

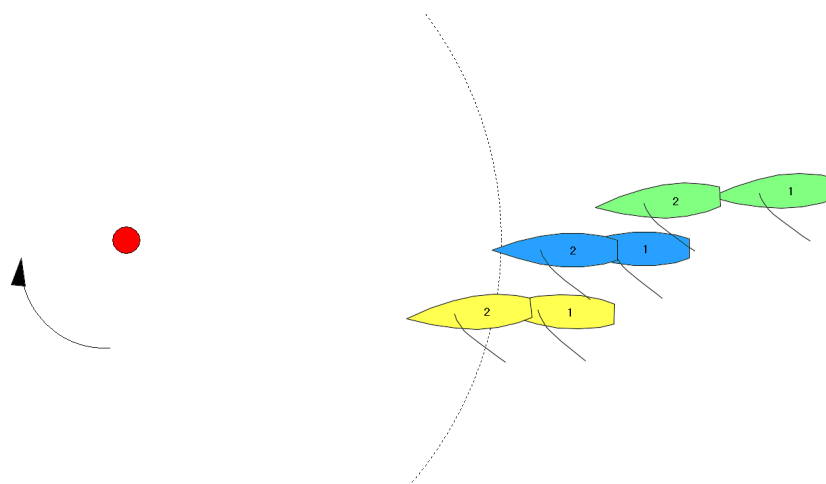
ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2009-024

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SCENARIO 1



POSITION 1

Yellow and Blue are overlapped when Yellow enters the zone. Green is clear astern of both, but moving faster.

POSITION 2

When Blue enters the zone Green and Blue are overlapped.

Assume there are no constraints on Yellow and she is free to bear away to give as much room as needed.

Question 1

Is Yellow now required to give more room to Blue so that Blue can fulfil her obligation to give mark-room to Green?

Answer 1:

No.

When Yellow reaches the zone, she owes Blue mark-room under rule 18.2(b)'s first sentence. However, when Yellow reaches the zone, Green owes Yellow mark-room under rule 18.2(b)'s second sentence.

Yellow is obliged to give Blue mark-room, but is under no obligation to give Green mark-room.

Green must keep clear of both Blue and Yellow under rule 11. Blue must keep clear of Yellow under rule 11.

No rule states that, when rule 18 applies, rule 19 does not.

Under rule 19.2(b) Green has an additional obligation, and that is to give Blue room to pass between herself and Yellow.

If Green tries to claim room inside Blue to round the mark, Yellow and Blue should let her in (so that neither Yellow nor Blue breaks rule 14) and then Yellow should protest Green for breaking rule 18.2(b) by forcing Yellow to sail a wider rounding than the rounding she would sail on her proper course (i.e., the course she would sail in the absence of Green to finish as soon as possible).

If Yellow protests Green, Green will be disqualified for breaking rule 18.2(b)'s second sentence and rule 18.2(c)'s first sentence by not giving Yellow mark-room while Yellow was at the mark.

Before Blue reaches the zone, Green establishes an inside overlap on Blue from clear astern. Green is now entitled to mark-room from Blue, provided Blue has been able to give it from the overlap began. At the same time, Green must give mark-room to Yellow, and Yellow has no obligation to give mark-room to Green. If Green attempts to take mark-room from Blue, and Blue is unable to give Green mark-room because of the proximity of Yellow, then Blue is not required to give Green mark-room (see rule 18.2(e)). If Green attempts to take mark-room from Blue, and Blue, in order to avoid Green, is compelled to break a rule, then Blue will be exonerated under rule 64.1(c).

Question 2

Is Green an obstruction to Blue? The definition would appear to indicate that this is the case as Blue is required to give mark-room to Green.

Answer 2:

No.

A boat racing is an obstruction to other boats when "they" (i.e. both of them) are required to keep clear, give room or give mark-room, etc. Yellow does not need to give Green mark-room; therefore Green is not an obstruction to Yellow and Blue and rule 19.2(b) does not apply.

Question 3

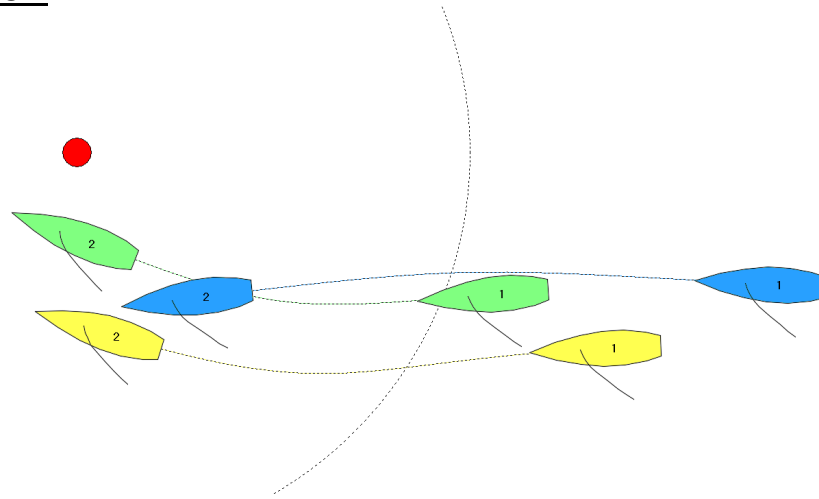
If Yellow bears away and gives room so both Blue and Green can pass the mark, has Green broken rule 18.2(b) in relation to Yellow?

answer 3:

Yes.

Because Green is required to give mark-room to Yellow, she breaks rule 18.2(b) and (c) when she causes Yellow to sail a wider course round the mark than her proper course. In addition, she breaks rule 11 by failing to keep clear as windward boat. Although Green is entitled to mark-room from Blue, she is not entitled to mark-room from Yellow so she cannot be exonerated for breaking rule 11 under rule 18.5.

SCENARIO 2



When Green enters the zone, Green and Yellow are overlapped.
When Yellow enters the zone, Blue is clear astern of both Green and Yellow.
At position 2 Blue becomes overlapped to windward of Yellow.

Question 1

Is Green an obstruction to Blue?

Answer 1:

Yes.

Green is an obstruction to Blue and Yellow. Yellow is also an obstruction to Blue and Green.

Question 2

If the answer to Question 1 is 'Yes', does Yellow now have to give room to Blue under 19.2(b)?

Answer 2:

Blue must give mark-room to both Yellow and Green.

No rule states that, when rule 18 applies, rule 19 does not.

When Blue becomes overlapped with Yellow, provided Blue is sailing to pass to leeward of Green, rule 19.2(b) requires Yellow to give Blue room to pass between Yellow and Green, provided that Yellow has been able to do so, starting from the time that Blue first overlapped Yellow. However, Blue must keep clear of Yellow under rule 11. If Yellow is clearly not giving room, then Blue should not go in but rather protest Yellow under rule 19.2(b).

Question 3

If Yellow gives room, would Blue be disqualified under rule 18.2(b) and (c) if Yellow protested?

Answer 3:

Yes.

Assume that Yellow is able to give Blue room to pass between Yellow and Green, starting from the time that Blue first overlapped Yellow.

If Blue goes between Yellow and Green, Blue risks disqualification under rule 18.2(b)'s second sentence and rule 18.2(c)'s first sentence. For Yellow to avoid breaking a rule, she must let Blue in between herself and Green, and she can then protest Blue under rule 18.2(b).

By sailing between Green and Yellow, Blue forces Yellow to sail a wider rounding than the rounding she would sail on her proper course (i.e., the course she would sail in the absence of Blue to finish as soon as possible). Therefore, by sailing between Green and Yellow, Blue breaks rule 18.2(b) by not giving Yellow mark-room while Yellow is at the mark.

By letting Blue in between herself and Green, Yellow avoids breaking either rule 19.2(b) or rule 14.

If Yellow then protests Blue, Blue will be disqualified for breaking rule 18.2(b)'s second sentence and rule 18.2(c)'s first sentence.

Question 4

If the answer to Question 2 and 3 is 'Yes', then how can you justify disqualifying a boat when, although she has broken a rule, she is only asking another boat to comply with a different rule?

Answer 4:

The situation is similar to what happens when a boat (L) comes in to leeward of another (W) and rule 17 applies. Rule 11 gives L the right of way; but rule 17 requires L not to sail above her proper course. If L sails above her proper course, W still needs to keep clear (i.e. comply with rule 11); but L should be disqualified for breaking rule 17. If W fails to keep clear and L sails above her proper course, they will both be disqualified.