

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To provide a clear example of how rule 43.1(b), Exoneration, applies in a common situation on the starting line.

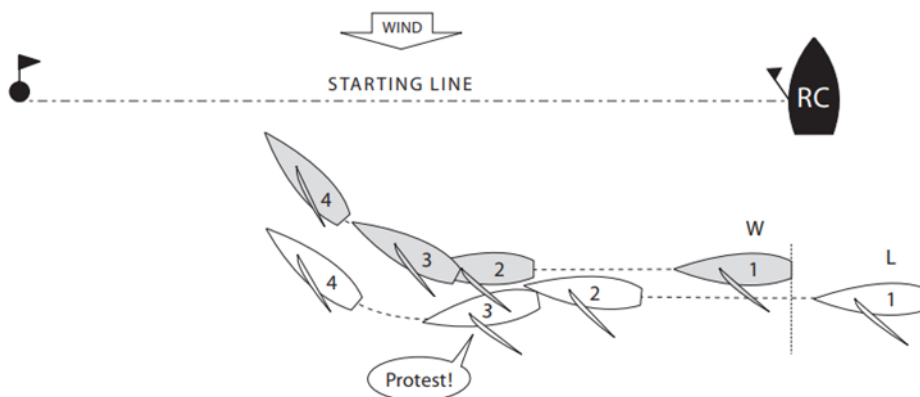
Proposal

CASE XXX

Rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped

Rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way

Rule 43.1(b), Exoneration



A right-of-way boat's obligation to give room under rule 15 does not begin until she becomes the right-of-way boat. At that time she must then do what is necessary to give the keep clear boat room to keep clear. If, while the right-of-way boat is maneuvering to give room, the keep-clear boat is briefly breaking a rule of Section A, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b).

Facts and Protest Committee Decision

Before the starting signal, two J/30s (L and W) were reaching below the starting line with W clear ahead (position 1). Between positions 1 and 2, L was sailing slightly faster than W. At position 2, L established an overlap to leeward of W with L's bow so close to W that, at that moment, L could not change course by heading up without making immediate contact with W. However, immediately after the overlap began, W headed up and L bore away and there was no contact. L protested W under rule 11.

The protest committee disqualified L for acquiring the right of way (at position 3) and failing to give W room to keep clear under rules 15. It found that W was exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for her breach of rule 11 at position 3. L appealed.

Current Position

None. The case is new.

Reasons

1. In this common situation on the starting line, it is common for sailors and race officials to not consider rule 43.1(b), Exoneration.
 2. The result is often one boat, or the other is penalized when in fact neither boat should be.
 3. This Case illustrates the correct rules interpretations and applications.
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