Racing Rules of Sailing

Submission: 208-18

New Team Racing Call G8

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify when a windward boat with a spinnaker set is keeping clear.

Proposal

Add new call as follows:

TR CALL G8

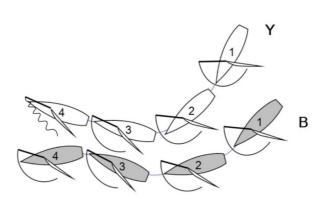
Rule 11 On the Same Tack, Overlapped

Rule 16.1 Changing Course

Definitions Room

Question

Two keelboats B and Y are on a run in strong winds with spinnakers set. Rule 17 does not apply. B luffs continuously and Y keeps clear. After Y sails above a beam reach and is healing well over with her spinnaker trimmed all the way, she holds course and drops her spinnaker. While she does so, B bears away to avoid contact and protests. There is no contact. What should the call be?



Answer

No penalty.

When B changes course, rule 16.1 requires her to give Y room to keep clear, which includes space to manoeuvre promptly in a seamanlike way. After position 3, Y needs to drop her spinnaker to

Submission: 208-18 Cont'd

continue manoeuvring in a seamanlike way. At position 4, B complies with rule 16.1 by bearing away to give Y room to keep clear.

See also Call A3.

Room for a windward boat to keep clear includes room to drop her spinnaker when it is seamanlike to do so. This will depend on factors such as wind strength, size and shape of spinnaker.

Current Position

None.

Reason

Keelboat team racing is a growing sport and the use of spinnakers is becoming more frequent. There are an increasing number of questions about keeping clear when a spinnaker is set but there is no existing team racing call on how the rules apply in these circumstances.