Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Team Racing – Delete TR Call B8

A submission from the Chairman of The Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective
To correct a mistake in the current Call Book.

Proposal
Delete team racing Call B8.

Current Position

CALL B8

Rule 19.2 Giving Room at an Obstruction
Definitions Obstruction

Question
Shortly before the start, B and Y, both on starboard, are approximately stationary near the starting line. A and X are approaching close hauled with A clear ahead of X when A is two lengths away from B’s transom. A then luffs slightly, causing X to luff and establish an overlap to windward of A. X has the opportunity to tack, but instead hails A for room to pass to leeward of B. A does not give X room, and there is contact between X’s bows and B’s transom. B protests. What should the call be?

Answer
Penalize A.
When two boats are approaching an obstruction, even if that obstruction is a right-of-way boat, rule 19.2 determines an inside boat’s right to room.

The boats become overlapped at position 2. When A chooses to pass to leeward of B, she is required by 19.2(b) to give X room to pass between her and B. A is able to give X room from the time the overlap began, so breaks rule 19.2(b) when she fails to give room.

A boat racing is an obstruction for other boats if they are required to keep clear of her. In such a case, rule 19 may apply.

Reason

The call as written is incorrect and conflicting with other interpretations.