

**The Case Book**

## New Case

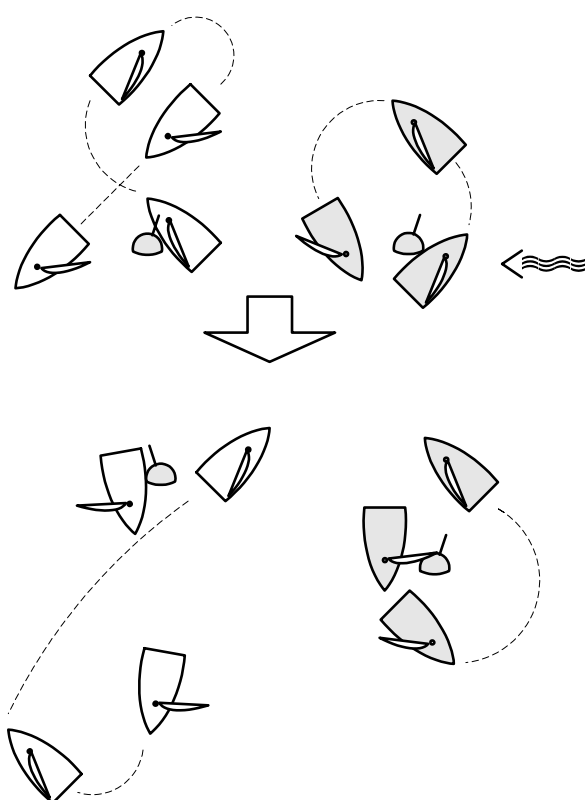
A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

**Proposal:****Rule 28.1, Sailing the Course****Rule 31.2, Touching a Mark**

*When exonerating after touching a mark, a boat need not complete a full 360<sup>0</sup> turn. Her turn to round the mark may also rank as her exoneration if it includes a tack and a gybe, if it is carried out clear of other boats, and when no question of advantage arises.*

**Question**

In each of the illustrated situations, a boat touches a mark to be left to port. Has she complied with both rules 28.1 and 31.2?

**Answer**

Yes. The rule requires a competitor in breach of rule 31.1 to take a penalty after getting well clear of other boats as soon as possible, by promptly making one turn including a tack and a

gybe. There is no requirement to turn any particular number of degrees and no prohibition against taking the penalty in the course of another manoeuvre, such as rounding the mark.

Provided that boat is well clear of other boats before making a turn including a tack and gybe, she has complied with that part of the rule.

However, the rule also provides that if a boat gains a significant advantage in the race or series by touching a mark her penalty is to retire.

Case RYA 2005/4

*Current Position:*

None

*Reason:*

To show how a penalty turn need not now be a full 360 degrees as long as it includes a tack and a gybe.