

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 18.2(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules of Sailing

Proposal

Change rule 18.2(c) to read as follows:

- (c) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(b), she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins. However, ~~if either boat passes head to wind or~~ if the boat entitled to *mark-room* **passes head to wind or** leaves the *zone*, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

This submission corrects an error in the original drafting of the new Section C introduced on 1st January 2009.

The current rule allows a boat, astern of a group of boats that has entered the zone at a leeward mark, to gain rights to mark-room by quickly luffing, passing head-to-wind and then bearing away on either tack.

This manoeuvre is now being used in some fleet and team races. However it is contrary to the understanding and expectation of most sailors, and is therefore potentially dangerous. It is also contrary to the intent of rule 18 to encourage orderly mark roundings, and to “lock-in” boats’ rights and obligations when they enter the zone.

For the reasons above, there is a clear necessity for the change to be made effective on 1 January 2010 under Regulation 31.1.2.