

Racing Rules of Sailing

New MR Call N9

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To comply with ISAF Regulations 28.3.1, 28.3.2, 28.3.4 and 28.3.7.

Proposal

Add new MR Call N9:

MR CALL N9

Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**
Rule 22.2 **Taking Penalties**
Rule 24.2 **Interfering with Another Boat**

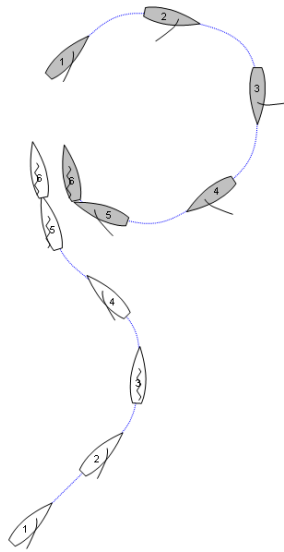
Question

Blue and Yellow are half way up a windward leg of the course and Blue has an outstanding penalty. Blue bears away to take her penalty.

At position 3, Blue has gybed and is now taking her penalty. Yellow luffs and passes head to wind. Yellow completes her tack at position 4.

Yellow then luffs, and before Blue has completed her penalty Blue responds to the luff and keeps clear.

There is a Y flag. What should the call be?



Answer

Penalize Yellow.

From the moment Blue gybes and until she returns to a close-hauled course, she is taking a penalty and must keep clear of Yellow under rule 22.2. Yellow is required to not interfere with Blue while Blue is taking the penalty, unless she is sailing her proper course.

When Yellow luffs after her tack is completed, she is not sailing her proper course and rule 24 requires that she does not interfere with Blue who is still taking her penalty. By causing Blue to have to respond to the luff before she had completed her penalty, Yellow did interfere with Blue while Blue was taking a penalty. It does not make any difference whether the interference by Yellow caused the penalty to be completed quicker.

Current Position

See Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2014/001 as in the proposal above.

Reasons

1. To clarify that the requirement in rule 24.1 to not, if reasonably possible, interfere with a boat taking a penalty applies in a situation like this one where Blue would have kept clear of Yellow had not luffed.
 2. The decision in this situation has been argued amongst many umpires and it is important to have a clear answer to ensure consistency.
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