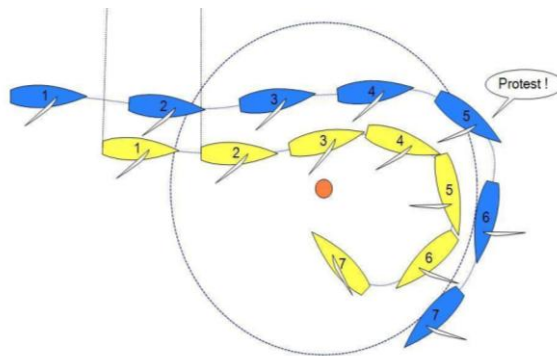
If a double penalty has been signalled to Blue, the first penalty will offset Yellow's penalty (see rule C7.2(e)). Blue will not be recorded as finishing until she completes her second penalty and then finishes (see rule C7.2(d)).

MR CALL J1

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))	Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)
Rule C2.9 (18.3(b))	Tacking or Gybing
Definitions	Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question 1

Yellow is approaching the leeward mark below the layline and is clear ahead of Blue at the zone. Very shortly thereafter Blue becomes overlapped outside and to windward of Yellow. At position 5 Blue displays flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

Yellow is clear ahead when she enters the zone. Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)) applies and Blue must give her mark-room. When Blue becomes overlapped on the outside, she is required by rule 11 to keep clear of Yellow. Blue gives room and keeps clear.

From the moment the boats overlap until Yellow gybes, rule C2.9 (18.3(b)) also applies and requires Yellow, until she changes tack, to sail no farther from the mark than her proper course. The umpires must consider factors such as the type of boat, current, wind strength and waves to decide whether Yellow complies with this rule. If the umpires decide that Yellow does not sail farther from the mark than she would in the absence of Blue while rule 18.3(b) applies, display the green and white flag. If Yellow does sail farther from the mark than her proper course, Yellow breaks rule 18.3(b). If Yellow affects Blue's course while she is breaking rule 18.3(b), penalize Yellow. If not, display the green and white flag.

Question 2

Would the call be different if Yellow was having a problem lowering her spinnaker?

Answer 2

No. Neither the room that has to be given by Blue nor the course that must be sailed by Yellow is changed by unseamanlike boat handling.

MR CALL J2

Rule C2.9 (18.3(b))

Tacking or Gybing

Definitions

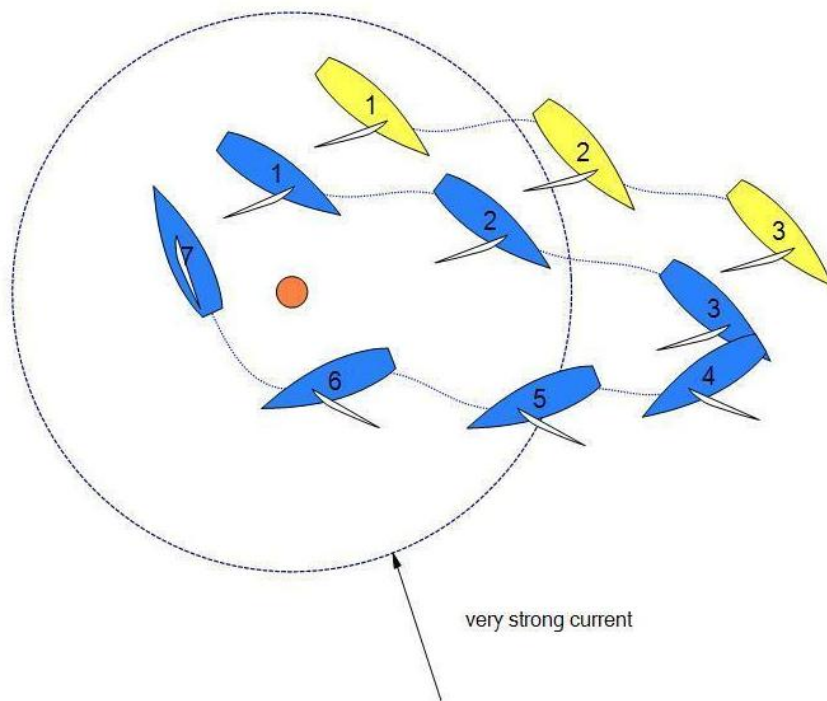
Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question

Yellow and Blue enter the zone of the leeward mark overlapped with Blue as the inside right-of-way boat. As Blue's proper course at the mark includes a gybe, rule C2.9 (18.3(b)) applies to Blue.

Because of strong current and light wind, Blue's proper course would take her outside the zone before she gybes and heads back to the mark. When Blue reaches the point where her proper course is to gybe, both boats are outside the zone.

Is Blue still required by rule 18.3(b) to gybe at that moment (position 3)?



Answer

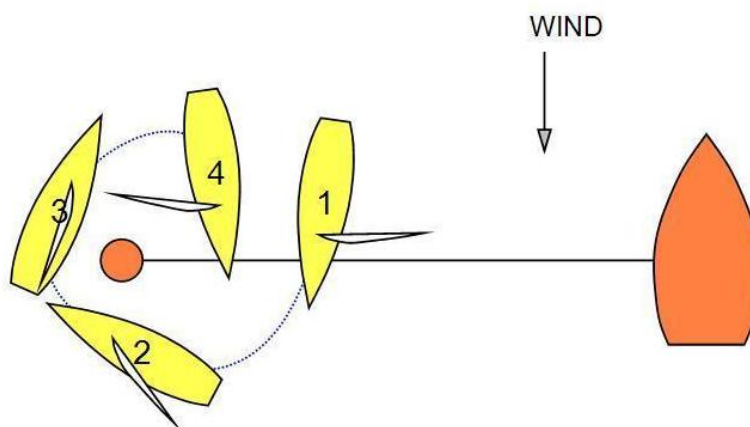
No. When both boats have left the zone rule 18, including rule 18.3(b), no longer applies (see rule C2.9 (18.1)) and therefore Blue is no longer required by rule 18.3(b) to gybe.

MR CALL K1

Rule 28.1	Sailing the Course
Rule C7.2	All Penalties
Definitions	Finish (rule C2.1) and Sail the Course

Question 1

When a boat delays taking her penalty until the finish, is she allowed to take it around the finishing mark?



Answer 1

Yes. Although she sails through the finishing line, she does not finish under the definition Finish (C2.1) because she has not yet completed her penalty. Her penalty is to tack and, as soon as reasonably possible, bear away to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind in accordance with rule C7.2(a)(2). See also rule C7.2(d).

Question 2

Did she comply with rule 28.1, Sailing the Course?

Answer 2

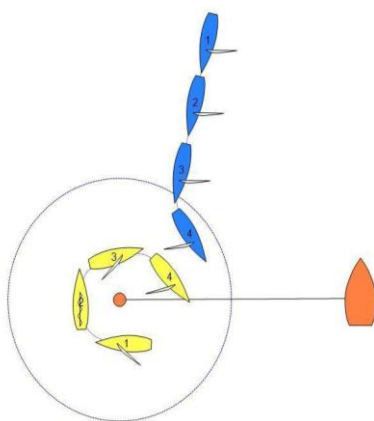
Yes. Rule 28.1 requires a boat to 'sail the course'. The definition 'Sail the Course' requires, in part, that 'a string representing her track ...passes each mark ... on the required side ...' which it did. The rule or definition do not prohibit a boat from rounding a finishing mark, or any other mark, even though, as a result her track would pass it on the required side twice.

MR CALL K2

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))	Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)
Rule 21.2	Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing A Sail
Rule 43.1	Exoneration

Question

Yellow enters the zone of the finishing mark clear ahead of Blue, and is taking a penalty around the finishing mark. As Yellow tacks and bears away on port, Blue, approaching the mark on starboard, bears away and gybes to port. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Because Yellow enters the zone clear ahead of Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)). When Yellow passes head to wind rule 18.2(a)(2) continues to apply, but as Yellow also begins taking a penalty, she must keep clear of Blue under rule 21.2 until she completes her penalty by bearing away to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Although Yellow is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, she is not exonerated for her breach of rule 21.2 by rule 43.1(b) (because rule 43.1(b) does not include rules in Section D), or rule 43.1(a) (because Yellow was not compelled to break rule 21.2).

If Blue is required to take avoiding action before Yellow completes her penalty, Yellow is not keeping clear under rule 21.2, even if Blue is also changing course to give mark-room. Signal that Yellow has completed her penalty and penalize Yellow again for breaking rule 21.2. See MR Call N7.

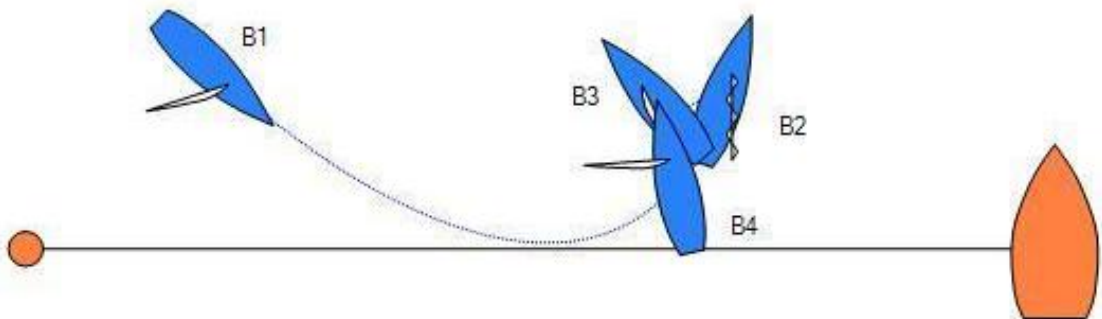
If Blue's change of course is not required until after Yellow completes her penalty, display the green and white flag.

MR CALL K3

Rule C5.6	Signals by Umpires
Rule C7.2(a)(2)	All Penalties
Rule C7.4(b)	Taking and Completing Penalties
Definitions	Finish (rule C2.1)

Question

Blue has a penalty outstanding as she approaches the finishing line. She lowers her spinnaker, luffs, passes head to wind, bears way to a close-hauled course on the other tack, reverses her mainsail and sails backwards across the finishing line, now above close-hauled. Has she finished?



Answer

No. Blue cannot finish until she has completed her penalty (see the definition Finish (rule C2.1)). She has not borne away to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind as required by rule C7.2(a)(2). The umpires will signal as required in rules C7.4(b) and C5.6 that the boat is no longer taking a penalty and that the penalty remains.

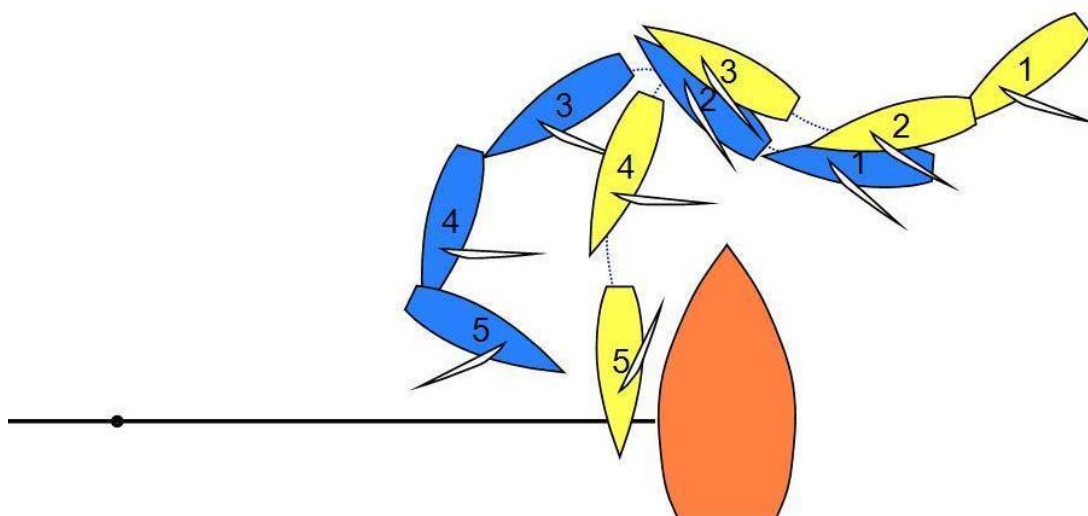
MR CALL K4

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))	Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)
Rule 43.1(b)	Exoneration (room or mark-room)
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question

Blue has an outstanding penalty. Blue enters the zone of the finishing mark clear ahead of Yellow, and never thereafter leaves the zone. Shortly after position 3 Yellow establishes an inside overlap on Blue. Blue gybes to port and then closes the gap between the boats by heading up and aiming directly at the finishing flag on the race committee vessel.

There is contact between Blue and Yellow with no damage. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Blue was clear ahead when she reached the zone and rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)) began to apply. From position 1 and throughout the incident, Yellow is required to give Blue mark-room, which is room for Blue to sail her proper course.

If the umpires decide that Blue is sailing a proper course, penalize Yellow for breaking rule 18.2(a)(2). Blue is exonerated for breaking rule 10 by rule 43.1(b). If Blue is sailing above her proper course, penalize Blue for breaking rule 10.

MR CALL K5

Rule 10 **On Opposite Tacks**

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)) **Giving Mark-Room**

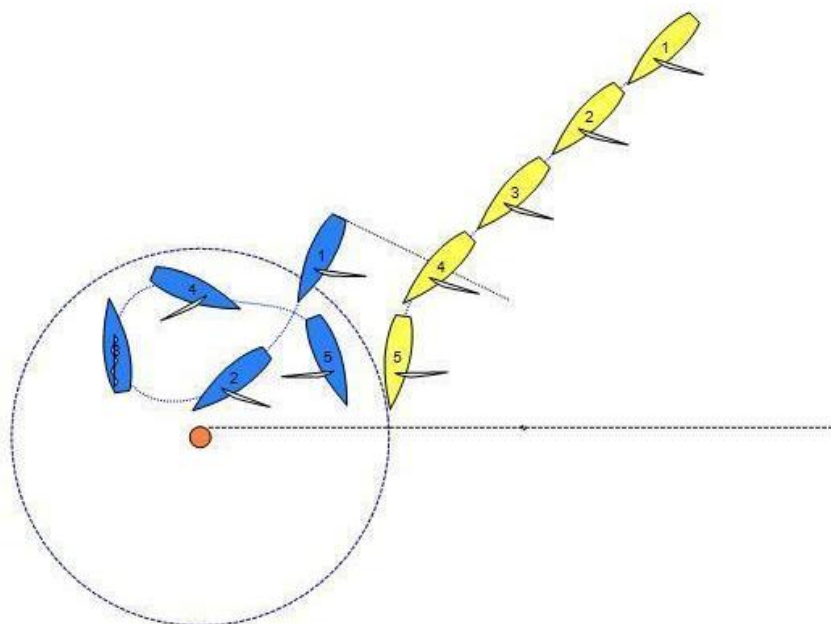
Rule 43.1(b) **Exoneration (room or mark-room)**

Definitions **Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Proper Course (rule C2.3)**

Question 1

Blue, with an outstanding penalty, is clear ahead when she reaches the zone of the finishing mark. Blue luffs, tacks and bears away to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind, on port tack at position 4. After position 4, Blue sails at an angle that the umpires agree is her proper course.

After position 4 Yellow (on starboard) bears away to avoid Blue and displays flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

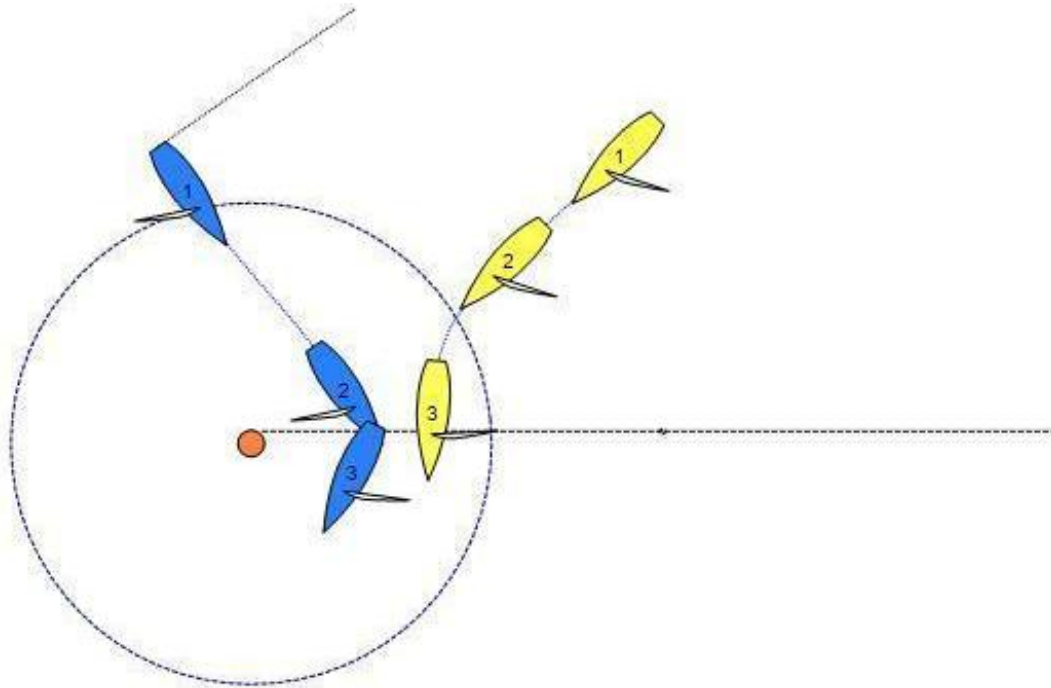
Display the green and white flag.

Blue is entitled to mark-room. Mark-room for Blue is to sail her proper course to pass the mark (see rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))). While Blue's course to take her penalty is not a proper course (see rule C2.3), once Blue has completed her penalty, she is entitled to sail her proper course from that point until she has finished. Blue breaks rule 10, but is exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

Question 2

Blue on port and Yellow on starboard are sailing towards the finishing line. When Blue reaches the zone of the finishing mark, she is the inside, overlapped boat.

At position 2, Blue is certain that she has crossed the finishing line and she bears away and gybes to a course to sail close to, but not hitting, the finishing mark. At the same time Yellow bears away to avoid contact with Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Display the green and white flag.

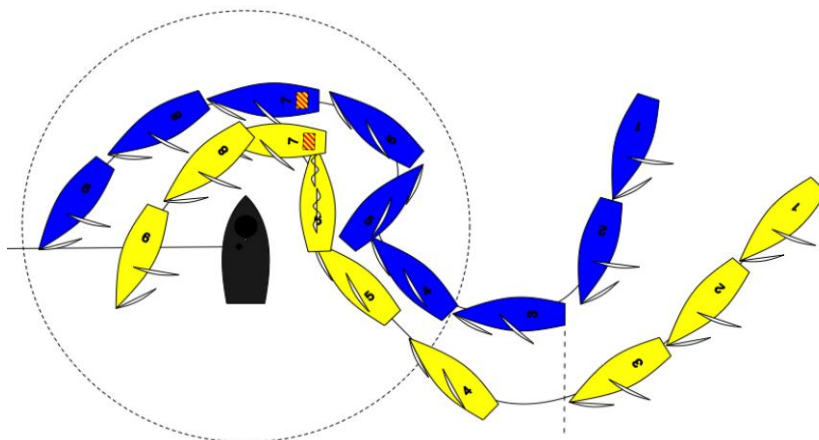
Blue is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(1). Mark-room for Blue is room to sail her proper course to pass the mark and room to pass the finishing mark after finishing under the definition of Mark-Room (rule C2.2). Therefore, the space Blue is entitled to after finishing is simply the space she needs to pass between Yellow and the mark from the time she has finished. By bearing away and gybing from position 2, Blue is not sailing farther from the mark than she is entitled to.

MR Call K6

Rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2))	Giving Mark-Room (not overlapped)
Rule 21.2	Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing A Sail
Rule 43.1	Exoneration
Rule C5.6	Signals by Umpires
Rule C7.4	Taking and Completing Penalties
Rule C8.3	Penalties Initiated by Umpires
Definitions	Mark-Room (rule C2.2) and Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question 1

Both boats are approaching the race committee vessel end of the finishing line. Blue has an outstanding penalty. Blue reaches the zone clear ahead of Yellow. Blue tacks onto port tack, gets to a close-hauled course and tacks back onto starboard tack. At position 7, just before Blue reaches a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind, there is contact between the boats and both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer 1

The umpires shall act under rule C5.6 once Blue is no longer taking a penalty on port tack. Signal that Blue has completed her penalty. Penalize Blue and Yellow at the same time. Then signal a second penalty to Yellow.

When the contact happened, Blue was still taking her penalty. Not keeping clear of another boat while taking a penalty does not make the penalty invalid, but it breaks rule 21.2, so because there was a protest, Blue gets one penalty for that breach.

Throughout the incident Blue never leaves the zone, so she is entitled to mark-room all the time.

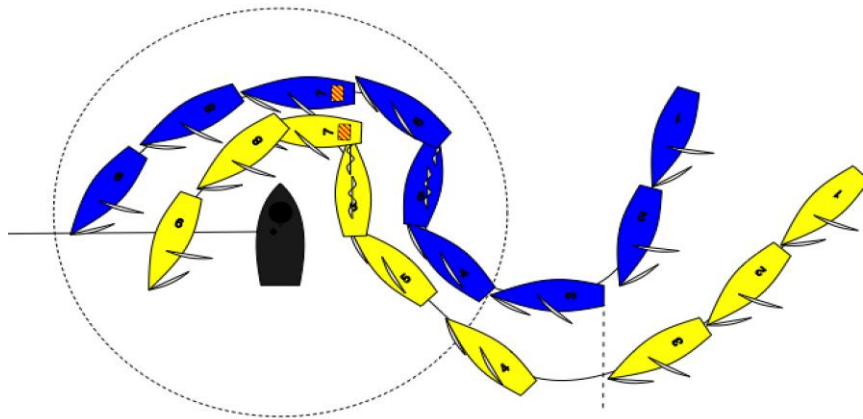
Although Blue is not sailing a proper course while she is taking her penalty, mark-room is still the space she needs to sail her proper course, which is the course she would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of Yellow. Yellow fails to give

her that space and breaks rule C2.9 (18.2(a)(2)). However, Blue is not exonerated for breaking rule 21.2 by rule 43.1(b) (because rule 43.1(b) does not include rules in Section D), or rule 43.1(a) (because Blue was not compelled to break rule 21.2).

Because Yellow gained an advantage by breaking a rule after allowing for a penalty, she also gets an umpire-initiated penalty under rule C8.3(a).

Question 2

The situation is the same as in Question 1, except that Blue does not complete her tack onto port tack before tacking back onto starboard tack. What should the call be?



Answer 2

The umpires shall signal under rule C5.6 once Blue is no longer taking a penalty. Penalize Yellow for not giving mark-room. Remove Blue's penalty flag as the penalties are now offset. Then signal a second penalty to Yellow.

Blue is no longer taking a penalty after position 5 (see rules C7.2(a)(2) and MR Call N6).

From the time Blue starts luffing back towards starboard tack, she is sailing her proper course to round or pass the mark. Yellow breaks rule 18.2(a)(2) by not giving her mark-room, and Blue is exonerated for her breach of rule 11 by rule 43.1(b).

Because Yellow gained an advantage by breaking a rule after allowing for a penalty, she also gets an umpire-initiated penalty.

MR CALL L1

Rule 32.1(d)	Shortening or Abandoning After the Start
Rule 61.4(b)	Redress
Rule C9.3	Requests for Redress or Reopening; Appeals; Other Proceedings

Question

Under what circumstances should a match in progress be abandoned?

Answer

After the starting signal a match should be abandoned only when the umpires and race committee are sure that a claim for redress would be upheld were the adversely affected boat to lose the match or for reasons of safety. It is then preferable to abandon the match immediately. The following are examples:

- a) a late or incorrect recall signal.
- b) serious interference with a competing boat by an umpire or other official boat.

During the preparatory period the match may also be abandoned or postponed (see rule 27.3).

A match should not be postponed or abandoned due to an incorrect umpire signal. In this case rule C9.3 applies.

MR CALL L2

Rule 70.1	Appeals and Requests to a National Authority
Rule C6.6	Protest Committee Decisions
Rule C9.1	Requests for Redress or Reopening; Appeals; Other Proceedings

Question 1

When there is no international jury appointed and the right to appeal has not been denied under rule 70. 3, will umpires assembled to hear a protest or request for redress be a 'protest committee' as that term is used in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*?

Answer 1

Yes.

Question 2

Is the right to appeal a decision by this protest committee under rule 70.1 open for a party to a hearing conducted under rule C6.6?

Answer 2

No. Rule C9.1 denies the right for a party to appeal any decision made under rule C6.6, and further denies the parties the right to request a reopening.

Question 3

Are there any occasions at a match racing event when the protest committee should not conduct the hearing under rule C6.6?

Answer 3

Yes. Rule C6.6 is an abbreviated hearing process designed to allow a match racing event to reach a timely conclusion.

The procedures of rule C6.6 would not be appropriate for protest hearings or requests for redress that are not directly related to the competition, such as protest committee hearings involving entry under rule 75 or sailor categorization under rule 79. Rule 69 applies to hearings involving allegations of misconduct.

The protest committee's decision or its procedures in any hearing not conducted under rule C6.6 is appealable under rule 70.1.

MR CALL L3

Rule 49.1 Crew Position; Lifelines

Question 1

One competitor on Yellow holds on to the leeward jib sheet and another one holds on to the main sail sheet when hiking out. Does Yellow break rule 49.1?

Answer 1

No. A working sheet is not a device designed to position the body outboard.

Question 2

Does Yellow (a boat without lifelines) break rule 49.1 when competitors use any of the following to help extend their bodies outboard?

The windward, non-working, jib sheet; the barber hauler; the vang control line; the mainsheet traveller line; the backstay control line; the shrouds or other elements of standing rigging

Answer 2

Rule 49.1 does not prohibit competitors from using working sheets or control lines to position their bodies outboard.

Unless specifically prohibited by the event's sailing instructions (rules for handling the boats) it is also permissible for competitors to use the shrouds or hand rails to position their bodies outboard.

The use of lazy (non-working) sheets and control lines for hiking breaks rule 49.1.

Question 3

A competitor on Yellow holds a foot under the traveller bridge. Does Yellow break rule 49.1?

Answer 3

No. A traveller bridge is not a device designed to position the body outboard. Using the traveller bridge (or other fixed features of the boat) without modifications that aid projecting the body outboard is permitted.

MR CALL L4

Definitions Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

Question 1

If a person extra to the crew is carried on board a boat, such as an ‘observer’ (umpires' assistant) or a cameraman, should the person or the equipment carried be considered as a part of the boat's ‘hull or equipment in normal position’ for the determination of overlaps or contact between two boats?

Answer 1

No. Such a person is not a part of the boat.

Question 2

Fixed cameras and/or their fixed brackets, placed by or under the direction of the race committee, may project beyond the stern of the boat. Should a camera or its bracket be considered as part of the boat's ‘equipment in normal position’ for the determination of overlaps or contact between two boats?

Answer 2

Yes, when fixed to the boat, cameras or brackets become part of the boat's equipment. Another example would be antennas for radio transmission.

Question 3

Flags carried by boats often project beyond the hull line astern or to leeward of the boats. Should they be considered as part of the boat's ‘equipment in normal position’ for the determination of overlaps or contact between two boats?

Answer 3

No. In match racing flags are not considered to be part of a boat's equipment; the flag staffs are.

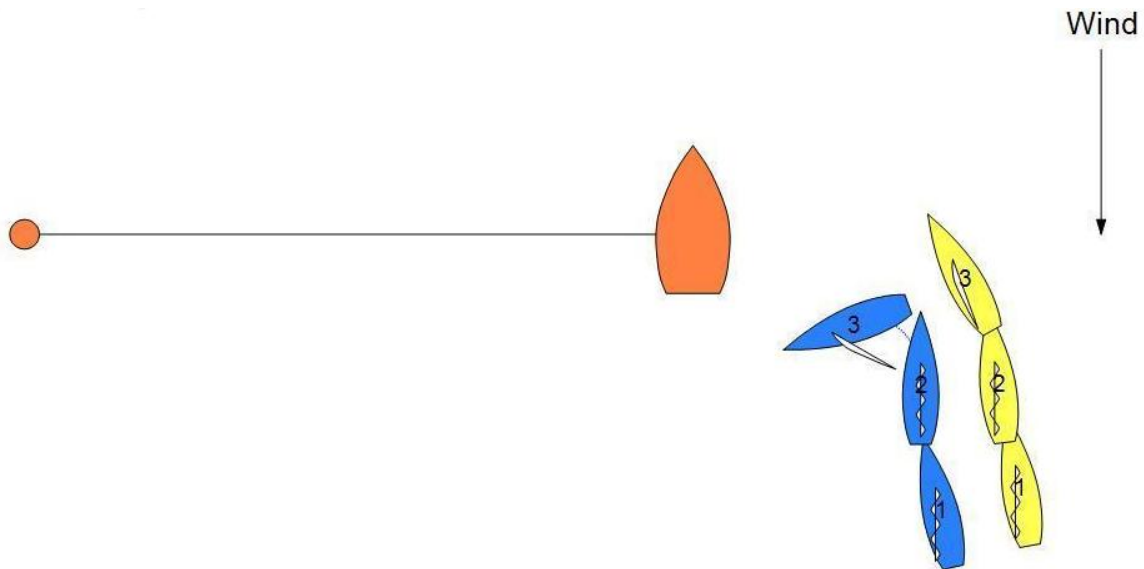
MR CALL L5

Rule C2. 18 (42.2(d)) Prohibited Actions

Question

The boats are approaching the starting line to start.

Blue is head to wind and then bears away hard by repeatedly moving her helm until she reaches a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind just before position 3. Should the umpires take any action?



Answer

If the umpires are certain the repeated movement of the helm is to propel Blue forward, they should penalize Blue under rule C2. 18 (42.2(d)); otherwise they should take no action.

Note: Because rule C2. 18 changes rule 42.2(d), World Sailing rule 42 interpretations with regard to sculling do not apply for match racing.

MR CALL L6

Rule C2.13 (23.3) Interfering with Another Boat

Rule C6 Protests and Requests for Redress by Boats

Question

Yellow and Blue are in one match with Yellow ahead of Blue. Blue sees an incident between Yellow and Green (a boat in the match ahead) in which Yellow seems to be breaking a rule of Part 2. Green does not display flag Y. What action can Blue take?

Answer

None. Rules C6.1(a) and C6.2(b) prevent Blue from protesting Yellow by displaying flag Y because she was not involved in the incident.

Rule C6.1(b) prevents Blue from protesting Yellow by displaying a red flag.

MR CALL L7

Rule C2.13 (23.3) Interfering with Another Boat

Rule C6.1(a) Protests and Requests for Redress by Boats

Question 1

Within the meaning of rule C2.13 (23.3), if Blue is sailing her proper course, is she permitted to disadvantage Green in a different match?

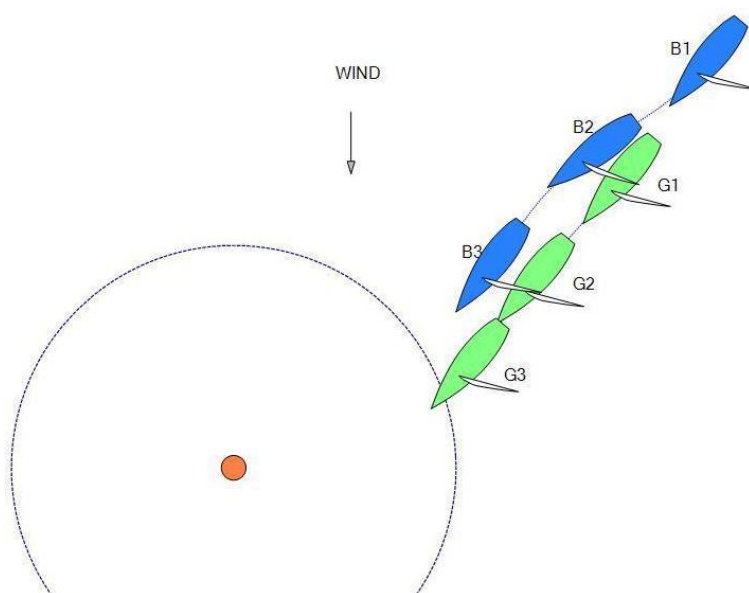
Answer 1

Yes. When the umpires are satisfied that Blue sailed her proper course, this is consistent with trying to win her own match, by definition, and breaks no rule.

If the umpires are satisfied that the boat's actions were not intended to help her in her own match, but were intended to affect the results of the other match, then Blue breaks rule 23.3. Green may display flag Y under rule C6.1(a).

Question 2

Approaching a leeward mark, Blue is close astern of Green, but they are racing in different matches. Blue luffs to blanket Green, slows her down, and gains an inside overlap. Green must therefore give mark-room to Blue and does so. Has Blue broken rule 23.3?



Answer 2

No. Although Green is definitely disadvantaged by Blue's actions, Blue's actions helped her to round the mark in the shortest possible time, and were therefore 'consistent with ... trying to win her own match.' See Answer 1.

MR CALL L8

Rule C2.13 (23.3) Interfering with Another Boat

Question

Yellow and Blue are sailing in one match and Red and Green in another. Green meets Yellow on the course and Green is the right-of-way boat. Is it permissible for Green to change her course so that Yellow has no need to change course to keep clear?

Answer

Yes, provided that the change of course by Green is 'consistent with complying with a rule or trying to win her own match.'

If Green clearly disadvantaged herself by her course change, then she would have broken rule C2.13 (23.3).

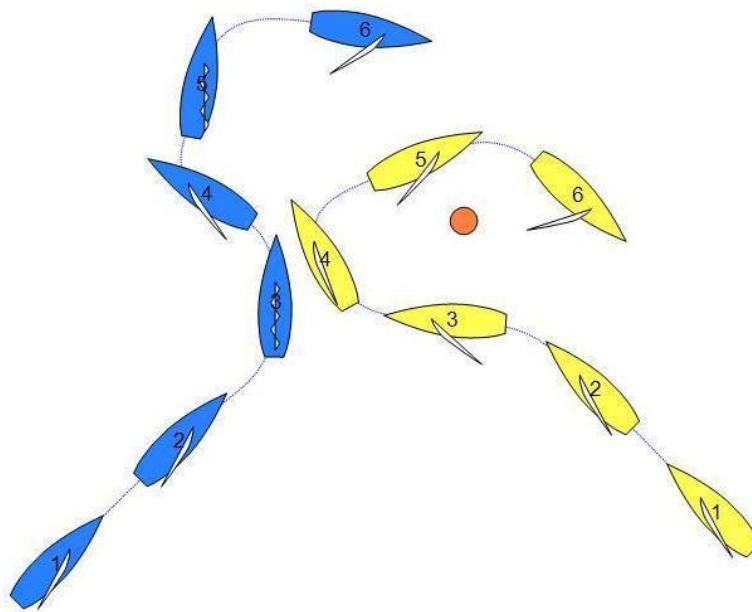
MR CALL L9

Rule C2.9 (18.3(b))	Tacking or Gybing
Rule 21.1	Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing A Sail
Rule C2.13 (23.3)	Interfering with Another Boat

In all the questions Blue has been signalled correctly as being OCS, but may be unaware that she was OCS and nevertheless continued sailing the course instead of returning and starting correctly.

Question 1

Yellow and Blue are approaching the windward mark. Blue is on port tack and Yellow is on starboard tack. Yellow bears away below her proper course but never to a course more than ninety degrees to the true wind, and passes to leeward of the mark. Blue tacks to keep clear of Yellow. Yellow tacks and rounds the mark well ahead of Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



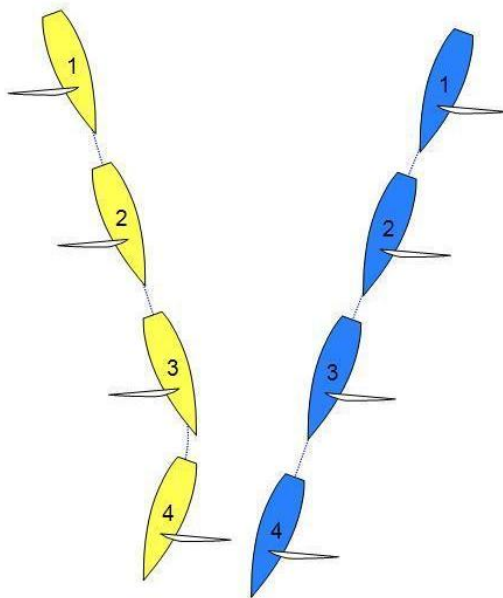
Answer 1

Penalize Yellow.

At position 2 Yellow is in the zone and is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat. Under rule C2.9 (18.3(b)), until she changes tack, Yellow is required to sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course. By bearing away at position 3 Yellow is no longer sailing her proper course.

Question 2

Both boats round the windward mark and bear away towards the leeward mark. Blue on starboard tack approaches Yellow on port tack. Both boats are sailing proper courses. Yellow is forced to gybe away to keep clear of Blue. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer 2

Display the green and white flag.

Although Blue has not started correctly and may subsequently be scored OCS, she is sailing the course with full rights and obligations under the rules. Blue is not sailing towards the starting line in order to start, so rule 21.1 does not apply.

Question 3

When should boats be considered to be sailing on the same leg?

Answer 3

Boats should be considered to be sailing on the same leg when the umpires are certain that both boats are sailing on a leg of the course to

- a windward mark,
- a leeward mark, or
- the finish.

This applies when one of them is OCS, and it also applies when they have rounded different marks in order to get on that leg.

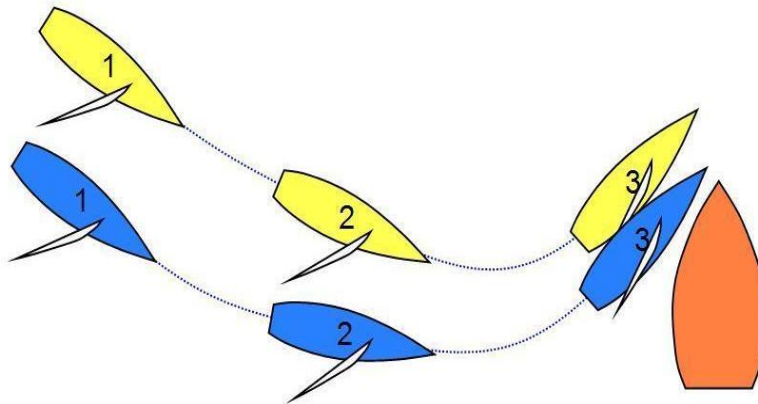
MR CALL L10

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 19.2(a) and (b)	Giving Room at an Obstruction
Rule 43.1	Exoneration

Question

Yellow and Blue, overlapped on port tack, are approaching an obstruction which can be passed on either side.

Blue is sailing to pass to leeward of the obstruction, but from Position 2 Blue luffs quickly to pass to windward of the obstruction. Yellow responds immediately, but is unable to keep clear of Blue. There is contact between them. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalise Blue.

When Blue (the outside boat) changes course to become the inside boat at the obstruction, she must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 16.1 and 19.2(a) until Yellow can comply with her obligation to give Blue room between her and the obstruction under rule 19.2(b). Blue fails to do so and breaks rules 16.1 and 19.2(a).

As a result of Blue breaking rules 16.1 and 19.2(a), Yellow breaks rules 11 and 19.2(b). Yellow is exonerated for her breach of rule 11 by rule 43.1(b) because she was sailing within the room to which she was entitled under rules 16.1 and 19.2(a), and for her breach of rule 19.2(b) by rule 43.1(a) because she was compelled to break that rule by Blue's breach of rules 16.1 and 19.2(a).

MR CALL M1

Rule C5 Signals by Umpires

Question 1

The umpires penalize a boat for breaking a right-of-way rule and signal accordingly. Shortly thereafter the umpires decide they have made an error. May they cancel their signal, by displaying a green and white flag, or by displaying the other boat's signal, or by hailing or some other means of communication?

Answer 1

No. There is no provision in Appendix C to change or amend decisions or signals. When a penalty signal is displayed, the boat is bound by rule C5 to take the appropriate penalty.

Question 2

Would the answer be the same if the umpires displayed a green and white flag when they intended to display a boat's signal?

Answer 2

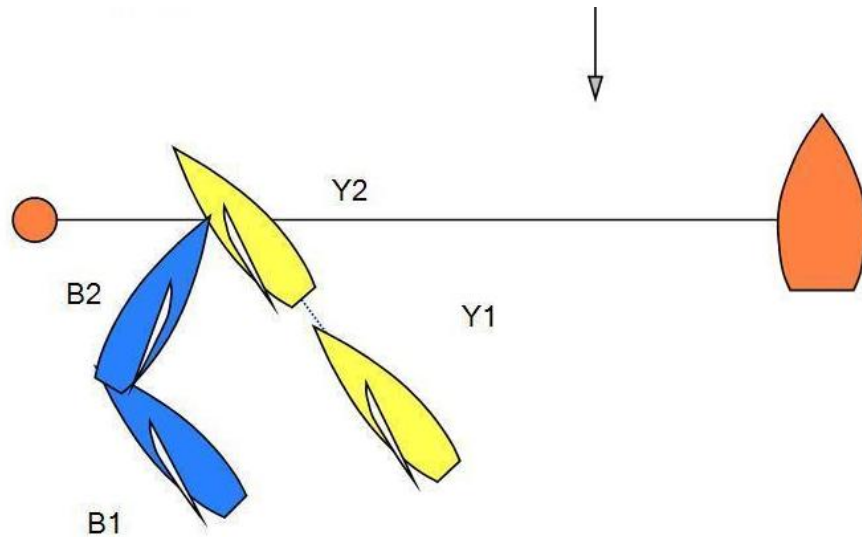
Yes.

MR CALL M2

Rule C8.3(b) Penalties Initiated by Umpires (deliberately broken a rule)

Question

How will the umpires decide if a rule was broken deliberately?



Answer

There is no complete clear-cut answer, but rather a sliding scale of likelihood.

The umpires are likely to conclude that a rule was broken deliberately when:

- the situation has built up for some time rather than occurred instantaneously;
- there is a potentially match-winning tactical gain from breaking the rule;
- the breach does not seem to be a simple misjudgement.

Examples could be:

- breaking a rule to avoid being OCS (windward boat bears down on leeward boat);
- Blue cannot lay the pin and tacks onto port (see diagram above);
- barging at a starting mark;
- denying an inside boat room at the mark.

MR CALL M3

Rule 2

Fair Sailing

Rule C2.10 (20.4(a))

Additional Requirements for Hails

Rule C8.3

Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question 1

Rule C2.10 (20.4(a)) requires clear and repeated arm signals, in addition to hails. If there is an arm signal but no hail from Yellow, what action should the umpires take

- (a) if Blue displays flag Y?
- (b) on their own initiative?

Answer 1

(a) When the umpires are certain that no hail was made, then the signal for room to tack has not been made (see rule C2.5 (7)). The umpires may be certain there was no hail if they have had no difficulty hearing other calls from a similar position. For the purpose of the rules of Part 2 they should act as if there has been no signal.

(b) The umpires may decide that Yellow has broken rule C8.3(b) or (c) and penalize her. They could also, in an extreme or repeated case, initiate a hearing under rule 2, Fair Sailing.

Question 2

If there is a hail but no arm signal, is the answer the same?

Answer 2

Yes.

MR CALL M4

Rule C8.3(c) Penalties Initiated by Umpires (breach of sportsmanship)

Question

After the umpires signal their decision in response to a boat displaying flag Y, a competitor on one of the boats makes it clear that they are unhappy with the decision. Should the umpires impose a penalty under rule C8.3(c) for a 'breach of sportsmanship?'

Answer

This depends on the words, the manner in which they are spoken, and any other related actions of the crew of the boat. If they merely express unhappiness or disappointment, or that in their opinion the decision was wrong, then a penalty is not appropriate. However, if the total effect is to convey that the umpires are incompetent, or are prejudiced against the penalized boat, a penalty may be justified, whether the meaning is directed only at the umpires or also to others nearby. If the meaning is clearly insulting to the umpires, a penalty should be imposed.

MR CALL M5

Rule C6.5(a) Umpire Decisions

Question

Immediately following an incident Yellow displays flag Y. Before the umpires signal their decision, there is a second incident and Blue displays flag Y. How should the umpires signal their decision?

Answer

The umpires should make two separate decision signals under rule C6.5(a), in the order they were signalled by the boats, even when a green and white flag signals the decision for each protest .

MR CALL M6

Rule 60.1	Right to Protest
Rule 61.1	Requesting or Considering Redress
Rule C5.1	Signals by Umpires
Rule C9	Requests for Redress or Reopening; Appeals; Other Proceedings

Question 1

Blue displays flag Y, but the umpires make no signal. Both boats finish the race, Blue losing it. May she seek redress under rule 61.1(a) because of the umpires' failure to signal a decision?

Answer 1

No. Rule C9.3 prohibits any 'proceedings of any kind' because of non-action by umpires. 'Proceedings' includes a request for redress.

Question 2

Blue displays flag Y, but due to engine failure the umpires do not see the incident. What should they do?

Answer 2

Green and white flag. As the umpires were not in position, their only option is to signal 'no penalty' under rule C5.1. Further, rule C9.1 prohibits the boat from seeking redress from a decision made under C5, C6, C7 or C8, and rule C9.3 prohibits the protest committee from initiating and considering redress under rule 61.1(c).

MR CALL M7

Rule C5.3	Signals by Umpires
Rule C6.5(b)	Protests and Requests for Redress by Boats
Rule C7.3(d)	Penalty Limitations
Rule C8.2	Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question

After starting, Yellow is penalized, and the penalty is signalled with a yellow and a red flag in accordance with rules C5.3 and C6.5(b). After a period of time, the umpires decide that Yellow has not taken the penalty as soon as reasonably possible under rule C7.3(d). What should the umpires do?

Answer

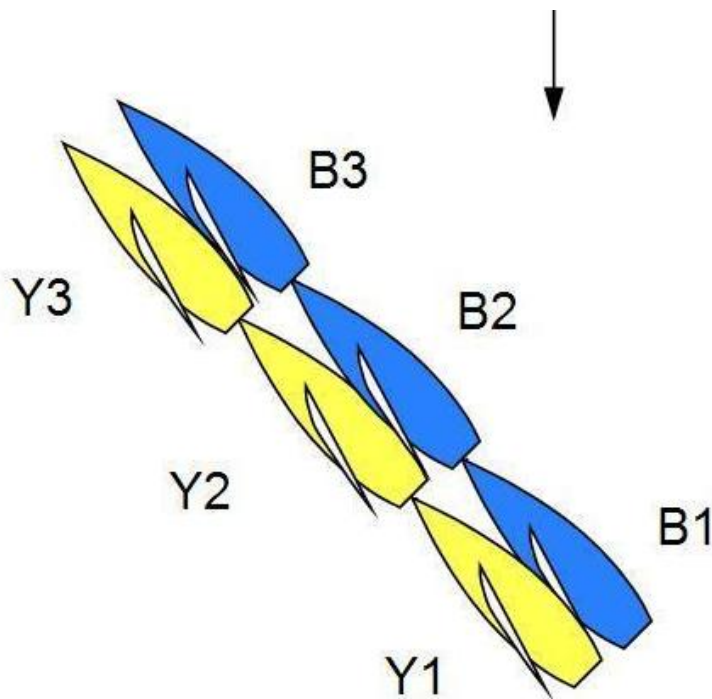
The umpires should penalize Yellow under rule C8.2.

MR CALL M8

Rule 11 **On the Same Tack, Overlapped**
Rule C7 **Penalty System**
Rule C8.3(b) **Penalties Initiated by Umpires**

Question

Blue, to windward, fails to keep clear of Yellow to leeward. Yellow protests and Blue is penalized. Sometime later Yellow protests again. When should the umpires consider that a rule is broken a second time?



Answer

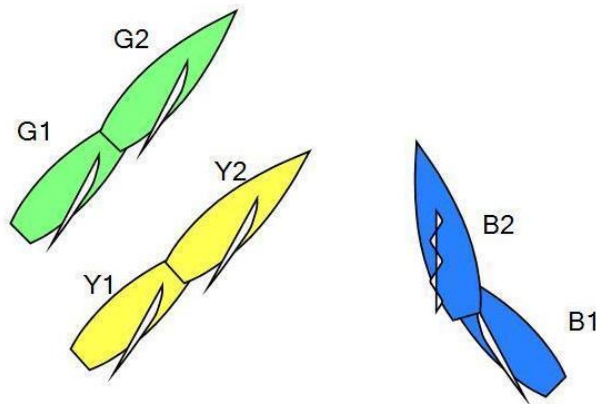
When the umpires are satisfied that Blue could have taken action to stop breaking the rule after the first penalty is signalled, but fails to do so, they should consider that the rule is broken a second time. The umpires may also decide that the second breach is deliberate and initiate a penalty without any flag Y being displayed under rule C8.3(b).

MR CALL M9

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 20.2(b)	Room to Tack at an Obstruction
Rule 43.1(a)	Exoneration (compelled to break a rule)

Question 1

Blue is matched against Yellow and Red against Green. On a leg of the course to a windward mark Blue is close-hauled on starboard tack, Yellow and Green are overlapped, both close-hauled on port. Yellow, to leeward of Green, cannot tack and clear Green. Blue and Yellow are on a collision course. Yellow hails and signals for room to tack. Green does not respond, Yellow is unable to tack, Blue is forced to change course to keep clear. Blue and Yellow display flag Y. What should the umpires do?



Answer 1

If the umpires of the match between Blue and Yellow are certain that Green broke rule 20.2(b) they should display a green and white flag indicating that no penalty is imposed on Yellow or Blue (Yellow is exonerated by rule 43.1(a)). They should advise the umpires for Green's match that Green should be penalized.

Question 2

If Yellow does not display flag Y, would the answer be different?

Answer 2

No. The umpires' response would be the same. The Green and Red match umpires may also consider penalizing Green under rules C8.3(b) or C8.3(c).

MR CALL M10

Rule 14	Avoiding Contact
Rule 60.1	Right to Protest
Rule 61.1	Requesting or Considering Redress
Rule C6	Protests and Requests for Redress by Boats
Rule C8	Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question

While sailing under spinnakers, there is contact between Yellow and Blue, and Blue receives a small hole in her spinnaker. Yellow is at fault, and is penalized. On a later leg of the course to a leeward mark the hole in Blue's spinnaker becomes a major tear. The spinnaker loses all pressure and Yellow is able to pass Blue. What action is available?

Answer

- (a) The umpires could further penalize Yellow as a penalized boat that has 'gained an advantage by breaking a rule after allowing for a penalty.' Although there has been a delay between the taking of the penalty and the gaining of the advantage, the umpires may still act under rule C8.3(a), if they are satisfied that the spinnaker tear is the result of the original rule breach.
- (b) The umpires could initiate a post-race hearing under rule C8.7 to investigate whether rule 14 was broken and if appropriate inform the protest committee for its action (see rule C8.4).
- (c) In accordance with rules C6.1(b) and C6.2(a), Blue can red flag protest under rule 14, because of damage or injury resulting from contact. The protest committee would need to consider whether the flag was displayed at the first reasonable opportunity after the tear developed.
- (d) Blue or the protest committee could request redress under rule 61.1 based on a claim that rule 61.4(b)(2) applies.

MR CALL M11

Rule C5.1 **Signals by Umpires**

Rule C6.5 **Umpire Decisions**

Rule C7.2(b) **All Penalties**

Rule C7.3(b) **Penalty Limitations**

Question 1

Yellow displays flag Y. Blue takes a penalty as soon as she sees Yellow's flag Y and before the umpires signal a decision. What should the call be?

Answer 1

Display the green and white flag. Rule C7.2(b) allows a boat to take a penalty before being signalled to do so. Rule C5.1 says the green and white flag means 'No penalty.' Here no penalty is imposed because it was already taken.

Question 2

Would the answer be different if Yellow had an outstanding penalty?

Answer 2

No. The umpires would display the green and white flag and Yellow's penalty would remain.

Question 3

Near the end of a leg of the course to a windward mark the umpires decide to penalize Blue but delay signalling her until she has rounded the mark. However, she takes the penalty before rounding the mark. Is this allowed?

Answer 3

Yes, see Answer 1. However, under rule C7.3(b) she is not allowed to take any part of a penalty within the zone of a rounding mark.

Question 4

Yellow, with a penalty, breaks a right-of-way rule, is protested by Blue, sees Blue's flag Y displayed and takes her penalty before being signalled by the umpires. At the time she sees the flag Y, she is rounding a mark. Should she take the penalty appropriate to the leg she is on or the one appropriate for the time of the umpires' signal?

Answer 4

A boat taking a penalty before it is signalled shall take the penalty appropriate to the leg she is on.

MR CALL M12

Rule C2.12 (23.1) Interfering with Another Boat

Rule C8.4 Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question

After a race the umpires receive a report from a reliable observer that a boat broke rule C2.12 (23.1) before her race by interfering with a boat that was racing. May the umpires initiate a hearing to consider penalizing her?

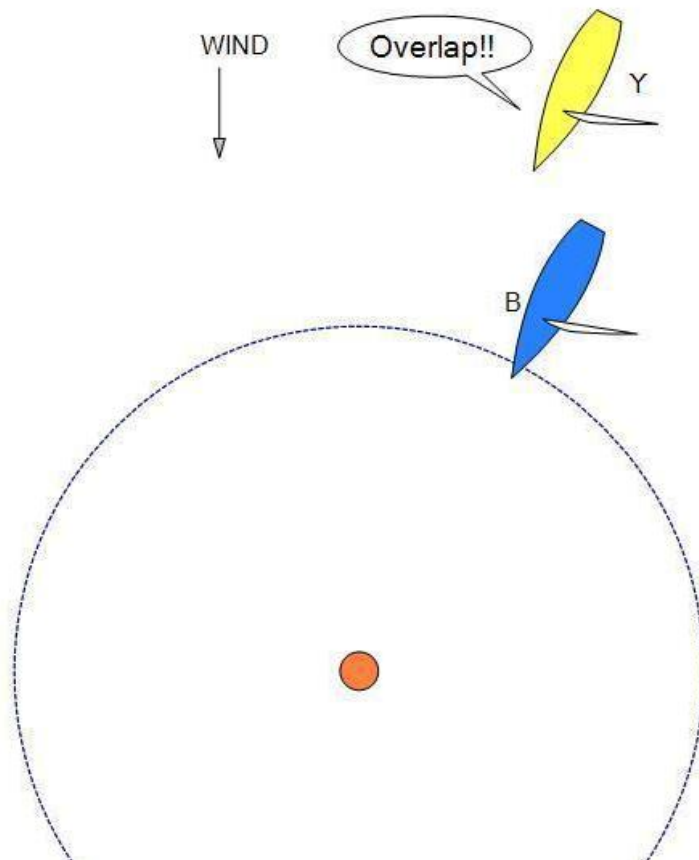
Answer

No. As this concerns a rule of Part 2, the umpires cannot initiate a hearing (see rule C8.4). Only the boat that was interfered with can take action by displaying flag Y at the time of the incident.

MR CALL M13

Question

At the end of a leg of the course to a leeward mark, just as Blue reaches the zone, Yellow hails 'Overlap,' but Blue has just seen the wing boat signal the umpires that there was no overlap. May Blue rely on the wing boat's signal and thereby decide to deny room to Yellow?



Answer

No. Competitors who use such signals take a considerable risk. Decisions are made by the umpires, not the wing boats, and the umpires' decision may not be based on the wing boat's signals.

The same principle applies to signals made by on-board observers.

MR CALL M14

Rule C2.9 (18.2) Giving Mark-Room

Rule C2. 15 (31) Touching a Mark

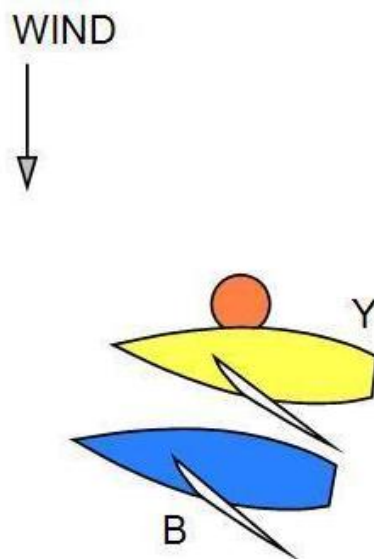
Rule 43.1(b) Exoneration (room or mark-room)

Rule C6.1(a) Protests and Requests for Redress by Boats

Rule C8.2 Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question

Blue and Yellow are rounding a mark and Yellow touches it with her hull. Neither boat displays flag Y. The umpires see Yellow hit the mark, but in their judgement, Blue did not give Yellow sufficient room to pass the mark. Should they take any action?



Answer

The umpires should give no signal. Although Blue broke rule C2.9 (18.2(a) or (b)), she cannot be penalized because no boat protested, and rule C8.2 does not permit umpires to initiate a penalty when a boat breaks a rule of Part 2.

Yellow broke rule C2. 15 (31) by touching the mark. However, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

MR CALL N1

Rule C7.2(a) All Penalties

Question

The required penalties vary depending upon whether a boat is sailing ‘on a leg of the course to a windward mark’ or ‘on a leg of the course to a leeward mark.’ Because a boat has sailed beyond a mark, or because of a new wind direction, a boat could be sailing free to a mark that was intended to be a windward mark, or sailing close-hauled to a mark that was intended to be a leeward mark. What penalties are then required?

Answer

A boat is to be considered to be sailing on a leg of the course to a windward mark or a leeward mark, at all times when sailing to a mark that has been described in the sailing instructions as a windward or leeward mark. The description could be expressed in words, or shown by a diagram indicating wind direction, or by designating marks as either ‘Mark W’ or ‘Mark L’.

The usual match racing course configuration is two legs to a windward mark and another two legs, either to a leeward mark or finishing line. A boat sailing the first and third legs is considered to be sailing a course to a windward mark. When sailing the second leg she is considered to be sailing a course to a leeward mark, and the fourth leg to be sailing to the finish line, irrespective of the boat's heading or the wind direction.

Because a boat may have sailed beyond a mark, or because of a new wind direction, it would be possible for the boat to be sailing close-hauled yet be on a leg of the course to a leeward mark or finishing line, or be sailing free on a leg of the course to a windward mark.

Rule C7.2(a) describes the appropriate penalty to take.

MR CALL N2

Rule 15 **Acquiring Right of Way**

Rule C7.4(a) **Penalty System: Taking and Completing Penalties**

Question

Yellow on starboard and Blue on port are sailing towards each other. When they are about to meet, Yellow is penalized and required to take an immediate penalty (the penalty was either a red-flag penalty or her second penalty).

When does the right of way change?

Answer

The right of way does not change until it is clear that Yellow is taking her penalty.

This is when she passes head to wind or the foot of her mainsail crosses the centreline, as appropriate (see rule C7.4(a)).

Blue will acquire right of way by the action of Yellow and so Blue will not need to give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 15.

MR CALL N3

Rule C7.3 Penalty Limitations

Question 1

Rule C7.3(c) requires a boat with two penalties to take one of them ‘as soon as reasonably possible.’ Rule C7.3(d) requires a boat with a red-flag penalty to take her penalty ‘as soon as reasonably possible.’ How must she comply with this requirement when the proximity of another boat or an obstruction, or both, prevent her from luffing or bearing away to begin her penalty tack or penalty gybe?

Answer 1

She may delay bearing away (luffing, when the penalty is to tack) until there is no likelihood of her making contact with the other boat or the obstruction; however, when the obstruction is continuing or when the other boat obstructs her and by sailing a parallel course continues to obstruct her, she must tack (or gybe) to get clear or she may reduce speed until she is no longer obstructed by the obstruction or other boat. Should the other boat then tack to prevent her from taking the penalty, she must again tack, gybe or reduce speed to further attempt to get clear.

Question 2

A boat with a penalty is penalized again. Part of the penalty would be within two of her hull lengths of a rounding mark were she to take the penalty immediately. What is she required to do before taking a penalty?

Answer 2

She may sail the course she would have sailed without the second penalty until she can take the second penalty without any of the penalty being taken within the zone (see rule C7.3(b)). She must then take the penalty.

Question 3

A boat with a penalty is penalized again while her spinnaker is set. What is she required to do?

Answer 3

A boat is required to take the penalty as soon as reasonably possible, even though her spinnaker is set. She must lower the spinnaker head below the main boom gooseneck under rule C7.3(a) and take her penalty as soon as reasonably possible, but not before starting.

MR CALL N4

Rule C2. 16 (41(e))

Outside Help

Rule 48.2

Limitations on Equipment and Crew

Rule C7.2(a)

All Penalties

Question 1

A boat with an outstanding penalty is on a leg of a course to a windward mark. A crew member falls overboard. The boat bears away, gybes, luffs head to wind and retrieves the crew member. Has the boat taken her penalty?

Answer 1

Yes - provided the penalty turn meets the requirements of rule C7.2 (a).

Question 2

Has the boat broken rule 48.2?

Answer 2

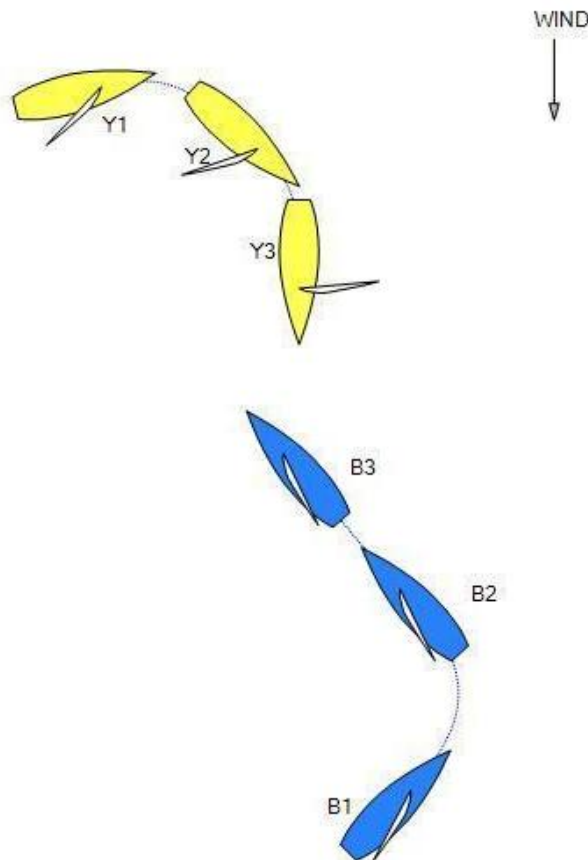
No, provided the return on board is at the approximate place where the crew member fell overboard. See rule C2. 16 (41(e)).

MR CALL N5

Rule 23.2 Interfering with Another Boat

Question

Just after starting, Yellow, on port, bears away and gybes to take a penalty. Blue, also on port, but on a track to leeward of Yellow, tacks to starboard, and as a result is on a collision course with Yellow. Yellow is forced to change course to pass behind Blue before completing her penalty and displays flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

Display the green and white flag. Rule 23.2 does not apply after the starting signal when a boat is sailing her proper course. Therefore, Blue may interfere with Yellow, provided Blue is sailing a proper course and does not break rule 16.1. She has a choice of proper courses and may therefore choose one that will maximise her interference with Yellow. Sailing on either tack can be a proper course.

MR CALL N6

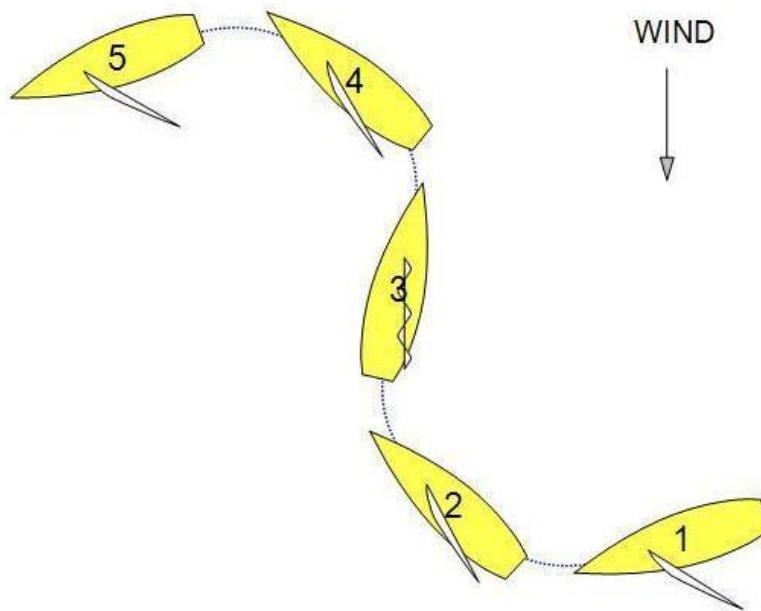
Rule C2.6 (13.1) While Tacking or Gybing

Rule C5.6 Signals by Umpires

Rule C7 Penalty System

Question

Yellow is required to take a tack penalty. May she take it by luffing until she passes head to wind, then turn back to a close-hauled course on her initial tack?



Answer

No. For the purpose of taking a penalty, tacking is to change course from close-hauled on one tack, through head to wind, to close-hauled on the other.

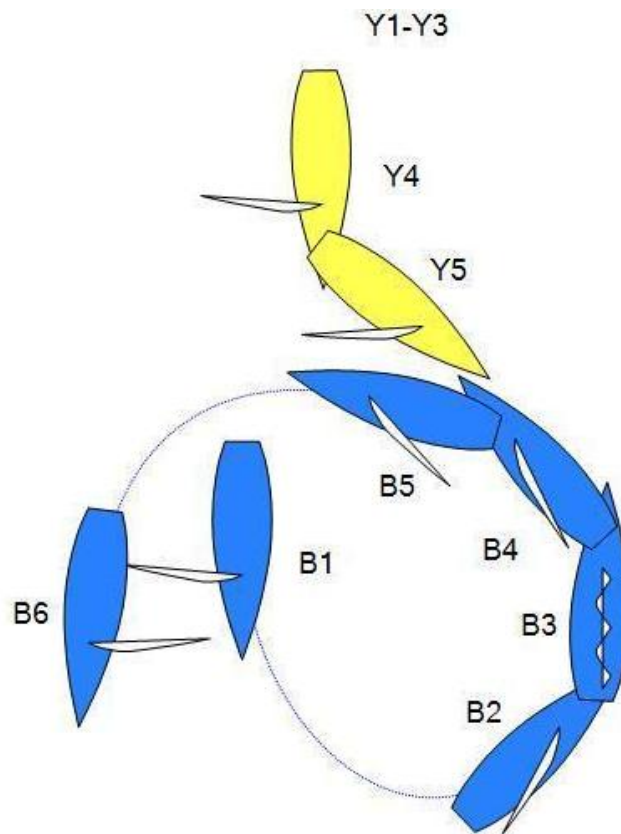
As soon as Yellow passes head to wind rule C2.6 (13.1) applies and she must keep clear. Although rule C7.4(a) states that a boat with an outstanding penalty that is on a leg to a leeward mark or the finishing line and passes head to wind is taking a penalty, a boat attempting a penalty in the manner described does not comply with rule C7.2(a)(2) and the umpires shall signal that the boat is no longer taking a penalty and that the penalty remains under rule C5.6.

MR CALL N7

Rule 21.2 **Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing A Sail**
Rule C7.2(a)(2) **All Penalties**

Question

Blue and Yellow are sailing on a leg of the course to a leeward mark on port tack. Blue has an outstanding penalty. She luffs, passes head to wind, and bears away to a close-hauled course on starboard tack. Yellow changes course to avoid a collision before Blue achieves a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Blue continues to bear away and achieves a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind. Both boats display flag Y. What should the call be?



Answer

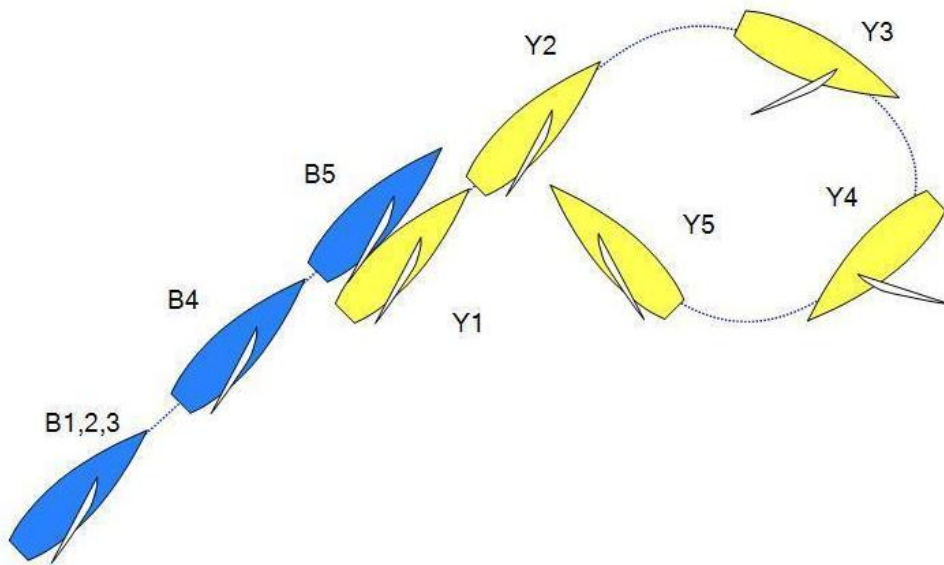
Signal that Blue has completed her penalty and then penalize Blue again. Blue did comply with rule C7.2(a)(2) and so completed a penalty. However, before returning to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind she broke rule 21.2.

MR CALL N8

Rule C8.3(a) Penalties Initiated by Umpires

Question 1

Yellow is penalized before she starts. Later she and Blue both start on port tack, with Yellow to leeward but approximately four hull lengths ahead of Blue. Yellow bears away, gybes, then luffs to close-hauled on starboard tack. Soon afterward rule 10 requires Blue to change course to avoid Yellow. Has Yellow ‘gained an advantage over the other boat’ in the context of rule C8.3(a)?



Answer 1

No. Rule C8.3(a) refers to situations in which the advantage that a boat gains from breaking a rule is greater than the disadvantage she suffers by taking the penalty. Here the advantage that the penalized boat gained as a starboard tack boat after taking her penalty is unrelated to the advantage referred to in rule C8.3(a).

Question 2

The boats are close together on a leg of the course to a windward mark and one is penalized. After gybing she sails away on the opposite tack and immediately gains from a major wind-shift. Has she ‘gained an advantage’ from the penalty?

Answer 2

No. See Answer 1.

MR CALL N9

Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 21.2	Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing A Sail
Rule 23.2	Interfering with Another Boat
Rule C7	Penalty System
Definitions	Proper Course (rule C2.3)

Question

Blue and Yellow are half way up a leg of the course to a windward mark and Blue has an outstanding penalty. Blue bears away to take her penalty.

At position 3, Blue has gybed and is now taking her penalty. Yellow luffs and passes head to wind. Yellow completes her tack at position 4. Yellow then luffs, and before Blue has completed her penalty Blue responds to the luff and keeps clear. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

Signal that Blue has completed her penalty, and then penalize Yellow.

From the moment Blue gybes and until she returns to a close-hauled course, she is taking a penalty and must keep clear of Yellow under rule 21.2. Yellow is required to not interfere with Blue while Blue is taking the penalty, unless she is sailing her proper course.

When Yellow luffs after her tack is completed, she is not sailing her proper course and rule 23.2 requires that she does not interfere with Blue who is still taking her penalty. By causing Blue to have to respond to the luff before she had completed her penalty, Yellow did interfere with Blue while Blue was taking a penalty. It does not make any difference whether the interference by Yellow caused the penalty to be completed quicker.

MR CALL N10

Rule 28.1	Sailing the Course
Rule C6.6(b)(3)	Protest Committee Decisions
Definitions	Sail the Course

Question

As Yellow and Blue approach the leeward mark, the race committee signals a change of position of the windward mark. Both boats round the leeward mark and sail to the original windward mark, round it and finish. Neither boat rounded the new windward mark.

The race committee protests both boats for breaking rule 28.1.

The protest committee finds that both boats broke rule 28.1 as neither sailed the course correctly. How should the match be scored?

Answer

Unless there is evidence to the contrary, the protest committee should find that the breach of the rule has had no significant effect on the outcome of the match and decide that the boats should be scored in their finishing positions. See rule C6.6(b)(3).

Note: The race committee should normally only protest when there is either a breach of a sailing instruction or technical rule that cannot be protested by a boat. See World Sailing Race Management Policies for Match Racing. The race committee should simply score the boats in their finishing places.

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