Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule C2.6(a)

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To remove the use of “keep clear” in a part 2, section C rule and simplify the rules when a boat changes tack inside the zone.

Proposal

C2.6  Rule 18.3 is changed to

If two boats were on opposite tacks and one of them changes tack and as a result is subject to rule 13.1 in the zone when the other is fetching the mark, rule 18.2 does not thereafter apply. If, once the boat that changed tack has completed her tack,

(a) the other boat cannot by luffing avoid becoming overlapped inside her, she is entitled to mark-room; the boat that changed tack shall keep clear and rule 15 does not apply;

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

A key aim with the revisions of Section C from the previous to the current rulebook was to avoid rules in Section C that change the right of way, but to keep that concept only in Section A. However, rule C2.6, which is a change to a Section C rule, changes the right of way. So this is inconsistent with the other rules in that section and contrary to the revision of Section C.

From a practical point of view, this submission simplifies the rule by removing two clauses without introducing any game change. First, the boat that is fetching the mark will be leeward when or right after the tacking boat completes; and then rule 11 will apply which implies that the boat that tacked has to keep clear anyway. Second, when the boat that was fetching the mark is entitled to mark-room, she will be exonerated for breaking rule 15. So the reference to that rule is not necessary.