



2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing

WORLD SAILING

The Racing Rules of Sailing



Worldwide rules

Updated every 4 years following the Olympic Games

To correct and improve the last edition

To respond to and anticipate technological change

An Important Correction

OLD



N indicated "All races that have started are abandoned." (Race signals)
but

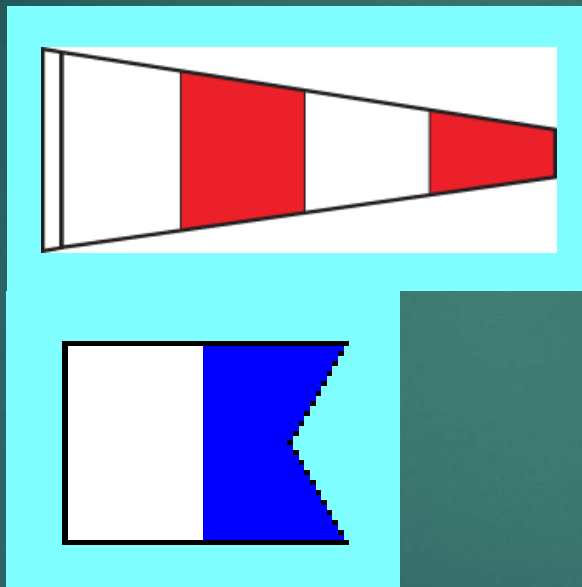
All races started includes races finished – not what anyone wanted.

NEW

"All races **in progress** are abandoned".



No more racing for the day



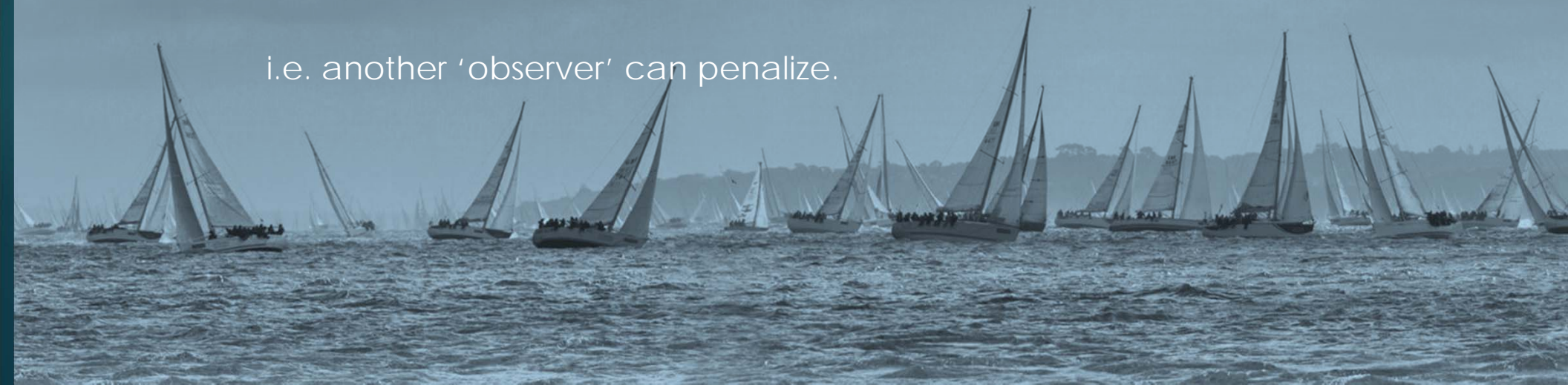
AP over A is the correct way to signal no more racing for the day.

An Important Correction

OLD P1.2 The observer who “sees a boat breaking rule 42 may penalize her...”

NEW P1.2 “If an observer appointed under rule P1.1 sees a boat breaking rule 42, the boat may be penalized...”

i.e. another ‘observer’ can penalize.



Navigating through the rule book

- ▶ Each appendix in the book is identified by a letter (I, K, L, O and Q are not used)
- ▶ Other appendices are identified by 2 or 3 letters and available online

Appendix TS – Traffic Separation Scheme

Appendix RV – Reduced Visibility Rules

Appendix WP – Rules for Racing Around Waypoints

Appendix CBS – Match Racing Rules for Vision Impaired Sailors

Appendix FR – Kite Relay Rules

Appendix FS – Kite Slalom Rules

Appendix LG – Sailing Instruction Guide

Appendix KG – Notice of Race Guide

Development Rules



- ▶ Available on the World Sailing website (www.sailing.org)
- ▶ Also called Test Rules

Examples:

Alternative Starting Penalty – DR21-01

High Speed Rules – DR21-03

and others...

Key Changes in Definitions

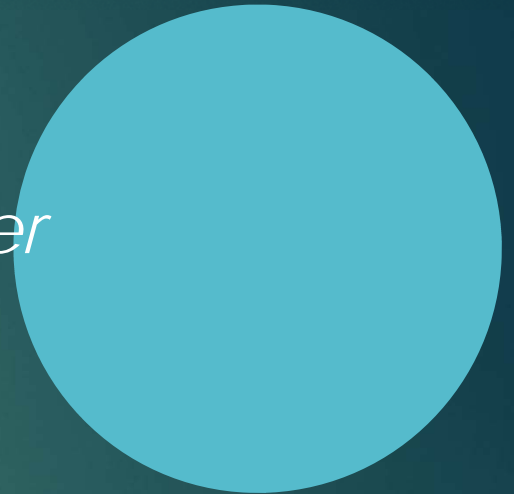
- ▶ Mark-room
- ▶ Obstruction
- ▶ Continuing Obstruction (new)
- ▶ Committee (new)
- ▶ Finish
- ▶ Proper Course
- ▶ Sail the Course



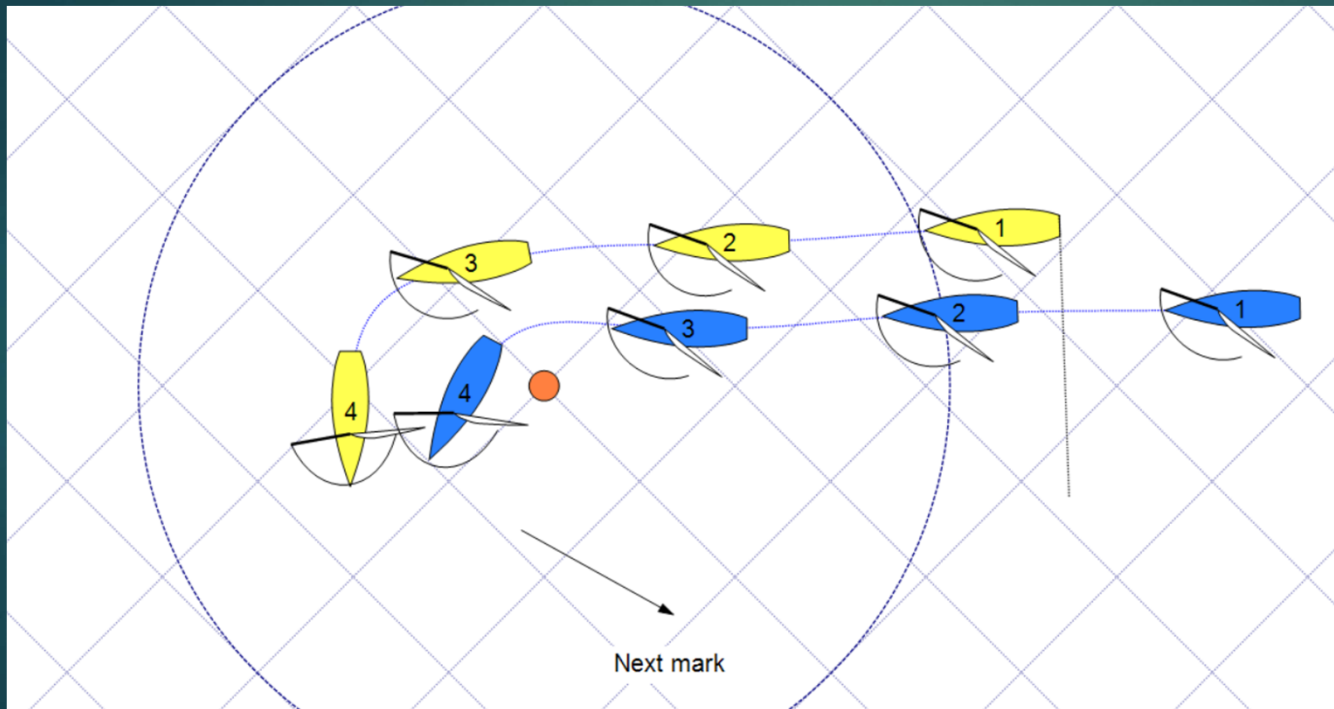
Definition of Mark-Room

Room for a boat

- (a) to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it,
- (b) to round or pass the *mark* on the required side, and
- (c) to leave it astern.



Definition of Mark-room



Yellow is entitled to *mark-room* until she leaves the mark astern on her course to the next mark. At position 4, she still has not left it astern.

Definition of an obstruction

- (a) an object that a boat could not pass without changing course substantially, if she were sailing directly towards it and one of her hull lengths from it;
- (b) an object that can be safely passed on only one side; or
- (c) an object, **area, or line** that is so designated **in a rule**;

However, a boat *racing* is not an *obstruction* to other boats unless they are required to *keep clear* of her or, if rule 22 applies, avoid her.

Definition of a continuing obstruction

An *obstruction* is a *continuing obstruction* when the boat with the shortest hull referred to in the rule using the term will pass alongside it for at least three of her hull lengths. However, the following are not a *continuing obstruction*: a vessel under way, a boat racing, or a race committee vessel that is also a *mark*.

Definition of a Committee



The protest committee, the race committee
or the technical committee



Definition of Finish

A boat *finishes* when, after her starting signal, 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*.

After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely. The sailing instructions may change the direction in which boats are required to cross the finishing line to *finish*.

- Definitions cannot be changed, however, SI's may change the direction in which boats are required to cross the finishing line to *finish* (note: use this provision with caution)

Definition of Proper Course

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

- ▶ No game change – the word *finish* was removed to correspond to the revised definition of *sail the course*. Also ‘..soon as possible..’ was changed to ‘..quickly as possible..’

Definition of Sail the Course

A boat sails the course when

- (a) *she starts*;
- (b) a string representing her track until she *finishes*, when drawn taut,
 - (1) passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order (*including the starting marks*),
 - (2) touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding *mark*, and
 - (3) passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous *mark*; and then
- (c) *she finishes*.

A mark that does not begin, bound or end the leg the boat is sailing does not have a required side.

RRS 14 – Avoiding contact



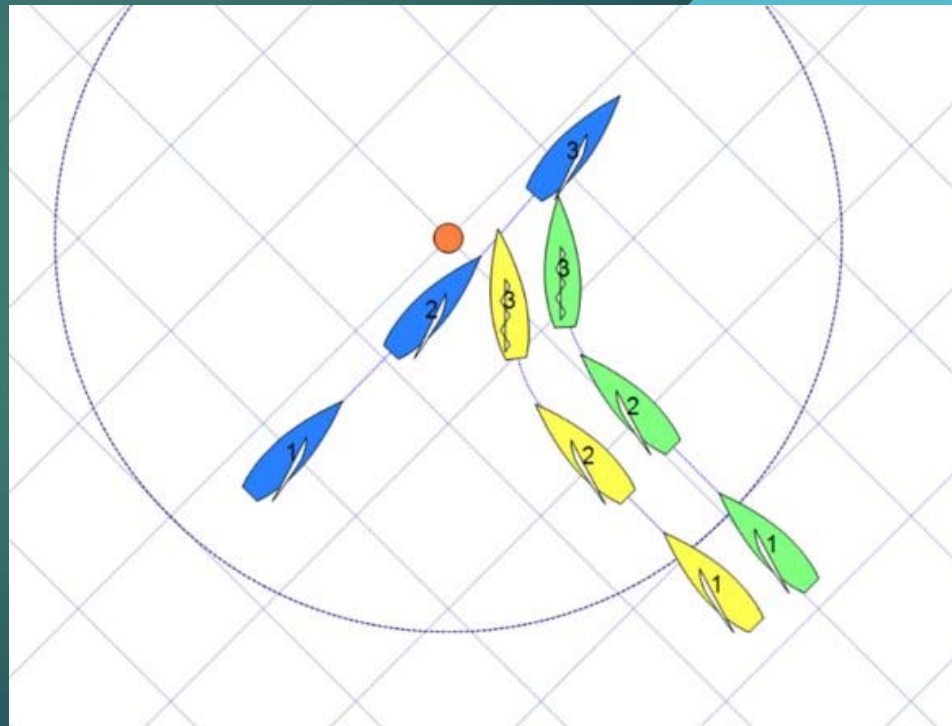
If reasonably possible, a boat shall

- (a) avoid contact with another boat,
- (b) not cause contact between boats, and
- (c) not cause contact between a boat and an object that should be avoided.

However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.

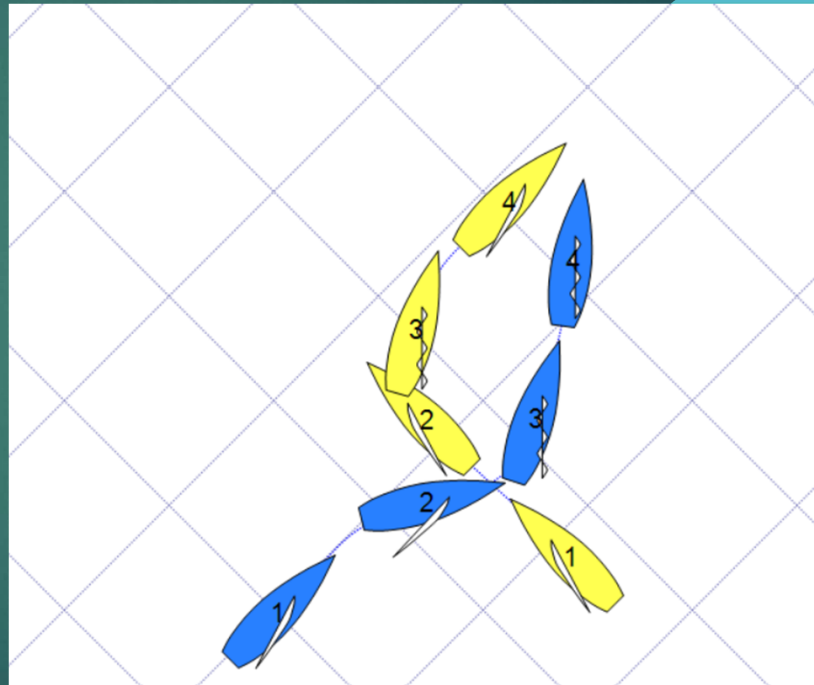
RRS 14 - Causing Contact

YELLOW has caused contact
between GREEN and BLUE.
YELLOW has broken RRS 14.



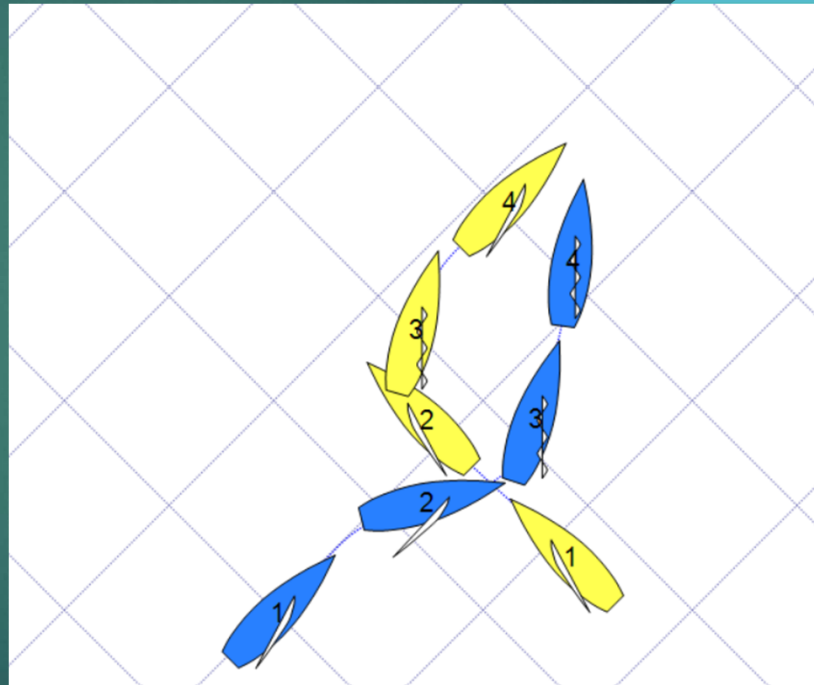
RRS 17 – On the same tack: Proper Course

Under the old rules BLUE was permitted to sail above her proper course as she had obtained an overlap while YELLOW was required by rule 13 to keep clear. Blue does not break rule 17.



RRS 17 – On the same tack: Proper Course

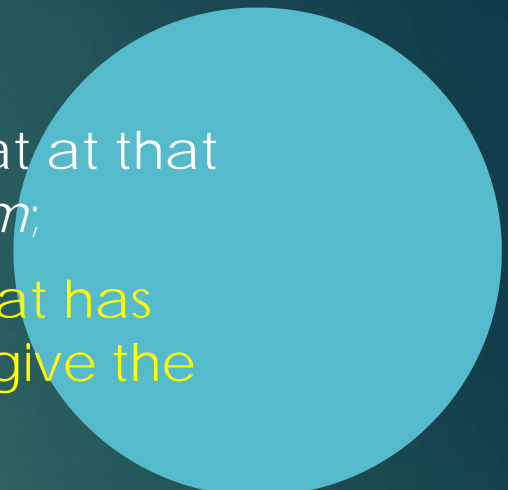
Under the new rules BLUE is **not** permitted to sail above her proper course and breaks rule 17. The exception under the old rules no longer applies.



New Preamble to Part C

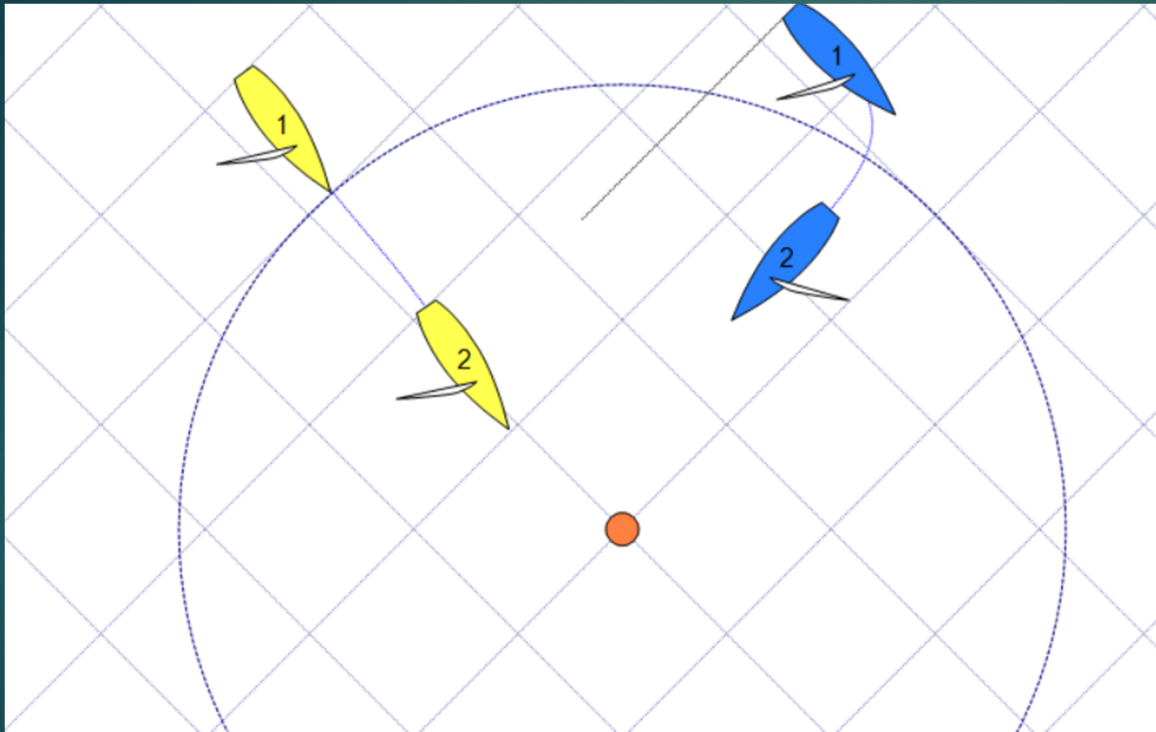
Section C rules do not apply **between boats when the mark or obstruction referred to in those rules** is a starting mark surrounded by navigable water or its anchor line, from the time the boats are approaching it to start until they have **left it astern**.

RRS 18.2 - Giving mark-room

- 
- (a) When the first of two boats reaches the *zone*,
 - (1) if the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall give the inside boat *mark-room*;
 - (2) if the boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*.

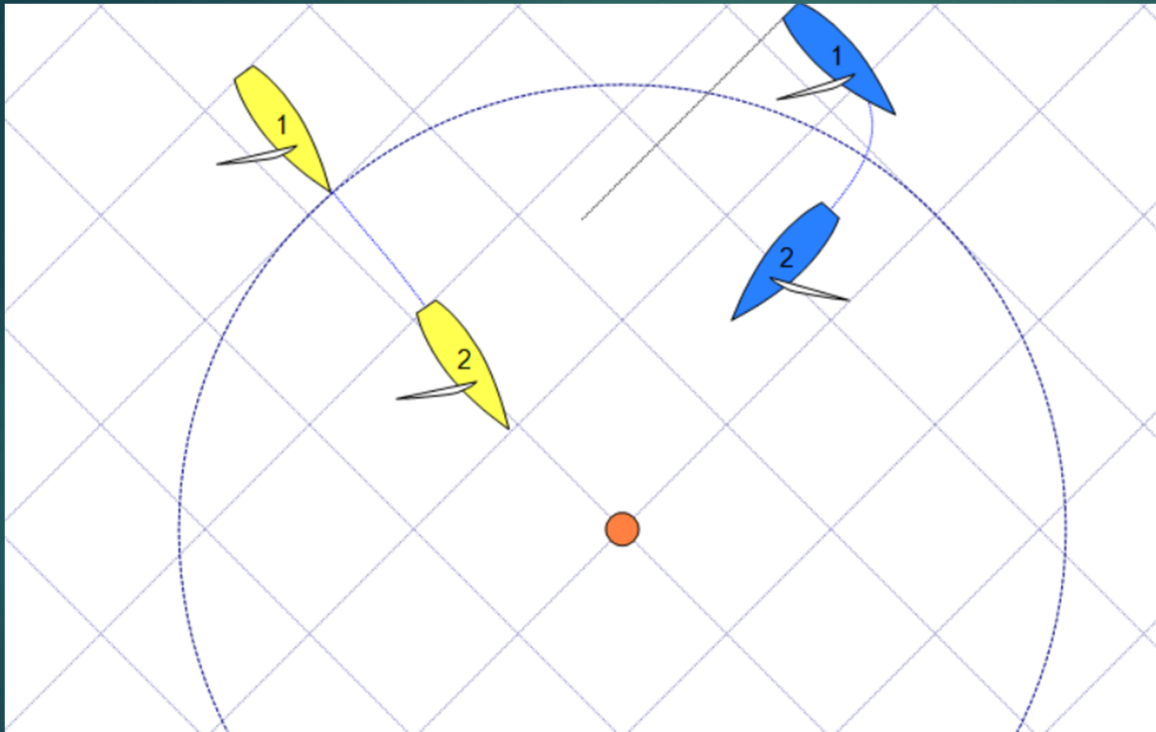
When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by this rule, she shall continue to do so for as long as this rule applies, even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins.

Under the old rules...



BLUE was entitled
to *mark-room* from
YELLOW

Under the new rules...



BLUE is **not** entitled to *mark-room* from YELLOW.

YELLOW is entitled to *mark-room* from BLUE.

RRS 18.2 - Giving mark-room



- (b) Rule 18.2(a) no longer applies if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.
- (c) When rule 18.2(a) does not apply and the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.
- (d) 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*, rules 18.2(a) and 18.2(c) do not apply between them.
- (e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

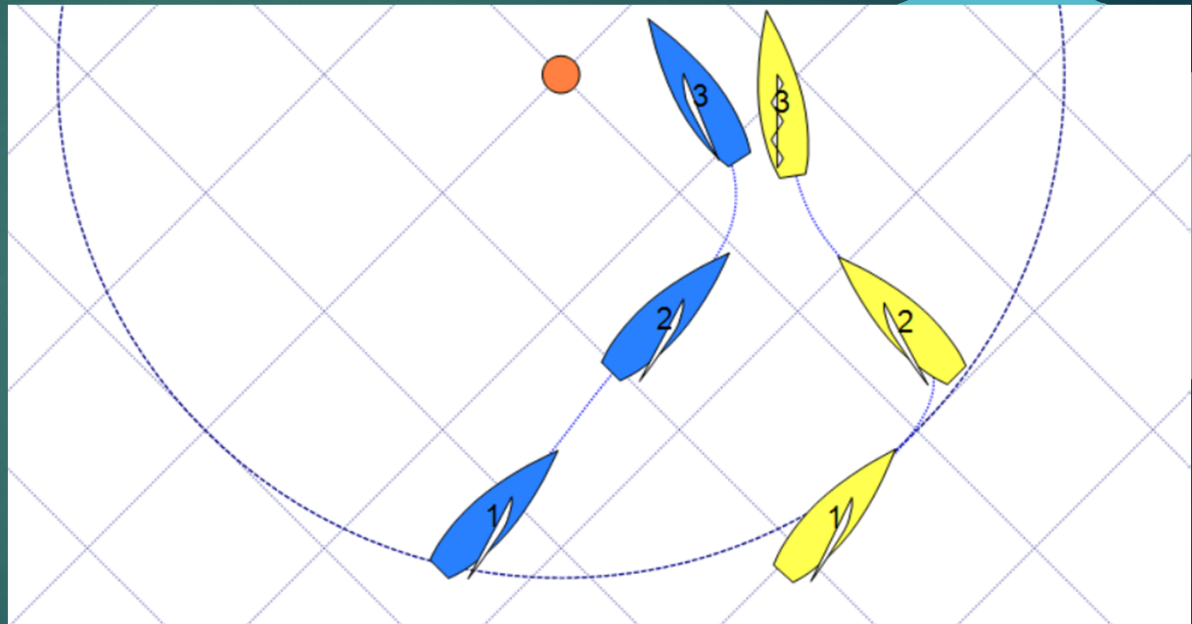
RRS 18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* in the *zone* of a *mark* to be left to port, rule 18.2 does not apply between her and another boat on *starboard tack* that is *fetching* the mark. If the other boat has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone*, the boat that passed head to wind

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact, and
- (b) shall give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her.

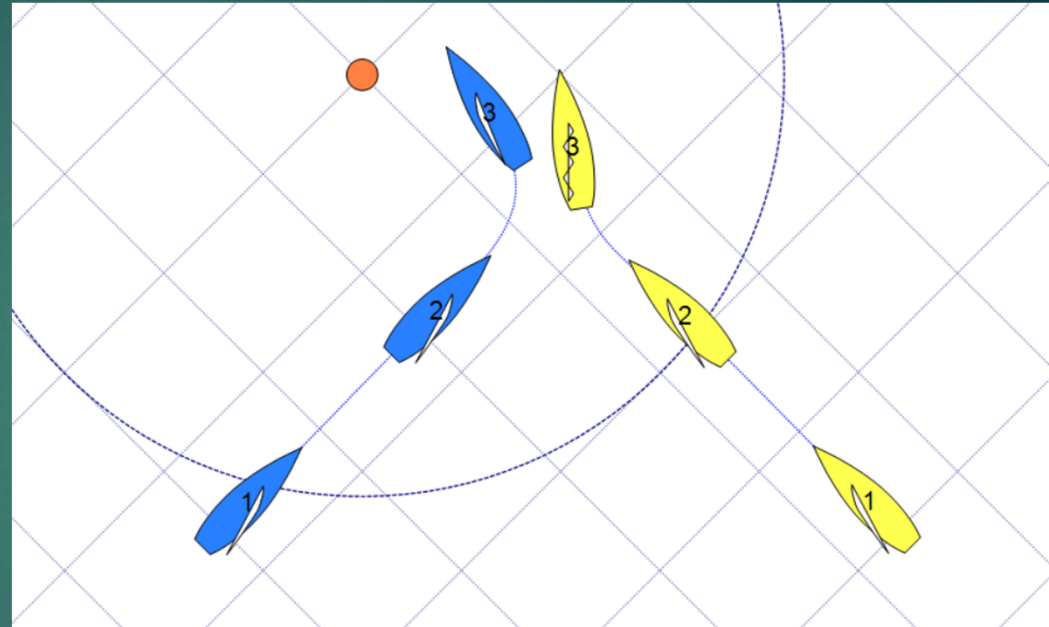
RRS 18.3

RRS 18.2 does not apply.
BLUE has not broken RRS
18.3.



RRS 18.3

RRS 18.2 does not apply.
The second part of the
rule now applies and BLUE
has broken 18.3.



RRS 19 Room to Pass an Obstruction

19.1 When Rule 19 Applies

Rule 19 applies between two boats at an *obstruction* except **when rule 18 applies between them and**

- (a) the *obstruction* is **the** mark, or
- (b) the *obstruction* is another boat overlapped with each of them.

However, at a **continuing** *obstruction*, rule 19 always applies and rule 18 does not.

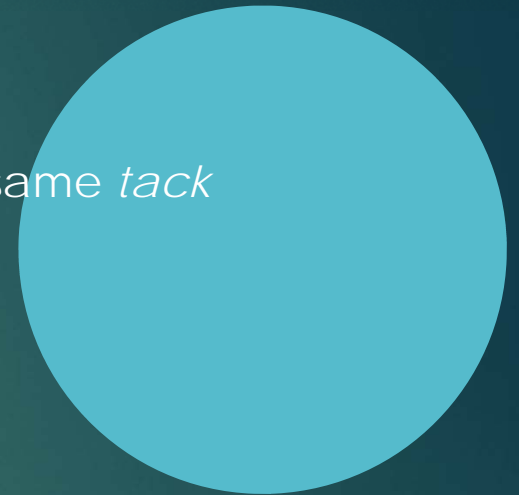
RRS 19.2 Giving Room at an Obstruction

- (a) A right-of-way boat may choose to pass an *obstruction* on either her port or starboard side. If a right-of-way boat changes course when choosing on which side to pass the *obstruction*, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.
- (b) When the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *room* between her and the *obstruction*, unless she has been unable to do so from the time the *overlap* began.
- (c) While boats are passing a *continuing obstruction*, if a boat that was *clear astern* and required to *keep clear* becomes *overlapped* between the other boat and the *obstruction* and, at the moment the *overlap* begins, there is not *room* for her to pass between them,
 - (1) she is not entitled to *room* under rule 19.2(b), and
 - (2) while the boats remain *overlapped*, she shall keep clear and rules 10 and 11 do not apply.

Room to tack at an obstruction

20.1 Hailing

A boat may hail for *room* to tack and avoid a boat on the same *tack* by hailing '**Room to tack**'.



RRS 28 Sailing the Course



28.1 A boat shall *sail the course*

28.2 A boat may correct any errors in *sailing the course*, provided she has not *finished*.

- ▶ Changes to wording due to changes to definition *sail the course*
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RRS 32 Shortening or Abandoning After the Start

32.2 To shorten the course, the race committee shall display flag S with two sounds before the first boat crosses the finishing line. If the course is shortened, the finishing line shall be,

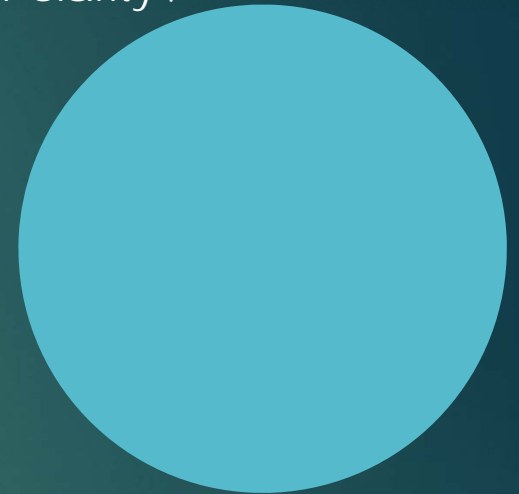
- (a) at a rounding *mark*, between the *mark* and a staff displaying flag S;
- (b) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
- (c) at a gate, between the gate *marks*.

32.3 To abandon the race, the race committee shall display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds

Housekeeping changes

There are other minor inconsequential changes in wording for clarity / consistency in:

- ▶ RRS 34 Mark Missing
- ▶ RRS 35 Race Time Limit and Scores
- ▶ RRS 40.2 Personal Flotation Devices
- ▶ RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty
- ▶ RRS 49.2 Crew Position; Lifelines
- ▶ RRS 76 Exclusion of Boats or Competitors
- ▶ RRS 78 Compliance with Class Rules
- ▶ RRS 86 Changes to the Racing Rules



Safety Items

► RRS 50.1

- (b) A crew harness shall have positive buoyancy in fresh water and shall not weigh more than 2 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kilograms....
- (c) A crew harness shall allow the competitor, at any time, to easily disconnect the harness from the trapeze or attachment to the boat.

► RRS 56.3 (new)

When a *rule* requires a boat to be equipped with an Automatic Identification System transponder or any other tracking device, it shall not be turned off or its effectiveness intentionally reduced

Simplified Protest Requirements

2021-2024

2025-2028

Identify the protestor and protestee

✓

✓

Identify the incident

✓

✓

Identify when and where the
incident occurred

✓

Identify any rule the protestor
believes was broken

✓

Identify the name of the protestor's
representative

✓



Restructured procedures for protest committees

- ▶ Part V has been rewritten. The order of the contents has been changed and rationalized.
- ▶ Appendix M reflects the new wording and procedures

Part V

- ▶ Separate rules for protests, requests for redress, support persons, misconduct
- ▶ Each section is complete onto itself

Protests

- ▶ Right to Protest
- ▶ Intention to Protest
- ▶ Delivering a Protest
- ▶ Protest Validity
- ▶ Protest Decisions



Redress

- ▶ Requesting or considering redress
- ▶ Requests for redress
- ▶ Invalid requests
- ▶ Redress Decisions



Redress Validity



A request for redress based on an incident not in the racing area

- ▶ Under the old rules, "as soon as reasonably possible after learning of the reasons for making the request."
- ▶ Under the new rules, "**as soon as reasonably possible after the information is available**".

Other Part 5 changes:

- ▶ Technical committee is no longer required to protest a boat – RRS 60.1
- ▶ Length of hull for when a protest flag is required has been changed – RRS 60.2(a)(1)
- ▶ Boats no longer required to display a protest flag when the protested boat is beyond hailing distance – RRS 60.2(b)(1)
- ▶ Timing of informing a boat of intention to protest an error in sailing the course has been changed – RRS 60.2(b)(2)
- ▶ Permits the NOR or SI to provide a penalty for breaking a rule – RRS 60.5(b)
- ▶ Slight change to application of the 'balance of probabilities' – RRS 63.5(a)
- ▶ Puts a 'validity' test in a request for a reopening – RRS 63.7(b)
- ▶ Clarifies that rule 65.1, Legal Liability, is about monetary damages – RRS 65.1

Questions?



Joe Jospe
Mike Turner