

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify when a boat entitled to mark-room under rules 18.2b) and (c) has been given room to leave a mark on the required side.

Proposal

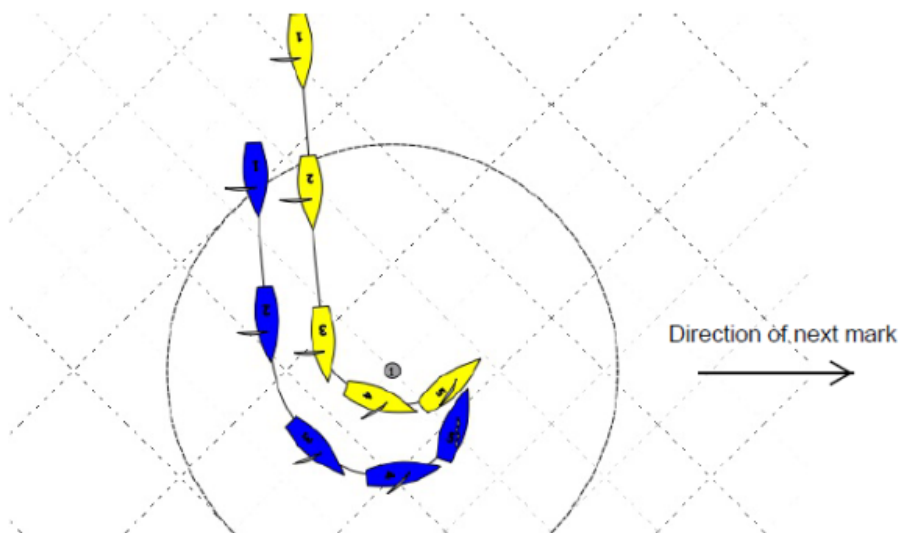
CASE XXX

Definition, Mark-room

Rule 18.2, Giving Mark-room

Rule 21, Exoneration

An obligation to give mark-room continues until the entitled boat has passed the mark, leaving it on the required side. The definition of mark-room defines the space a boat is required to give, and the other boat is only exonerated under rule 21 if she is sailing within that space.



Facts

The course to mark 1 is a run and the course from it is a beam reach. Blue reaches the zone clear ahead of Yellow and rounds the mark wide. At position 3 Yellow becomes overlapped with Blue. At position 4 Blue is more than one length to leeward of the mark when Yellow, alongside the mark, luffs round the mark inside Blue. After position 4 Blue luffs quickly; Yellow responds promptly but at position 5 is unable to keep clear.

Both boats protest.

Question 1

Is Yellow required to continue to give Blue mark-room after position 3, and does she fulfil this requirement?

Answer 1

Yes.

Yellow is required to give Blue mark-room under rule 18.2(b). This includes room for Blue to leave the mark on the required side, which she has not completed at position 4.

Between position 4 and 5 Yellow gives Blue room to complete her passing of the mark, and also gives her room to sail her proper course in compliance with rule 18.2(c)(2).

Question 2

Which boat is penalised and which boat is exonerated at position 5?

Answer 2

Blue is penalised and Yellow is exonerated.

After position 3, Blue's proper course is no longer to sail close to the mark. Therefore the mark-room to which she is entitled does not include sailing to the mark and, when she luffs from position 4 to position 5 without giving Yellow room to keep clear, she breaks rule 16.1 and is not exonerated under rule 21(a).

Before Blue luffs, Yellow is keeping clear. When Blue luffs, Yellow is entitled to room from Blue to keep clear. Yellow is therefore exonerated under rule 21(a) for breaking rule 11 at position 5.

The answer would be the same if Yellow had been able to keep clear of Blue at position 5, but only by making contact with the mark. Blue would have broken rule 16.1 and Yellow would have been exonerated under rule 21(b) for her breach of rule 31.

Current Position

None.

Reason

- 1 To clarify when a boat entitled to mark-room under rules 18.2(b) and (c) has been given room to leave a mark on the required side and when she may be exonerated under rule 21.
 - 2 This submission responds to the request from Racing Rules Committee in November 2017 to create a new case based on team racing call H5, published in the 2018 supplement to the Team Racing Call Book.
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