

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 16.2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To make rule 16.2 more relevant and easier to understand by restricting its application to any dial-down manoeuvre on a beat to windward.

Proposal

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal ~~a port-tack boat is keeping clear by sailing to pass astern of a starboard-tack boat, the starboard-tack boat shall not change course if as a result the port-tack boat~~ **a starboard-tack boat is on a beat to windward, she shall not bear away if as a result a port-tack boat that was keeping clear of her** would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The primary purpose of rule 16.2 has always been to control dial-downs on a beat to windward. By addressing this problem alone, the proposal removes current difficulties of interpretation with the words 'sailing to pass astern' and when the boats dial-down more than 90 degrees.
2. The rule is rarely used or relevant on downwind legs. Restricting application of the rule to windward legs permits a major simplification.
3. Restrictions to the normal rights of a starboard-tack boat are minimised.

Note: If this submission is approved, the rule number '16.2' needs to be added to Case 132 in the question and in the first line of the answer.
