

THAMES YACHT CLUB

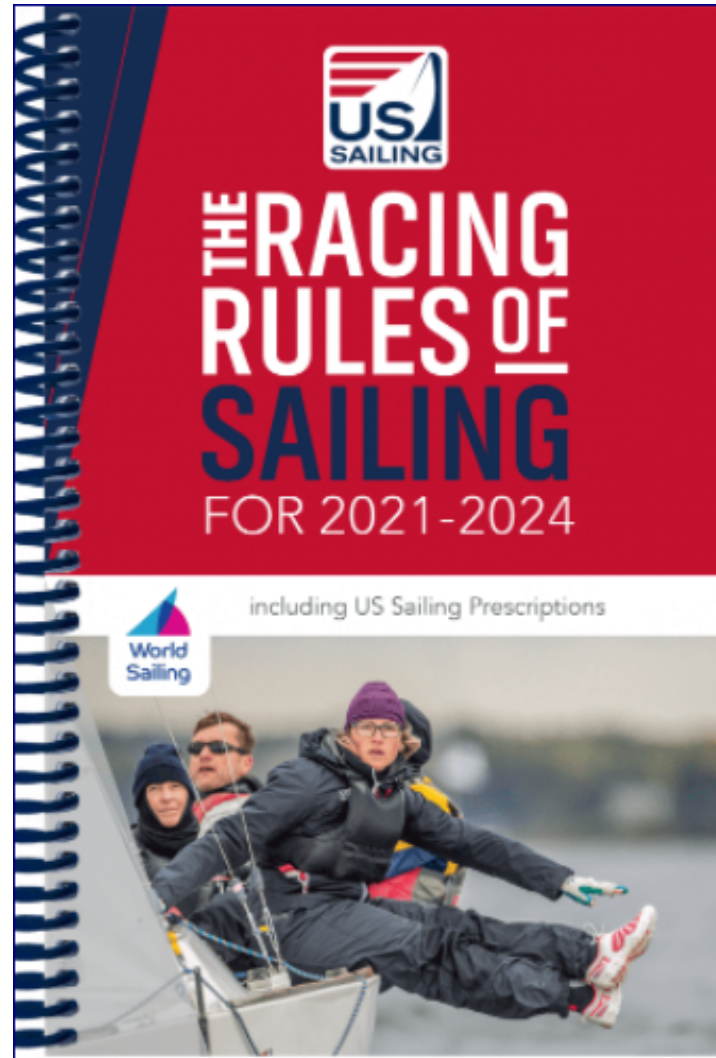
Racing Rules of Sailing -2022





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1.2. Rules of the road provide commercial traffic with the right of way in a restricted channel. **Failure of a racing boat to keep clear, whether intentional or not, will result in disqualification.**



The 50-cal rule – Guess who has the right of way.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Definitions

When Boats Meet

The Start

Marks & Obstructions

Changing & Shortening the Course

Penalties & Protests

Race Committee Duty at Thames Yacht Club Races

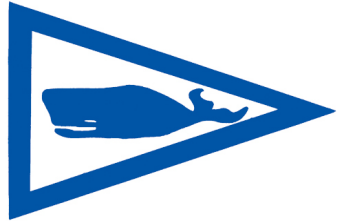


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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Leeward/ Windward
Tack – Starboard/Port
Clear Ahead / Overlap
Proper Course
Racing

DEFINITIONS



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Leeward/ Windward

Tack – Starboard/Port

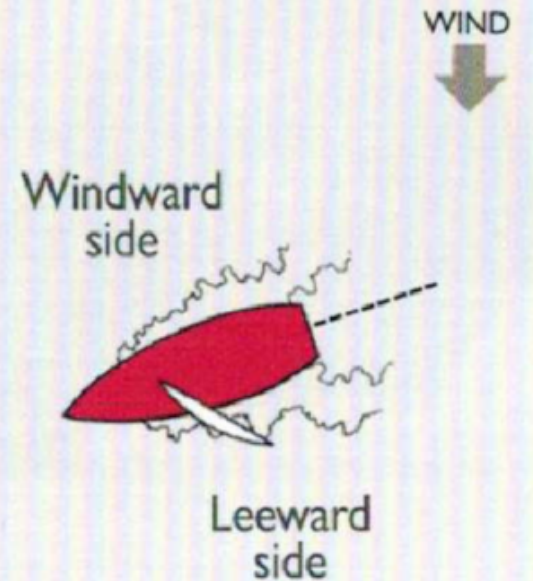
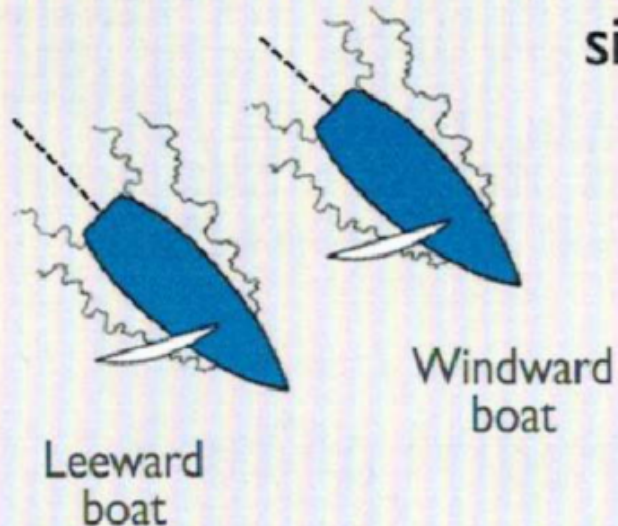
Clear Ahead / Overlap

Proper Course

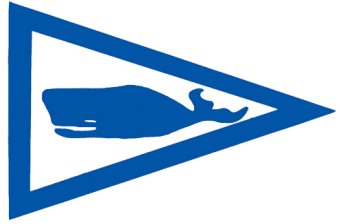
Racing

Leeward and Windward

A boat's leeward side is the side that is away from the wind. The other side is her windward side. When two boats on the same tack overlap, the one on the leeward side of the other is the leeward boat. The other is the windward boat.



Definition: *Leeward and Windward*



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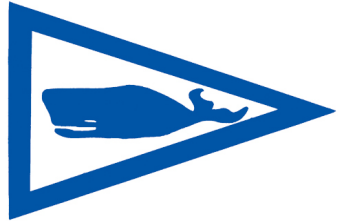
Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Leeward/ Windward
Tack – Starboard/Port
Clear Ahead / Overlap
Proper Course
Racing



Starboard or Port?
A boat is on the tack corresponding to her windward side.
Definition: *Tack, Starboard or Port*





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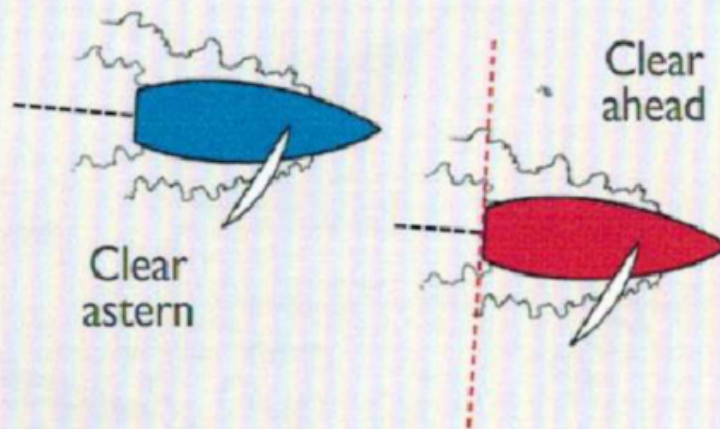
Leeward/ Windward

Tack – Starboard/Port

Clear Ahead / Overlap

Proper Course

Racing



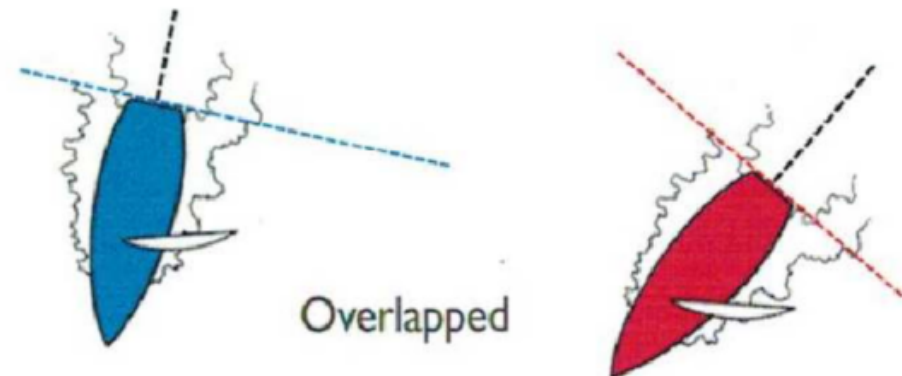
Clear Astern and Clear Ahead

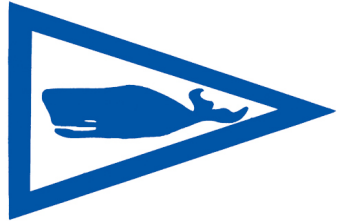
A boat is clear astern of another when she is behind a line drawn abeam from the stern of the other boat. The other boat is clear ahead.

Definition: *Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap*

Overlapped

Two boats are overlapped when neither boat is clear astern of the other.





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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap One boat is *clear astern* of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is *clear ahead*. They *overlap* when neither is *clear astern*. However, they also *overlap* when a boat between them *overlaps* both.

These terms always apply to boats on the same *tack*. They apply to boats on opposite *tacks* only when rule 18 applies between them or when both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

Leeward/ Windward

Tack – Starboard/Port

Clear Ahead / Overlap

Proper Course

Racing

18

MARK-ROOM



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Leeward/ Windward

Tack – Starboard/Port

Clear Ahead / Overlap

Proper Course

Racing

Proper Course A course a boat would choose in order to *sail the course* and *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. **A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.**



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Leeward/ Windward
Tack – Starboard/Port
Clear Ahead / Overlap
Proper Course

Racing

Racing A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and *marks* or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, *postponement* or *abandonment*.

Finish A boat *finishes* when, after *starting*, any part of her hull crosses the finishing line from the course side. However, she has not *finished* if after crossing the finishing line she

- (a) takes a penalty under rule 44.2,
- (b) corrects an error in *sailing the course* made at the line, or
- (c) continues to *sail the course*.



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When Boats Meet



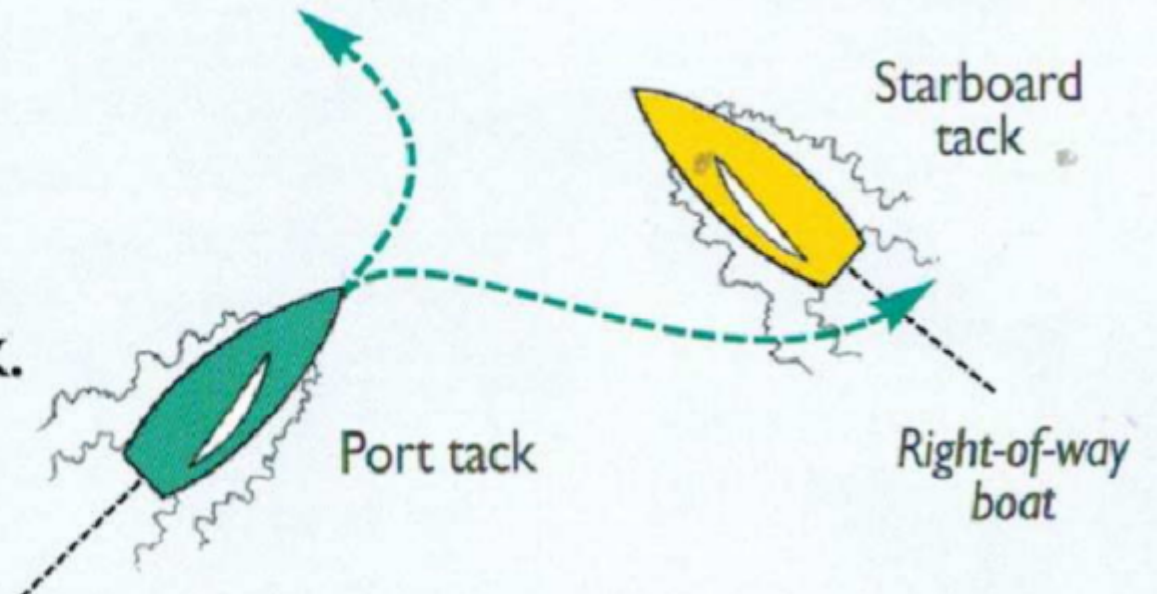
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When boats are on
Opposite Tacks

A boat on port tack must keep clear of a boat on starboard tack.

Rule 10 On Opposite Tacks



10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat.

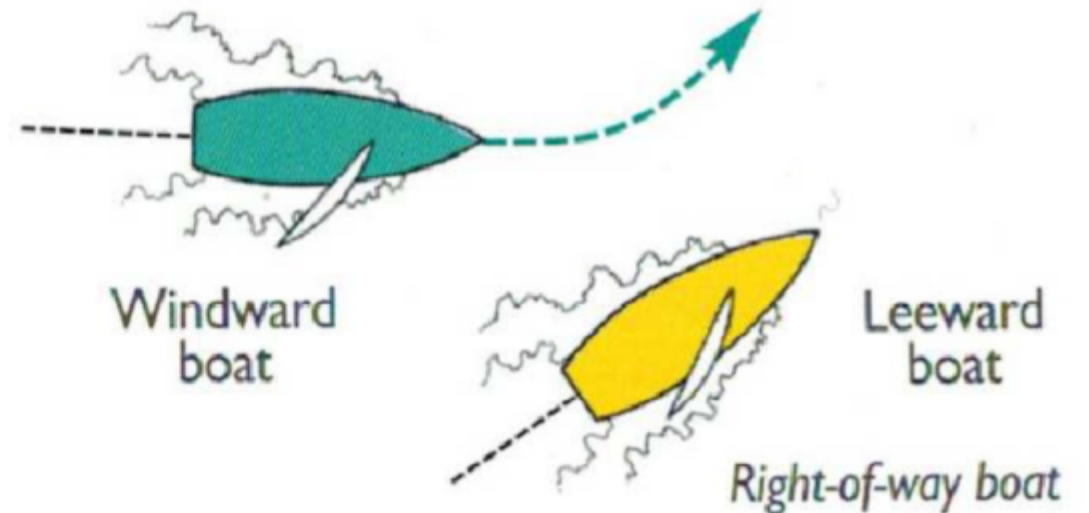


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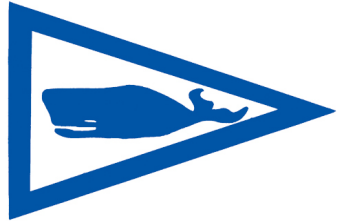
When boats are on the
Same Tack and Overlapped
A windward boat must keep
clear of a leeward boat.

Rule 11 On The Same Tack, Overlapped



11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and *overlapped*, a *windward* boat shall *keep clear* of a *leeward* boat.



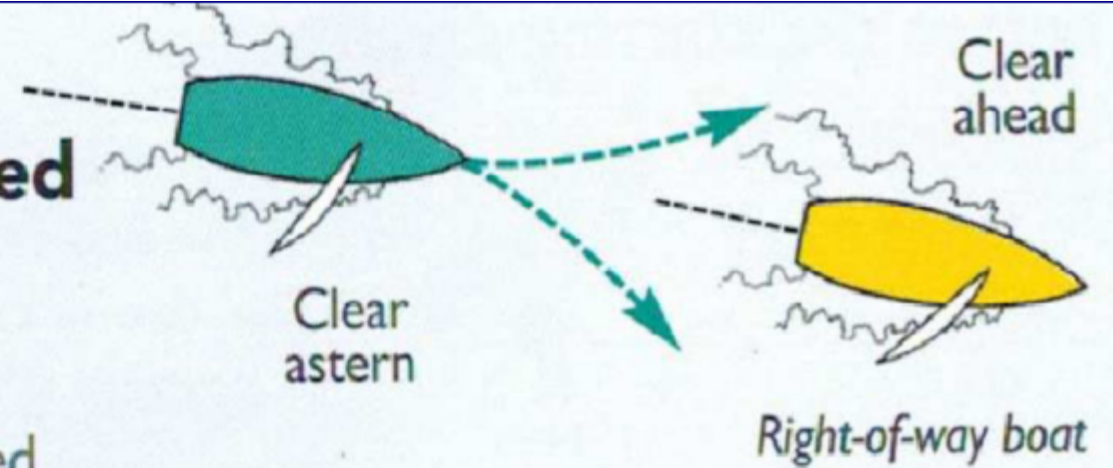
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When boats are on the
Same Tack and Not Overlapped

A boat clear astern must keep
clear of a boat clear ahead.

Rule 12 On The Same Tack, Not Overlapped



12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and not *overlapped*, a boat *clear astern* shall *keep clear* of a boat *clear ahead*.



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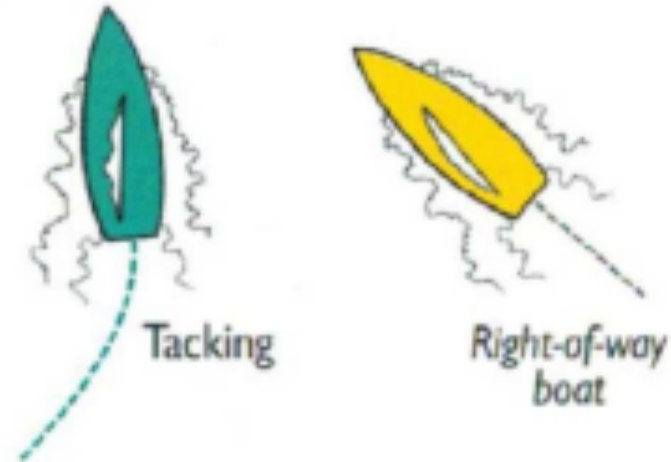
Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

When a boat is

Tacking

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course.

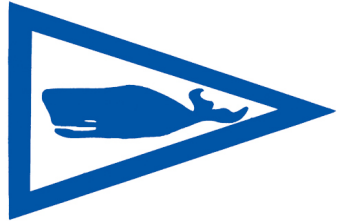
Rule 13 While Tacking



13 WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall *keep clear* of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same

time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

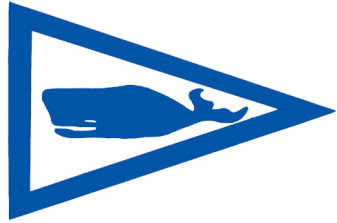
15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room to keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, on a beat to windward when a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to leeward of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not bear away if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.



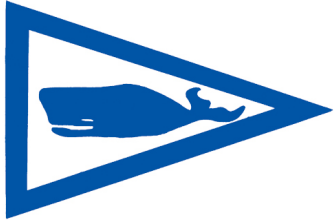
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17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* within two of her hull lengths to *leeward* of a boat on the same *tack*, she shall not sail above her *proper course* while they remain on the same *tack* and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails *astern* of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*.

13 WHILE TACKING



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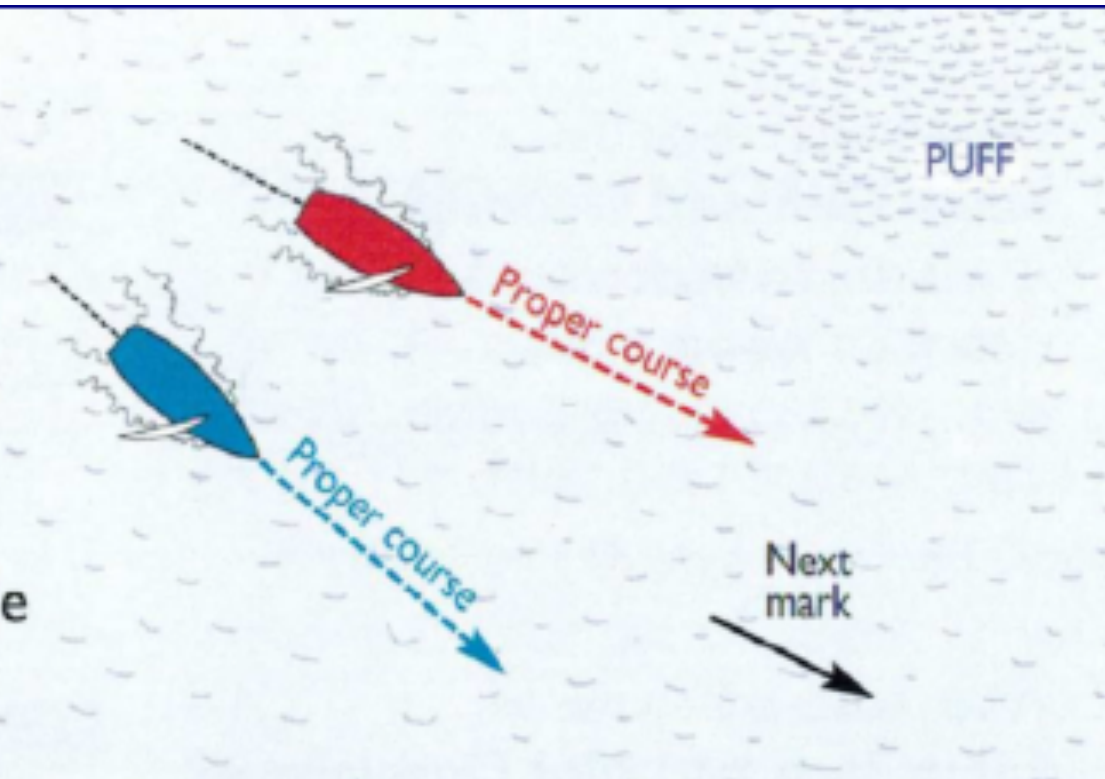
Proper Course

A boat's proper course is the course she would choose in order to sail the course and finish as soon as possible, taking into account factors like the wind and current. There is no proper course before the starting signal.

Definition: *Proper Course*



Current



The Red boat sails high to get a puff. The Blue boat sails low due to current. Two boats right next to each other can have different proper courses. A boat's proper course might not be to aim directly at the next mark.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

The Start



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<i>Minutes before starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
5	Class flag e.g. 	One	Warning signal
4	Flag P (usually) 	One	Preparatory signal
1	Prep flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

Rule 26 Starting Races



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022



Individual Recall (Flag X, 1 sound) One or more boats were over the starting line early and must go back to restart.



General Recall (First Substitute, 2 sounds) The RC can't identify all boats over the line early, so the fleet is recalled for a new start.

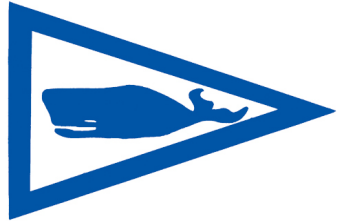


Postponement (Answering Pennant, 2 sounds) Races not started are postponed until later in the day or the next day.



Abandonment (Flag N, 3 sounds) Races are abandoned.

Rule 29 Recalls, Rule 32 Shortening or Abandoning, Race Signals



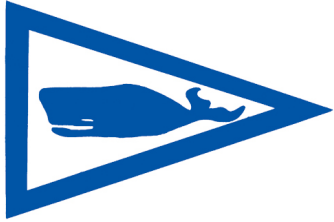
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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Racing A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and *marks* or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, *postponement* or *abandonment*.



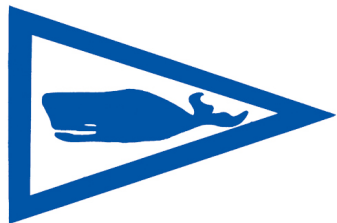
P Preparatory
signal.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Proper Course A course a boat would choose in order to *sail the course* and *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. **A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.**



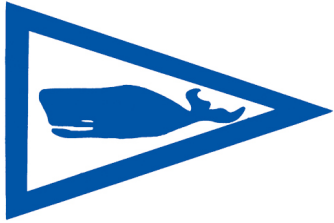
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AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

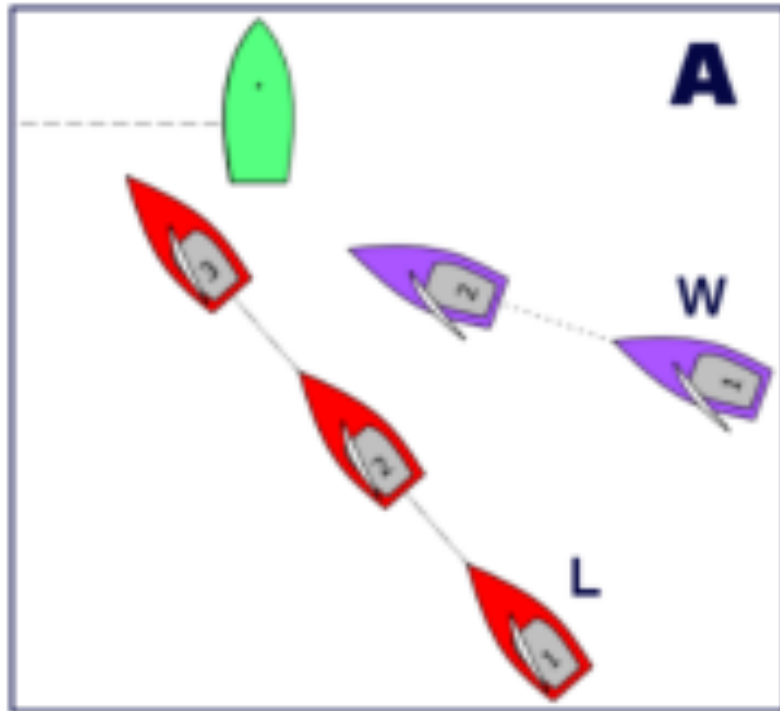
Section C rules do not apply at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to start until they have passed them.

Approaching to Start – The Part C rules, and RRS 18, do not apply when boats are "approaching to start" but can apply at other times during the starting sequence. For example, if two boats are aiming to sail below the RC boat with 2-3 minutes to go so they can sail farther down the starting line before starting then they are not "approaching to start." In that situation, a windward boat would be entitled to "room" from a leeward boat to sail below the RC boat as RRS 18 can apply.



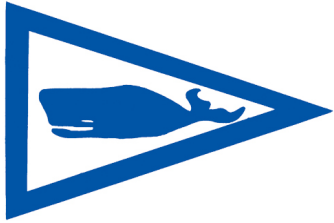
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Consider Diagram **A**. At position 1, there is less than 20 seconds to go to the starting signal. The purple boat (W) is a windward keep-clear boat aiming to go between the RC boat and the red boat (L), a leeward right-of-way boat. Because the boats are "approaching to start" RRS 18 does not apply between them. L is on a straight-line course to start just after the starting signal. L is going to have to turn down to avoid a collision with W. When L turns down then W breaks RRS 11, *On the Same Tack, Overlapped*, because L had to take "avoiding action" and therefore W did not "keep clear" of her. This is the classic "barging" situation – W is taking or attempting to take

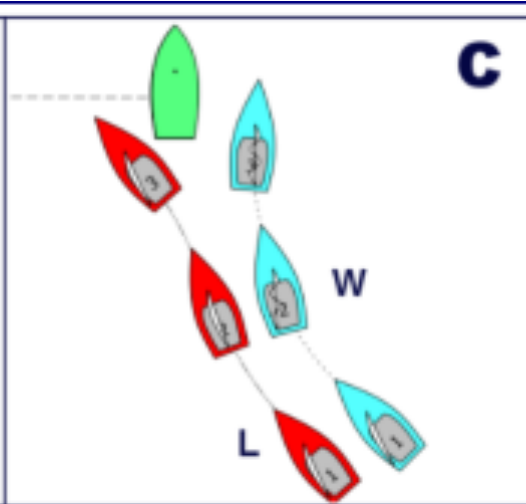
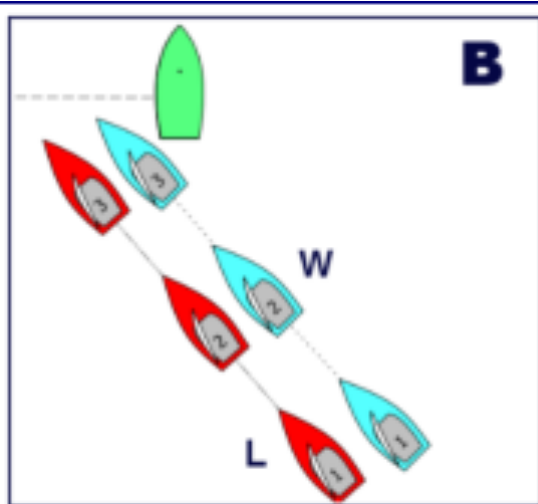
room that she is not entitled to and is "barging" between L and the RC boat; W therefore breaks RRS 11 by failing to keep clear of L.



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A slightly different but somewhat similar situation arises when two close-hauled boats are approaching to start just below the RC boat. Consider Diagrams **B** & **C**. The red boat (L) and blue boat (W) are each on a close-hauled course to start. W does not need room to sail below the RC boat if she sails a straight-line course. However, L doesn't want W on her windward side when the boats start. Since the boats are approaching the starting line to start, RRS 18 doesn't apply between them and so W is not entitled to "mark-room" to pass below the RC boat. But, if L luffs W then L must comply with RRS 16.1 and give W the



"room" W needs to keep clear of L and avoid hitting the RC boat. So, if L wants to luff and force W to tack away or go head to wind then L must luff early and give W "room" (time and space) to tack away and avoid the RC boat in a seamanlike manner. An early hail by L of what

she intends to do helps her to establish that W had plenty of room and space to avoid the RC boat when L does luff. Of course, if there is another close-hauled boat to leeward of L then L might be in the same situation as W vis-a-vis that other boat and needs to keep that in mind when planning her approach to start.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Marks & Obstructions



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18 MARK-ROOM

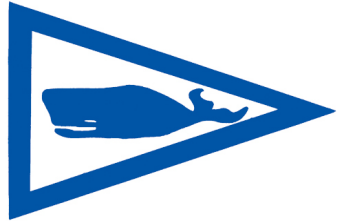
18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply

- (a) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,
- (b) between boats on opposite *tacks* when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
- (d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when *mark-room* has been given.

Zone The area around a *mark* within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the *zone* when any part of her hull is in the *zone*.



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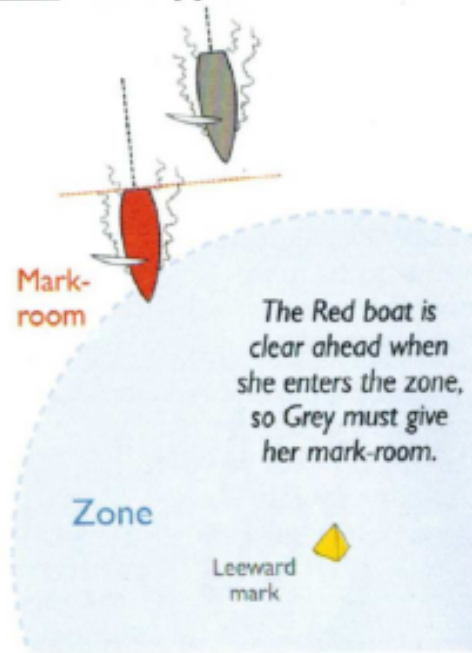
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Overlapped at the Zone



If boats are overlapped when the first one reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment must give the inside boat mark-room during the rounding.

Not Overlapped at the Zone



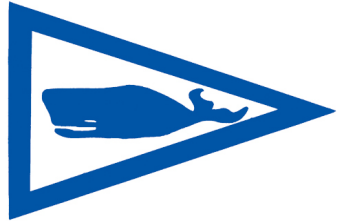
If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment must give her mark-room during the rounding.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When boats are *overlapped* the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.
- (b) If boats are *overlapped* when the first of them reaches the *zone*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*. If a boat is *clear ahead* when she reaches the *zone*, the boat *clear astern* at that moment shall thereafter give her *mark-room*.

- (c) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(b),
 - (1) she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins;
 - (2) if she becomes *overlapped* inside the boat entitled to *mark-room*, she shall also give that boat *room* to sail her *proper course* while they remain *overlapped*.

- (d) Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.
- (e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.
- (f) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* from *clear astern* or by tacking to *windward* of the other boat and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

18.3 Passing Head to Wind in the Zone

If a boat in the *zone* of a *mark* to be left to port passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* and is then *fetching* the *mark*, she shall not cause a boat that has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone* to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give *mark-room* if that boat becomes *overlapped* inside her. When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

18.4 Gybing

When an inside *overlapped* right-of-way boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.4 does not apply at a *gate mark*.

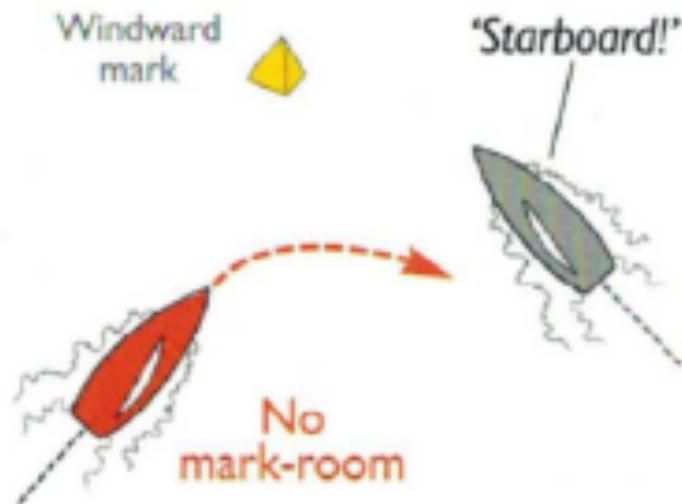


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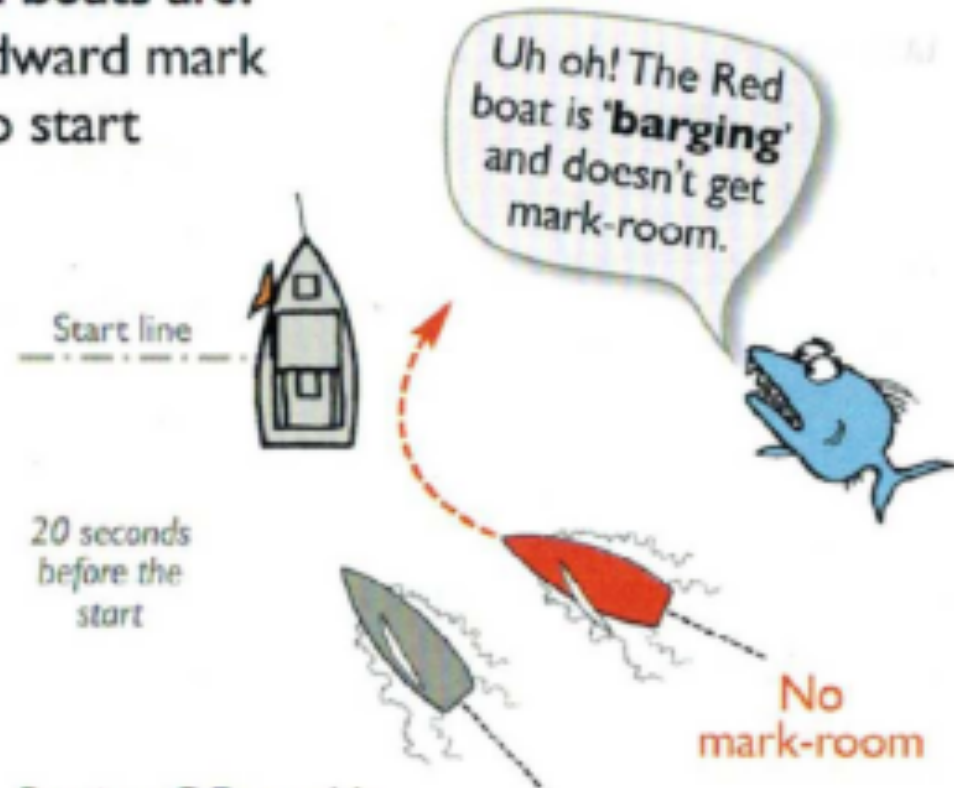
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Mark-room does not apply when boats are:

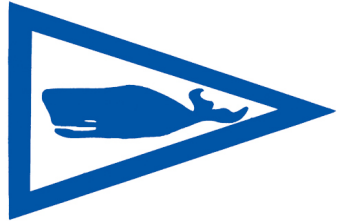
- On opposite tacks near a windward mark
- Approaching a starting mark to start



Rule 18.1(a) When Rule 18 Applies



Section C Preamble



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Windward mark

Red passes head to wind inside the zone

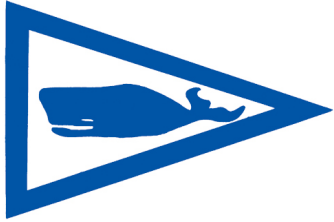
Zone

'Protest!'

Close-hauled course

Tacking near a mark
When a boat tacks inside the zone at a windward mark, she must not force a starboard-tack boat to sail above a close-hauled course to avoid contact.

Rule 18.3 Passing Head to Wind in the Zone



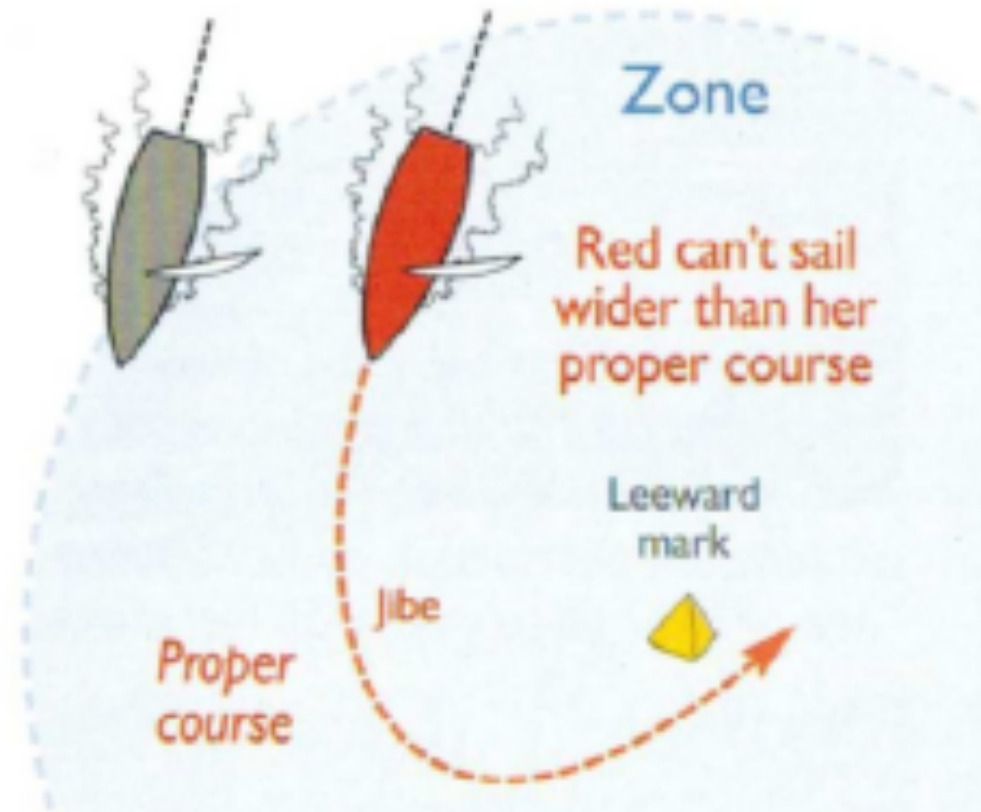
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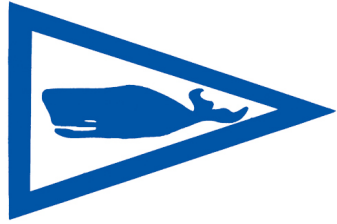
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Jibing at a mark

When a right-of-way boat has an inside overlap and needs to jibe to sail her proper course around a mark, until she jibes she must sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course.

Rule 18.4 Gybing



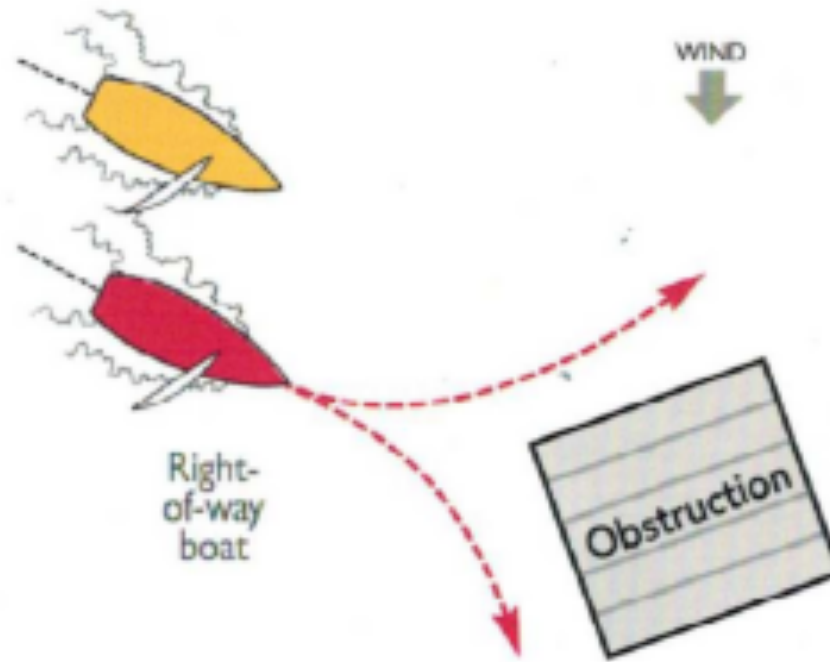


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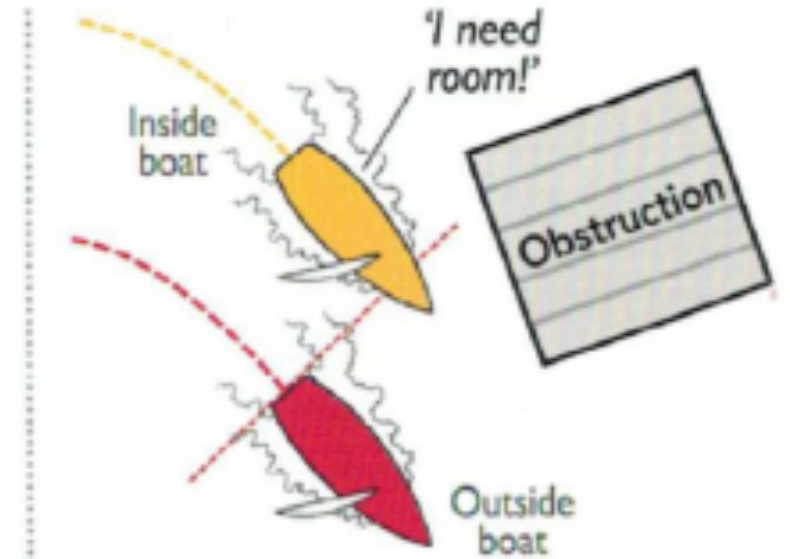
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Obstruction

An obstruction is an object that's big enough so a racing boat would have to change course 'substantially' if she were one hull length from it and sailing directly toward it.



The boat that has the right of way may choose to pass an obstruction on either side. Red is a leeward boat, so she can head up to pass the obstruction on her starboard side or bear off to pass it on her port side.



When Red bears off to pass the obstruction on her port side, the Orange boat has an inside overlap. Therefore, Red must give Orange room to pass between her and the obstruction. *Hail not required.*



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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Tacking at obstructions

When a closehauled boat is heading for an obstruction, she can hail another boat for room to tack. This allows boats to avoid the obstruction safely while maintaining their relative positions in the race.

Here is how it works:

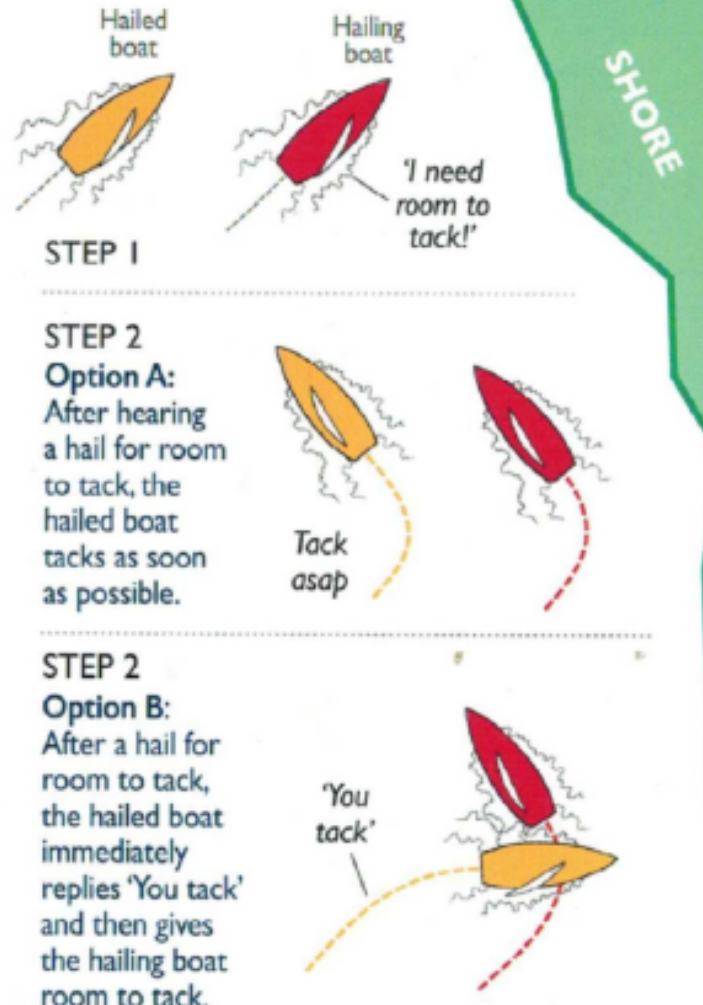
Step 1: The boat that needs room to tack (hailing boat) hails something like 'Room to tack!'

Step 2: The other boat (hailed boat) has only two choices of how to respond. She can:

- A) Tack as soon as possible; or
- B) Hail the words 'You tack' immediately and then give the hailing boat room to tack.

Step 3: After the hailed boat responds, the hailing boat must tack as soon as possible.

Rule 20 Room to Tack
at an Obstruction

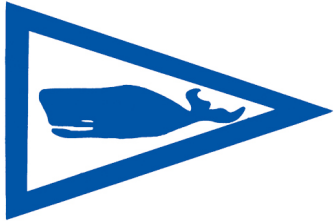




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Racing Rules of Sailing -2022

Changing & Shortening the Course



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S The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect.

32.1 After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds) or *abandon* the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds),

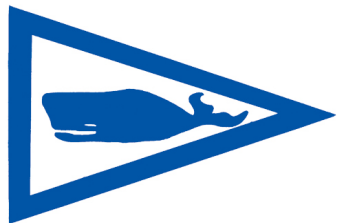
- (a) because of foul weather,
- (b) because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will *finish* within the race time limit,
- (c) because a *mark* is missing or out of position, or
- (d) for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.

In addition, the race committee may shorten the course so that other scheduled races can be sailed, or *abandon* the race because of an error in the starting procedure. However, after one boat has *started*, *sailed the course* and *finished* within the race time limit, if any, the race committee shall not *abandon* the race without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series.

32.2 If the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag S with two sounds), the finishing line shall be,

- (a) at a rounding *mark*, between the *mark* and a staff displaying flag S;
- (b) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
- (c) at a gate, between the gate *marks*.

The shortened course shall be signalled before the first boat crosses the finishing line.



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C The position of the next *mark* has been changed:

33 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

While boats are *racing*, the race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding *mark* or at a gate by changing the position of the next *mark* (or the finishing line) and signalling all boats before they begin the leg. The next *mark* need not be in position at that time.



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Penalties & Protests



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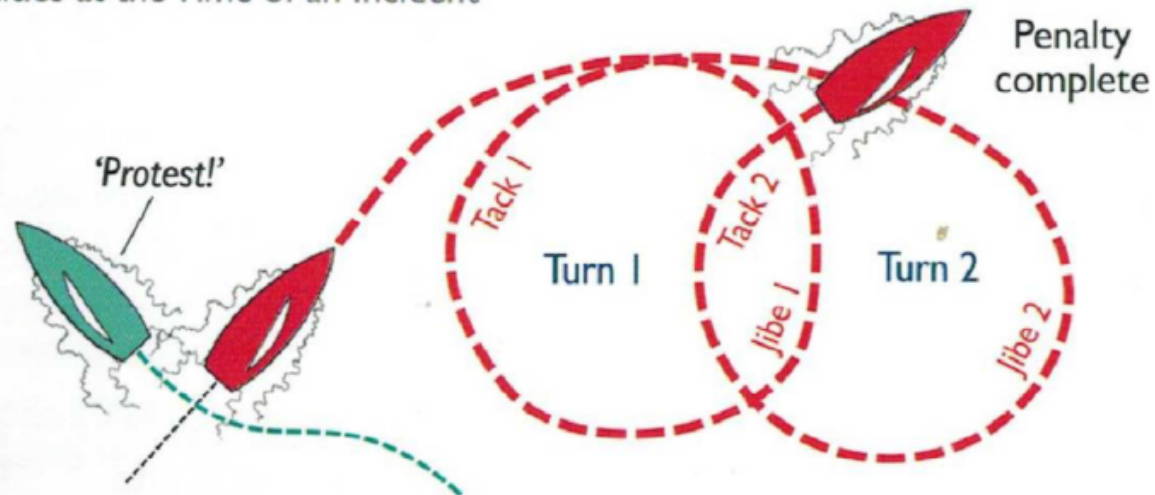
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Penalties for breaking a rule

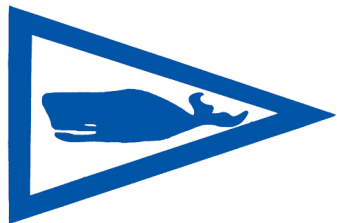
When a boat breaks a **right-of-way rule** while she is racing, she can either retire or take a **Two-Turns** Penalty by:

- Getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible; and
- Promptly making two turns in the same direction. Each turn must include one tack and one jibe.

Rule 44 Penalties at the Time of an Incident



When a boat breaks a rule she must take a penalty, even if no one saw her or protested.



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It's OK to touch the mark's anchor line because that doesn't count as part of the mark.

If a boat **touches a mark** . . .

She must take a **One-Turn Penalty** by:

- Getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible; and
- Promptly making one turn, including one tack and one jibe.

Penalty complete



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Filing a protest

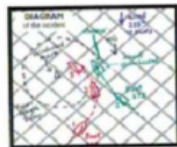
Any boat may file a protest when she believes another boat has broken a rule. In order for a protest to be valid, a sailor must do four things:



1. Hail the word 'Protest' at the *first reasonable opportunity* after the incident.



2. Display a red flag at the *first reasonable opportunity* after the incident and keep it displayed until the finish. (*This does not apply to boats shorter than 6 meters*).

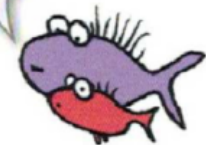


3. Create a written protest that identifies the incident, the protestor, the protestee and other information listed in rule 61.2.



4. Deliver the written protest to the race office within the protest time limit (which is usually stated in the sailing instructions).

The sailing instructions can add to this list. For example, they might say you must report your protest to the committee boat right after you finish.





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