

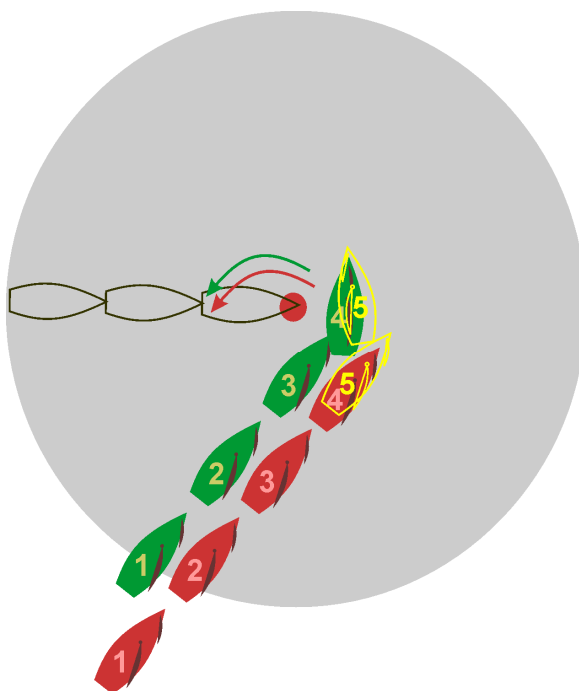
ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2009-017

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Situation



Two port-tack-boats are overlapped approaching the windward mark that should be rounded on port. The windward and inside boat (Green) is tacking to round the mark on her proper course. After Green passes head to wind (position 5), there is a minor contact between Green and Red.

The following comments have been made by the questioner leading to his questions below:

Up to position 4, Red has to give mark-room because of rule 18.2(a).

Mark-room includes the room to tack for the inside windward overlapped boat (see definition Mark-Room). After passing head to wind, the boats are not overlapped and rule 18.2(a) ceases to apply and rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply (See last sentence of rule 18.2(c)).

Question 1:

Does the outside boat (Red) break rule 18.2(a)?

Answer 1:

No.

It is clear from the diagram that when the first boat (Green) reaches the zone, she is either overlapped inside Red or she is clear ahead of Red. In either case, rule 18.2(b) applies and requires Red to give Green mark-room. Red breaks rule 18.2(b) at position 4, while the boats are on the same tack.

Question 2:

Is the breach of rule 13 by the inside boat (Green) exonerated by rule 18.5(a) or 18.5(b)?

Answer 2:

Green is exonerated under rule 18.5(b). Her breach of rule 13 (a rule of section A) while rounding the mark on her proper course results from Red's failure to give her mark-room while rule 18 applied.