A submission from the Chairman of Racing Rules Committee

**Purpose or Objective**

2017-2020 RRS moved the reference regarding the boat fetching the mark from the boat that is rounding the mark without the need to tack and to the boat that had to tack to round the mark. This changed the generally understood requirements of the rule.

This submission tries to simplify the rule for sailors and officials.

**Proposal**

Amend rule 18.3 as follows:

18.3  **Tacking in the Zone**

If a boat in the zone of a mark to be left to port passes head to wind from port to starboard tack and is then fetching the mark, she shall not cause a boat that has been on starboard tack since entering the zone to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give mark-room if that boat becomes overlapped inside her. When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

**Current Position**

As above

**Reasons**

1. The change would simplify the requirements on the boats in this situation.

2. The only test for this rule to apply is if only one boat tacked from port to starboard. If this is the case, the rule is clear on the requirements of that boat that tacked. If both boats tacked, then this rule would no longer apply and the basic mark rounding rule would apply.

3. This deals with the rarely seen circumstances of boats below the mark but in the zone as well as if both boats end up having to tack.