Racing Rules of Sailing

New Call MR E10

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To create a new Match Racing Call based on an existing Rapid Response Call as required by World Sailing Regulations.

Proposal

MR CALL E 10

Rule 18.1   When Rule 18 Applies
Rule 18.2   Giving Mark-Room

Question

Blue and Yellow approach the windward mark on port tack with Blue overlapped to windward at the zone. The mark is to be rounded to starboard.

Instead of rounding the mark, both boats slow down and continue sailing to windward. At position 3 Yellow leaves the zone while clear ahead of Blue. Blue remains inside the zone.

As the boats bear away they become overlapped again, this time with Yellow overlapped outside Blue.

At position 5 there is a Y-flag from Yellow. What should the call be?

Answer
Display the green and white flag.

When Yellow first enters the zone overlapped inside Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(1). However, Yellow’s entitlement to mark-room ceases at position 3 when she leaves the zone; see rule 18.2(b). At this point the boats are not overlapped.

As Blue remains in the zone she is considered the first boat to reach the zone when rule 18.2(a) is re-applied. Blue is therefore entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2). Yellow gives mark-room to Blue.

Reason

1. The call provides an interpretation for a situation that is not clearly answered in the rules.

2. Rule C2.9 – 18.2(c) addresses the situation where a boat entitled to mark-room leaves the zone and what the situation thereafter is while the boats are still at the mark. It answers the question: ‘Who is now the first boat in the zone’ relative to the application of rule 18.2(a).