Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing, New Call UMP 41

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee,

Proposal

Insert new Match Racing Call UMP 41:

CALL UMP 41

Rule 17 On the same Tack; Proper Course

Rule 18 Mark-Room

Rule 18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18.4 Gybing

Definitions Proper Course

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Question 1

Yellow and Blue enter the zone of the leeward mark overlapped with Blue as the inside right-of-way boat. Rule 17 does not apply, however, as proper course at the mark includes a gybe, rule 18.4 applies to Blue. Because of strong current and light wind, Blue’s proper course would take her outside the zone before she gynes and heads back to the mark. When Blue reaches the point where her proper course is to gybe, both boats are outside the zone.

Is Blue still required by rule 18.4 to gybe at that moment? (Position 3)
Answer 1

No. When both boats have left the zone rule 18, including rule 18.4, no longer applies and therefore Blue is no longer required by rule 18.4 to gybe.

Question 2

Would the answer be the same if rule 17 applied to Blue?

Answer 2

No, rule 17 is not dependant on whether or not rule 18 applies. When rule 17 applies it requires Blue to not sail above her proper course, so in this situation she must gybe when her proper course is to gybe even though both boats are outside the zone.

Current Position

As above. This is currently ISAF Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2009.003 – edited as indicated.

Reason

This call focuses on two important points to consider when properly applying rule 18.4. First, there may be good reason for the inside overlapped right-of-way boat to delay gybing at a mark. Second, rule 18.4 ceases to apply when neither boat remains in the zone and in this case, before the inside boat must gybe to sail her proper course.