

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2009-019

Published: 27 January 2009

Situation:

Fetching

A boat is *fetching* a *mark* when she is in a position to pass to windward of it and leave it on the required side without changing tack.

Question 1

Is there any distance limitation from the mark when the boat approaches it (let's say from one mile away)? Is she fetching the mark?

Answer 1

The definition Fetching does not include any distance limitation. A boat may be fetching a mark from one mile away.

In either of the two rules using the defined term Fetching, one boat must be fetching for that rule to apply between two boats. Whilst a boat may be fetching from a long distance, rules 18.3 and 20.3 will only become relevant if the boats referred to in the rule using the term are in close proximity to each other and a mark.

Question 2

Does the term "fetching" include only the approaching action of the boat from any distance?

Answer 2

The definition Fetching is based on a boat's position, and not on any action she is taking. It addresses a boat's ability to pass to windward of a mark from her current position. It is satisfied if the boat can pass to windward and on the required side of the mark without changing tack. The approach of the boat and how the boat passes the mark are the facts that a protest committee can use to determine if a boat was fetching the mark.

Question 3

Or does it include the action of passing the mark as well?

Answer 3

See the answer to question 2.

Question 4

If the answer to Question 3 is yes, does it include the whole rounding manoeuvre of the boat?

Answer 4

See the answer to question 2.

Question 5

If the answer to question 2 is yes, how and by whom can a dispute based on contradictory statements in a protest hearing be decided?

Answer 5

See the answer to question 2.