

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



B 018

Q&A 2010-24

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Situation

Two Farr 45's are approaching a windward mark in flat seas, wind force three, at approximately 7 – 7.5 knots

Blue is fetching the mark on starboard tack.

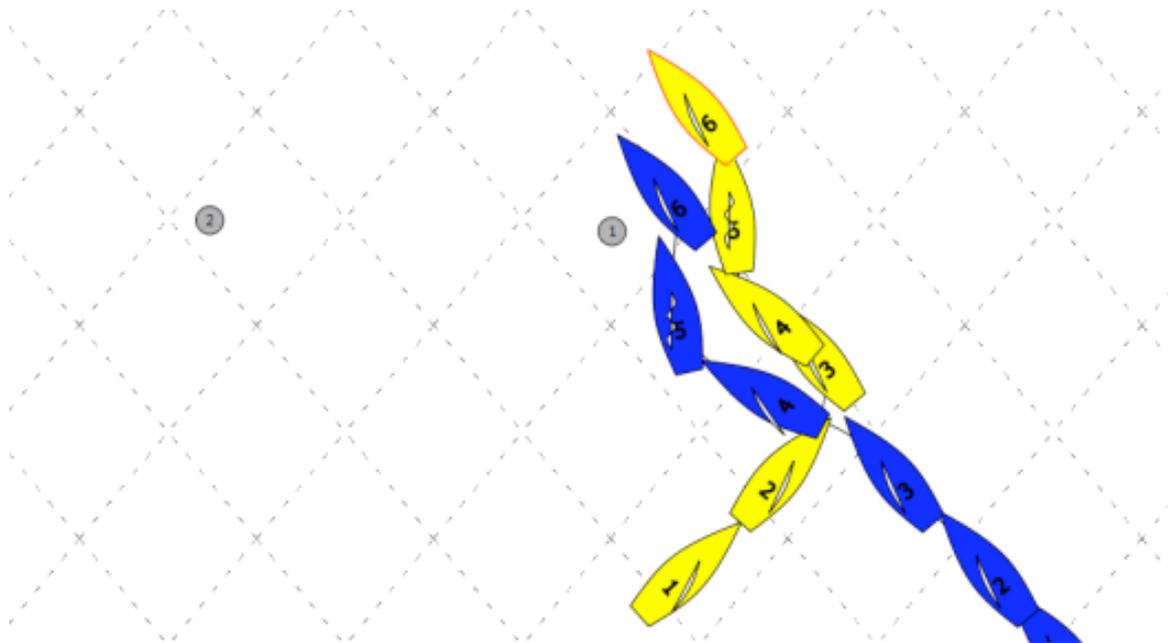
Yellow, approaching on port tack, tacks onto starboard tack within the zone and comes onto a close-hauled course on the layline to the mark. Yellow's tack causes her to slow down and Blue is forced to bear away below Yellow to avoid contact. Blue is then unable to lay the mark directly.

Blue luffs above close-hauled to round the mark. In doing so she slows down.

Yellow responds to the luff and bears away onto the new course keeping clear of Blue.

Blue is able to round the mark and bears away onto the new course.

There was no contact between Blue and Yellow.



Question 1

Does rule 18.2(a) apply from the time Blue establishes the overlap?

Answer 1

No. Rule 18.3 applies. When rule 18.3 applies, rule 18.2 does not thereafter apply. See rule 18.3.

Question 2

Rule 18.3(b) requires Yellow to give Blue mark-room when Blue becomes overlapped inside her. Did Yellow give Blue room to sail to the mark as defined in Mark-Room?

Answer 2

Yes. Once Blue became overlapped inside Yellow, Yellow must give Blue room to sail to the mark. Blue needed to sail above a close-hauled course to sail to the mark and Yellow gave Blue the room needed.

Question 3

If the answer is no, is this a breach of rule 18.3?

Answer 3

Not applicable.

Question 4

Can a case be made that Blue could not sail her proper course when at the mark because of the actions of Yellow, and that she therefore was unable to finish 'as soon as possible'?

Answer 4

No. Blue became right-of-way boat the moment the overlap was established. Yellow was required to keep clear of Blue, and to give room for Blue to sail to the mark, and then room to sail her proper course while at the mark. Yellow kept clear of Blue and gave Blue room to bear away to sail her proper course at the mark. The fact that Blue had to sail below her proper course to keep clear of Yellow before the overlap was established is not relevant.

Question 5

Would it then be the case that Blue was prevented from sailing her proper course while at the mark?

Answer 5

Not applicable.

Question 6

Is the effect of questions 4 and 5 above that there is a breach of rule 18.3?

Answer 6

No.

Question 7

Was Blue 'at the mark'

- a. when she was obliged to bear away at position 3?
- b. when her bow was close to the mark at position 5?

Answer 7

A boat will normally be 'at the mark' when she is close to it and her next action will be to change course to round it. This will then be her proper course. In this case, that would happen at position 5.