

## ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



### Q&A 2009-004

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#### Question 1:

W gets increasingly closer to L. They are overlapped on the same tack. There is no contact. L protests under rule 11. In deciding whether W has kept clear, how is the protest committee to decide whether contact after a hypothetical course change by L is 'immediate'? A very gentle change of course might not result in contact for several seconds. A substantial movement of the helm might result in contact in less than a second.

#### Answer 1:

The protest committee should consider facts, such as distance between the boats, wind and sea conditions and the manoeuvrability of the boats, to decide if W kept clear. The shorter the time between L's change of course and contact, or the risk thereof, the more likely W did not keep clear at the time of L's change of course.

#### Question 2:

W gets increasingly closer to L. They are overlapped on the same tack. L changes course, and there is contact. L protests under rule 11, and W protests under rule 16.1. The protest committee decides that the contact was immediate. What is the decision?

#### Answer 2:

When there was (immediate) contact W failed to *keep clear* as per the definition. The decision will be to disqualify W for breaking rule 11.

When L changed course, she had an obligation under rule 16.1 to give W *room* to *keep clear*. If W had *room* to increase the separation between the boats, but made no attempt to do so, then L had complied with rule 16.1.