

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 18.2(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose

To provide answers to questions about rules 18.2(b) and 18.2(c) that are often asked by competitors and race officials.

Proposal

Change the last paragraph of rule 18.2(c) as follows:

However, ~~when~~ ~~if~~ the boat entitled to *mark-room* **has been given that room, or if she** passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*, ~~rules rule~~ 18.2(b) **and 18.2(c) cease** ~~ceases~~ to apply.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

Two questions about rule 18.2(b) and 18.2(c) are frequently asked:

- ‘If a boat is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(b) or 18.2(c) and she has received that room while still in the zone, do those rules still apply?’
- ‘If a boat in the zone becomes entitled to room under rule 18.2(c)(2), when does she cease to be entitled to that room?’

The proposed addition to the last sentence of rule 18.2(c) answers both those questions.

In 2013 the Q&A Panel was asked to answer a question about an incident involving two catamarans at a windward offset mark. In order to answer the question, the panel was, in essence, forced to answer both of the above questions. Their answer is in current Q&A B 005. At the time that the Q&A Panel answered that question, members of the Q&A Panel suggested that a change be made in rule 18.2(c). The change they suggested was very nearly the same as that proposed in this submission.
