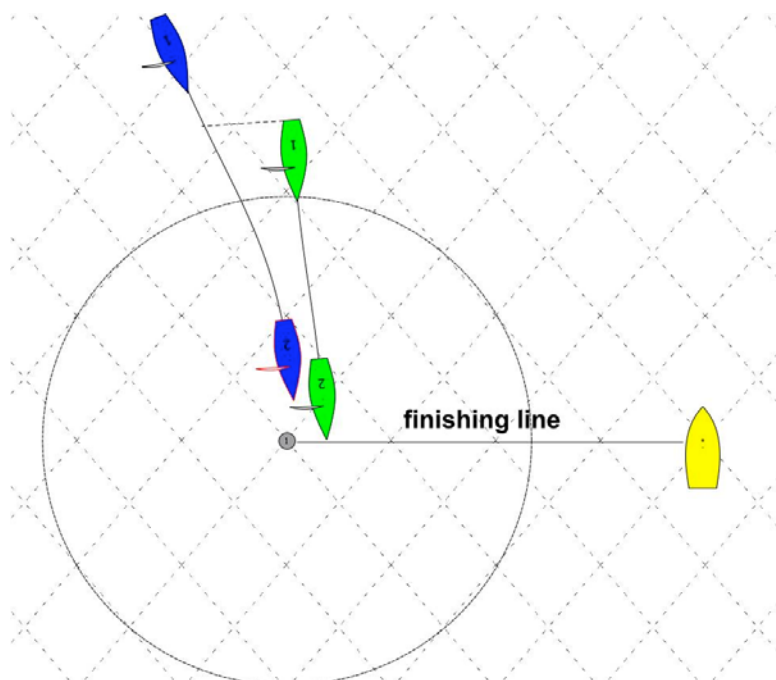


ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2010-009

Published: 15 February 2010



Situation:

Green and Blue on port tack are approaching the starboard end of a downwind finishing line. Green is clear ahead of Blue at the zone. Green sails directly to the finishing mark. Blue establishes a leeward overlap without breaking rule 15. Blue then has to change course to avoid Green.

Question 1:

Does Blue break rule 18.2(b)?

Answer 1:

No. Green has chosen to cross the finishing line close to the mark. Green is entitled to mark-room, which means room to sail to the mark. Blue gives mark-room by changing course to avoid Green.

Question 2:

Will Green be exonerated under rule 18.5(a) for her breach of rule 11?

Answer 2:

Yes.

Question 3:

Would the answers be different if there was contact that both boats could have avoided?

Answer 3:

Unless there was contact with damage or injury, neither boat would be penalized for the breach of rule 14, because Blue was right-of-way boat and Green was entitled to mark-room. However, if Blue did not change course and there was contact, she would have broken the second sentence of rule 18.2(b) by not giving Green mark-room.