Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Team Racing, New Call J8

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee, after a Proposal from the Match & Team Racing Rules Working Party.

Proposal
Insert new Team Racing Call J8:

CALL J8

Rule 17 Proper course

Question

Approaching a leeward mark to be left to port, White establishes a leeward overlap on Grey from clear astern before Grey enters the zone.

White then gybes onto port and, while still overlapped, gybes back onto starboard.

White does not round the mark but continues on starboard, thereby sailing above a proper course.

Grey makes a valid protest. What should the call be?

Answer

No penalty.
When White first establishes the overlap, she is subject to rule 17 and may not sail above a proper course.

Once White gybes, rule 17 no longer applies as the boats are on opposite tacks.

When White returns to starboard tack – rule 17 does not apply because once rule 17 has been switched off it never gets switched back on again during the same overlap.

White is entitled to sail above her proper course.

Current Position
This is currently ISAF Rapid Response Team Racing Call 2009.002.

Reason
To make it clear that although the boats remain overlapped, rule 17 will not apply, and that when rule 17 does not apply, the rules do not require the leeward boat to sail her proper course round the mark.