

Racing Rules of Sailing

TR Call J7

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

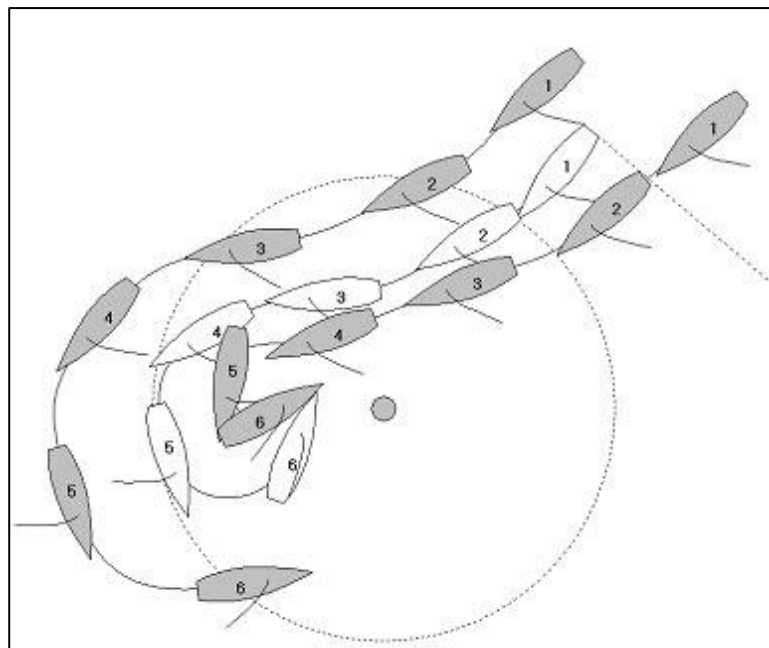
To correct an error in the answer.

TR CALL J7

Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1	Changing Course
Rule 18.2	Giving Mark-Room
Rule 21	Exoneration

Question

When Y reaches the zone of a downwind mark to be left to port, she is clear ahead of A, and overlapped with B to windward. Rule 17 does not apply between Y and B. Y luffs B away from the mark without breaking rule 16. Y remains inside the zone, and then gybes and returns to prevent A from rounding the mark inside her. After the gybe, Y luffs quickly, clearly above her proper course to round the mark, without giving A room to keep clear. There is contact between Y and A. There is a protest. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Y.

Because A was clear astern of Y at the zone, rule 18.2 requires that she thereafter give Y mark-room. Furthermore, from Position 4 when she becomes overlapped inside Y, rule 18.2(c) requires A to give Y room to sail her proper course. However, Y breaks rule 16.1 when she luffs and fails to give A room to keep clear and, because she is neither sailing her proper course nor rounding the mark, she is not exonerated under rule 21. **As Y failed to give A the room she needed to keep clear, A is exonerated under rule 21(a) for breaking rule 11.**

~~A is required by rule 11 to keep clear of Y. However, if the umpires decide that A would have kept clear if Y had not broken rule 16.1, A is exonerated under rule 64.1(a) for that breach 21 for breaking rule 11. If the umpires decide that A was not keeping clear irrespective of the luff by Y, penalize both; Y for breaking rule 16.1 and A for breaking rule 11.~~

A boat entitled to mark-room is exonerated under rule 21 for breaking rule 16.1 when her change of course is consistent with rounding the mark in a seamanlike manner or, if rule 18.2(c) applies, when it is consistent with sailing her proper course.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

The last sentence of the existing call is incorrect. If a boat fails to give the room required by rule 16.1, the other boat cannot be penalized for breaking a Section A rule. The call is also revised to provide exoneration for A under rule 21, and not rule 64.1.
