Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 18.2(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify the obligation on a boat required to give mark-room consequent on the proposed change to the definition Mark-Room.

Proposal

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.

(b) If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.

(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 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.

(d) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

(e) If a boat obtained an inside overlap from clear astern and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat has been unable to give mark-room, she is not required to give it.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons
The new rule 18.2(c)(2) prevents a boat required to give mark-room from acquiring any rights or obstructing the boat entitled to mark-room if she becomes inside the other boat. It also puts a limit on the action that the boat entitled to mark-room may take when the boat required to give mark-room attempts to take advantage of space left between her and the mark by the boat entitled to mark-room.

The (1)(2) sub-division of rule 18.2(c) is added to make the rule easier to read.

* It makes clear that the first line applies equally to both (1) and (2)
* It helps clarify that the 'However' sentence applies to all earlier text in the rule
* The rule can only apply when rule 18.2(b) applies as the first line is specific to that rule; therefore it is not necessary to turn off 18.2(c) in the last line.

This submission was prepared by the ISAF Section C Working Party. It is integral with the submission to change the definition Mark-Room.