Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing, New Call UMP 40

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee,

Proposal

Insert new Match Racing Call UMP 40:

UMP CALL 40

Rule 11 On the Same Tack; Overlapped
Rule 17 On the Same Tack; Proper Course
Definitions Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

Question 1
Yellow and Blue are sailing downwind with Yellow overlapped to windward of Blue. Rule 17 does not apply. Both boats are sailing well above what the umpires consider a proper course. Yellow is keeping clear. Green, a boat in another match, is sailing lower and slower than Blue and Yellow.

Yellow establishes an overlap on Green from clear astern. Because Yellow is between Green and Blue, all three boats now become overlapped. Blue continues to sail what the umpires consider to be above her proper course.

Green luffs to avoid Yellow and displays a Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer 1
When the overlap is established (by Yellow) Blue is more than two of her hull lengths from Green and therefore has no proper course restriction. Yellow is sailing a proper course to keep clear of Blue. No rule is broken. Display the green and white flag.
**Question 2**

Would the answer be any different if only Yellow displayed a Y-flag?

**Answer 2**

No.

**Current Position**

This is currently ISAF Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2008.003.

**Reason**

This is a situation that sometimes occurs in match racing. The call clarifies that both Blue and Yellow become overlapped with Green at the time when Yellow establishes her overlap with Green from clear astern and within two of Yellow’s hull lengths. Although Yellow is restricted by rule 17 with respect to Green, Blue is not, because when the overlap with Green is established, Blue is more than two of her hull lengths from Green. The call also illustrates that proper course for a boat under one rule with respect to another boat can be impacted by her obligations under another rule with a different boat.