

Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing, New Call MR 41

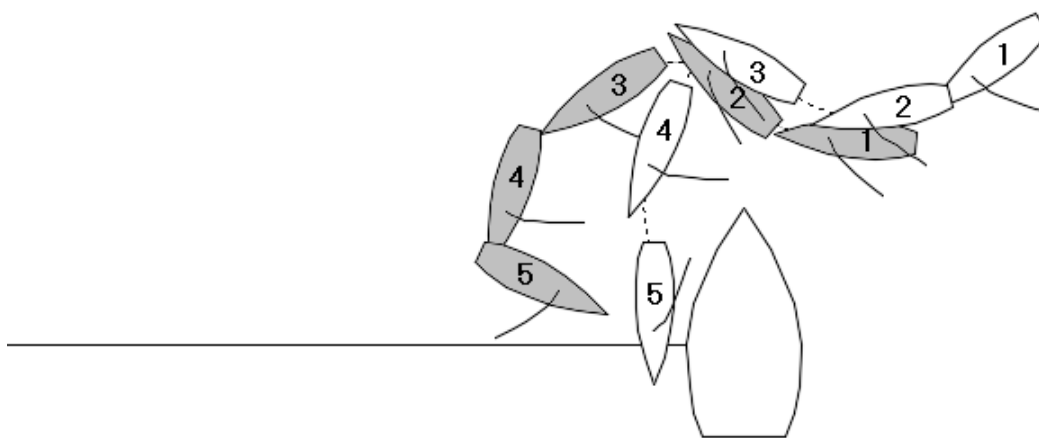
A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee,

Proposal

Insert new Match Racing Call MR 41:

CALL MR 41

Rule 10	On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11	On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 18.2	Giving Mark-Room
Rule 18.5	Exoneration
Rule C2.2	Definition Proper Course
Definitions	Mark-Room



Question

Blue has an outstanding penalty. Blue enters the zone of the finishing mark clear ahead of Yellow, and never thereafter leaves the zone. Shortly after position 3 Yellow establishes an inside overlap on Blue. Blue gybes to port and then closes the gap between the boats by heading up and aiming directly at the finishing flag on the race committee boat.

There is contact between Blue and Yellow, with no damage. There is a Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer

Penalize Blue.

Blue was clear ahead when she reached the zone and rule 18.2(b) began to apply. Rule 18.2(b) requires that Yellow thereafter gives Blue mark-room. When at the mark, mark-room for a boat is room to sail her proper course at the mark. Blue's proper course at the mark is the course she would have sailed to finish as soon as possible in the absence of Yellow. Initially, Yellow keeps clear and gives Blue mark-room.

After Yellow becomes overlapped and gains right of way, she continues to give Blue room to sail her proper course.

Gybing in this situation may have been a proper course for Blue at that time, however, after Blue gybes to port, **the umpires are certain** she luffs above her proper course and fails to keep clear of Yellow. Neither rule 18.2(b) nor the definition mark-room requires Blue to sail her proper course while at the mark, however, if she does not, rule 18.5 would not apply and Blue would not be exonerated for her breach of rule 10.

Current Position

This is currently ISAF Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2009.005.

Reason

This call is necessary to add clarity to a common situation in Match racing with the boat ahead having an outstanding penalty and entering the zone of the finishing vessel. With rule 18 introducing the new definition Mark-Room, it is important that umpires and sailors understand the interaction of "room" and "proper course" in this situation.