

Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Mark-Room, Rules C2.2, C2.6, C2.7

A submission from the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee and the Match Racing Committee

Purpose or Objective

Simplify rounding marks in match racing.

This simply takes the existing rules that apply at a leeward mark and apply them to all marks. Furthermore, it simply defines which boat is entitled to room at a mark and allows that boat the room to sail around the mark (as if no other boat is there).

Proposal

1. Add the following new rule C2.2 (and renumber other C2 rules accordingly):

C2.2 The definition *Mark-Room* is changed to

***Mark-Room* Room for a boat to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark. If room includes a change of tack, such tack or gybe shall be done no quicker than a tack or gybe to sail her proper course.**

2. Delete rule C2.6 and C2.7 and add the following new rule C2.6 (and renumber other C2 rules accordingly):

C2.6 Rule 18 is changed to:

18 MARK ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When the first boat reaches the *zone*,

(1) if boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*.

(2) if boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* shall thereafter give *mark-room*.

(b) If the boat entitled to *mark-room* leaves the *zone*, the entitlement to *mark-room* ceases to apply and rule 18.2(a) is applied again if required

based on the relationship of the boats considered at the time rule 18.2(a) is re-applied.

(c) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat is unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.

3. Include in new rule C2.6 either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 below:

Alternative 1

18.3 Tacking or Gybing

When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must change *tack* at a *mark* to sail her proper course, until she changes *tack* she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3 does not apply at a *gate mark* or a *finishing mark*.

Alternative 2

18.3 Tacking or Gybing

When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must change *tack* at a *mark* to sail her proper course, until she changes *tack* she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3 does not apply at a *gate mark* or a *finishing mark* and a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule unless the course of another boat was affected by the breach of this rule.

Current Position

See current rule 18 as amended by Appendix C.

Reasons

1. The premise of the test rule was that the current rule 18 was too complex to apply in real time by both sailors and Umpires. Furthermore, the rules regarding mark rounding are too complex for spectators to understand.
2. This submission includes changes to the rules that are being tested since January 2015 and that were used in the 34th America's Cup and will be used in the 35th America's Cup.
3. The submission is a simpler rule and easier to understand.
4. The changes to the test package are as follows:

Definition Mark-Room: This includes clarification that any tack or gybe that is part of a boat's proper course should be performed the same way as if the boat was sailing a proper course. A boat that is entitled to mark-room and that has to tack to sail her proper course cannot simply tack aggressively.

Rule 18.2(b)

When a boat entitled to mark room leaves the zone of a mark, any entitlement ceases to apply. The new language makes it clear that when rule 18.2(a) is re-applied, it takes into account the relationship of the boats at the time the rule is re-applied and not the relationship of the boats when one first reached the zone of a mark.

Rule 18.3

- (1) The requirement to tack or gybe is amended to only needing to change tack. This is because the process of a tack or gybe are not defined and there was confusion as to the requirements. A 'tack' is defined. At a windward mark the requirement on the starboard tack boat is reduced to only having to change the windward side. This still preserves the objective of not having boats aiming towards each other while reducing the requirement on the starboard (ROW) boat.

5. New rule 18.3 Alternative 2:

External criticism suggests that a boat may break rule 18.3 while the other boat is a great distance away. This actually exists in the existing rules at a leeward mark but has seldom been an issue. Language has been added to state that a boat is only penalised for breaking rule 18.3 if another boat is affected by the breach of the rule. In simple terms, if a boat sails further from the mark, but the other boat is a great distance away so that she will not be influenced by the course, then the boat is not penalised for sailing further from the mark.
