

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Definition Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

A submission from US Sailing

#### Purpose or Objective

To simplify and clarify a complex sentence that experienced sailors report is difficult to understand.

#### Proposal

***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*. **The terms** ~~They do not~~ apply to boats on opposite *tacks* **only when** ~~unless~~ rule 18 applies **between them** or **when** both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

#### Current Position

As above.

#### Reasons

1. The proposed rewording of the last sentence makes the sentence easier to read by eliminating the double negative construction used in the last sentence of the current definition.
  2. Rule 18 will often apply to a pair of boats other than the pair referred to in the definition. The intent of the last sentence is that the three defined terms, Clear Astern, Clear Ahead and Overlap, should only apply to two boats on opposite tacks when rule 18 applies between those two boats and not when rule 18 applies between any other pair of boats. With the addition of 'between them', the last sentence will be consistent with the intent. A similar use of 'between them' can be found in rule 20.2(e).
  3. The word 'They' at the beginning of the last sentence could refer to either 'the boats' or 'the terms' in the previous sentence. Repeating 'The terms' resolves that ambiguity and makes the sentence easier to read.
-