



ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

B 025

Q&A 2012-009

Published: 29 October 2012

Situation

L and W are sailing by the lee on starboard tack in open water and light winds. W is one and a half hull lengths to windward of L. Both boats are sailing steady courses. Without changing course L suddenly tipped over to windward, his mast hitting and damaging W's tiller extension.

Question 1

Did L break rule 14?

Answer 1

Yes. It was reasonably possible for L to avoid contact and she didn't.

Question 2

Did L break any other rule?

Answer 2

No.

Question 3

Did W break any rules such as rule 11?

Answer 3

No. W was keeping clear and did not break rule 11. Applying the definition Keep Clear, L could sail her course before she tipped over, with no need to take avoiding action, and, with one and a half hull lengths between the hulls, any change of course by L would not have resulted in immediate contact because the leeward boat could change her course in both directions before starting capsizing. In addition, it was not reasonable possible for W to avoid contact with L; therefore W did not break rule 14.