Racing Rules of sailing

Rule 18.2(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

**Purpose or Objective**

To reword rule 18.2(c)(2) to avoid different interpretations.

**Proposal**

Amend rule 18.2(c) as follows;

18.2 (c) When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b),

1. she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins;

2. if she becomes overlapped inside the boat entitled to mark-room, she shall also give that boat room to sail her proper course while **rule 18.2(b) still applies and** they remain overlapped.

However, if the boat entitled to mark-room passes head to wind or leaves the zone, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

**Current Position**

As above.

**Reasons**

1. The current wording of rule 18.2(c)(2) leads to two different interpretations.

   a) Once rule 18.2(c)(2) is 'connected', the rule extends its application to 'while the boats remain overlapped', regardless the mark-room has been already given and therefore rule 18.2(b) is not relevant any longer.

   b) The first sentence in rule 18.2(c) makes reference to 'when a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b)' so rule 18.2(c)(2) is read to mean that as soon as rule 18.2(b) entitled to mark-room has been given the room she needs in accordance to the definition, rule 18.2(b) does not apply anymore and therefore rule 18.2(c)(2) stops applying too.

2. The proposed wording makes it clear that the obligation to give room to sail her proper course stop applying once the mark-room has been given and rule 18.2(b) stops applying.