Racing Rules of Sailing

Team Racing Call L4

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Proposal

Delete existing team racing call L4 and replace with the following

**CALL L4**

**Rule 11** On the Same Tack, Overlapped

**Rule 17** On the Same Tack; Proper Course

**Rule D1.2(a)** Rules between Team-Mates

**Definitions** Proper Course

**Question 1**
A is sailing to get clear in order to take a penalty. B is overlapped to leeward of both A and X and subject to rule 17 for both overlaps. B and X are both sailing proper courses and B will make contact with A if she maintains her course. B luffs when she is two lengths from A and as a result B and X pass astern of A. X keeps clear of B and protests. What should the call be?

**Answer 1**
Penalize A. A is overlapped to windward of B and is required to keep clear of her. As B has to luff to avoid A, A fails to keep clear and breaks rule 11.

Although the incident is between A and B, which are boats on the same team, it also involves X. It is only because A breaks rule 11 that B’s proper course is to luff to avoid her and this luff directly affects X. If A was keeping clear of B, B’s luff would break rule 17. Therefore rule D1.2(a) does not apply and A is penalized.

**Question 2**
The circumstances in question 1 are the same, except that rule 17 does not apply between B and X, and applies only between A and B. What should the call be?
Answer 2
No Penalty. With reference to her overlap with X, B has right of way and is not restricted by rule 17; therefore the umpires cannot assume that B’s change of course is caused by the proximity of A. Although rule 17 applies between B and A, B complies with the rule as, when she luffs, she promptly sails astern of A.

When a boat changes course to avoid another boat on her team, if she only does so because the other boat is breaking a rule and as a direct result a boat on another team must change course, the incident is not solely between boats on the same team and rule D1.2(a) does not apply.

Current Position:

CALL L4

Rule 17  On the Same Tack; Proper Course
Rule 21.2 Taking a Penalty
Definitions Obstruction
Definitions Proper Course

Question 1

A is ahead of B and X, and is taking a penalty. B and X, both sailing proper courses, are overlapped, and B may sail above her proper course. B and A will make contact if B maintains her course. B luffs X when they are three lengths from A, and as a result B and X pass astern of A. X protests. What should the call be?

Answer 1

No penalty.
B is entitled to luff and sail above her proper course.
**Question 2**

If the circumstances are the same except that B does not have luffing rights, what should the call be?

**Answer 2**

A is a keep clear boat and not an obstruction to B nor X. B is not entitled to sail above her proper course. However, in the absence of X, B would still have luffed, so she does not break rule 17 by luffing. No penalty.

**Reason**

The revised call includes an improved diagram and clarifies the application of rule 17 on the overlap between B and X. The call also clarifies that rule D1.2(a) does not apply when one of the team mate boats breaks a rule and, as a direct result, a boat on another team must alter course.