

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case based on Q&A B006

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To propose a new case based on a World Sailing Q&A.

Proposal

CASE XXX

Definitions, Keep Clear

Definition, Room

Rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way

Rule 16.1, Changing Course

Rule 21(a), Exoneration

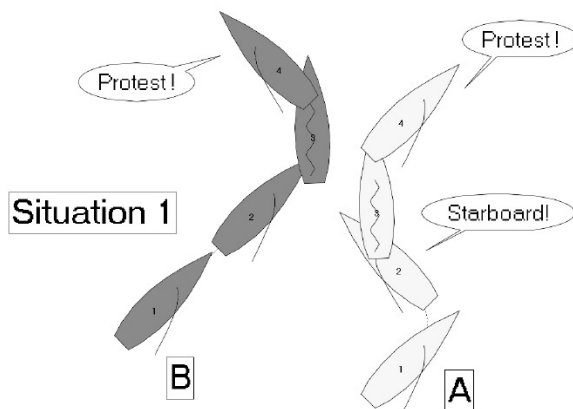
After a boat becomes obligated by rule 15 or rule 16.1 to give another boat room to keep clear, she complies with that requirement if she immediately acts to give that room.

Assumed Facts

In all four situations below, there is no contact between Boats A and B, and all manoeuvres by B are carried out in a seamanlike way.

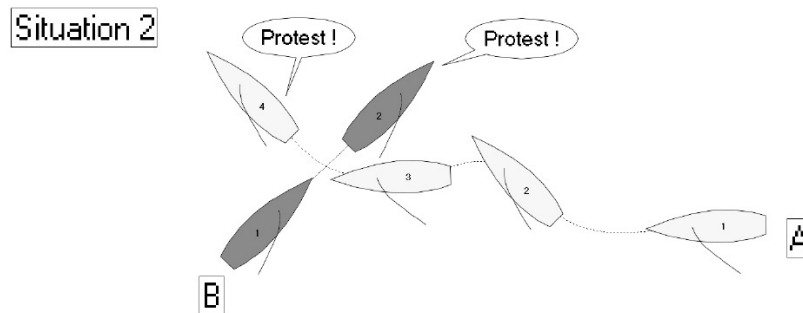
Situation 1

At position 2 A completes a tack onto starboard tack so close to B that A cannot sail straight ahead without hitting B, and, if A had sailed straight ahead, B could not have avoided contact by manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way. However, instead of sailing straight ahead, A immediately luffs and tacks to give B room to keep clear. A protests B under rule 10 and B protests A under rule 15.

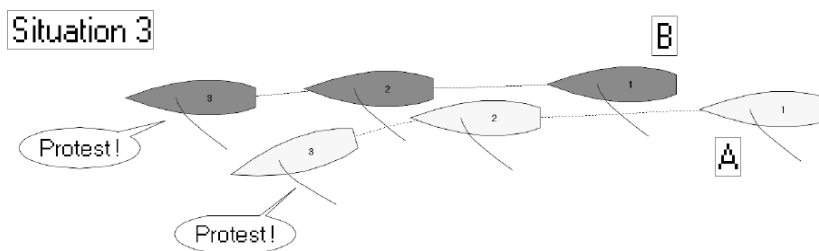


Situation 2

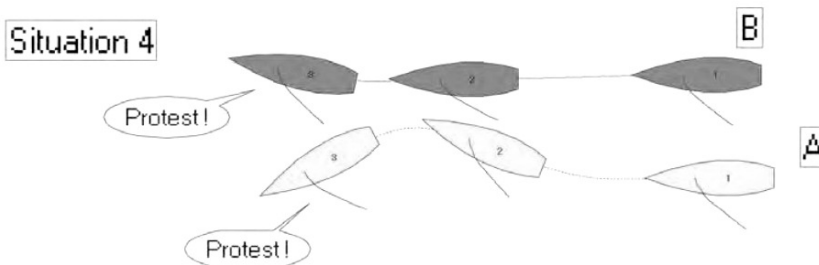
At position 1 B on port tack is clearly crossing A on starboard tack. Just before position 2 A luffs so close to B that A cannot sail straight ahead without hitting B, and, if A had sailed straight ahead, B could not have avoided contact by manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way. However, instead of sailing straight ahead, A immediately bears away to give B room to keep clear. A protests B under rule 10 and B protests A under rule 16.1.

Situation 3

At position 1 A is overtaking B from clear astern. At position 2 A establishes an overlap on B so close to B that A cannot luff without making immediate contact with B. However, instead of luffing, A immediately bears away to give B room to keep clear. A protests B under rule 11 and B protests A under rule 15.

Situation 4

A and B are overlapped, with B to windward of A. Just before position 2 A luffs quickly, and before B can move away from A in a seamanlike way, the boats are so close that A cannot sail straight ahead without hitting B. However, instead of sailing straight ahead, A immediately bears away to give B room to keep clear. A protests B under rule 11 and B protests A under rule 16.1.



Question 1

How do the rules apply to A in each of these situations?

Answer 1

In Situations 1 and 3, at position 2 A acquires right of way because of her own actions. At that moment rule 15 begins to apply. It states that A 'shall initially give [B] *room to keep clear*'. A complies with rule 15's requirement immediately after reaching position 2 by changing course to increase the separation between the boats, which gives B room to keep clear.

In Situations 2 and 4, when A changes course between positions 1 and 2 rule 16.1 begins to apply. It requires A to 'give [B] *room to keep clear*'. A complies with rule 16.1's requirement immediately after position 2 by bearing away to increase the separation between the boats, which gives B room to keep clear.

Therefore, A did not break either rule 15 or 16.1 in any of the four situations, and all protests by B against A would be dismissed.

Question 2

How do the rules apply to B in each of these situations?

Answer 2

At position 2 in Situations 1, 2 and 4 A could not have sailed straight ahead on the course she was on with no need to act to avoid B. At position 2 in Situation 3, A could not change course by luffing without immediately making contact with B. However, in Situations 1, 2 and 4 A did not sail straight ahead after reaching position 2, and in Situation 3 A did not luff. Instead, immediately after position 2 in Situations 1, 2 and 4 A changed course to comply with rule 15 or 16.1 and the result of that action was that she had no need to act to avoid B. Also, immediately after position 2 in Situation 3 A bore away to comply with rule 15.1 and the result of that action was that she could change course in both directions without making contact with B.

Therefore, B did not break either rule 10 or 11 in any of the four situations, and all protests by A against B would be dismissed.

If A had not changed course to comply with rule 15 or rule 16.1 so that B was not able to keep clear, B would have broken rule 10 or 11. However, she would have been exonerated under rule 21(a) because she was sailing within the room to which she was entitled under rule 15 or 16.1.

World Sailing 2017

Current Position

None. The case is new. However, it is based on current World Sailing Q&A B006.

Reason

This case answers questions that frequently arise in protests involving rules 15 and 16.1. It should, therefore, be helpful both to competitors and race officials.
