Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 19.2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose

To clarify when the last sentence of current rule 19.2(c) applies.

Proposal

Change rule 19.2 as follows:

19.2  Giving Room at an Obstruction

(a)  A right-of-way boat may choose to pass an obstruction on either side.

(b)  When boats are overlapped, the outside boat shall give the inside boat room between her and the obstruction, unless she has been unable to do so from the time the overlap began.

(c)  While boats are passing a continuing obstruction, if a boat that was clear astern and required to keep clear becomes overlapped between the other boat and the obstruction and, at the moment the overlap begins, there is not room for her to pass between them,

(1)  she is not entitled to room under rule 19.2(b), and

(2)  while the boats remain overlapped, she shall keep clear and rules 10 and 11 do not apply.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

Current rule 19.2(c) is ambiguous in that it is not clear whether or not the boats must still be passing a continuing obstruction in order for the rule’s last sentence to apply. The proposal removes the ambiguity and makes it clear that the current rule’s last sentence applies only while the boats are passing the continuing obstruction.