Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule C2.9, MR Call E9

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Following the improvement to rule 18, in approved submission 188-18, the MRRWP reviewed C2.9 and has made similar improvement to when mark-room no longer applies and in regards to exoneration for a breach of rule 18.3.

Proposal 1

C2.9 – Change 18.1 to:

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a mark on the same side and at least one of them is in the zone. However, it does not apply between a boat approaching a mark and one leaving it. Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when mark-room has been given and the boat entitled to mark-room has cleared the mark and is on the next leg.

Proposal 2

C2.9 – Change 18.3 to:

18.3 Tacking or Gybing

(a) If mark-room for a boat includes a change of tack, such tack or gybe shall be done no faster than a tack or gybe to sail her proper course.

(b) When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must change tack at a mark to sail her proper course, until she changes tack she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3(b) does not apply at a gate mark or a finishing mark and a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule unless the course of another boat was affected by the breach of this rule.

Proposal 3

MR Call E9, Change answer to:

Answer

Yes. When Yellow first enters the zone clear ahead of Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2). Rule 18 ceased to apply when Yellow cleared the mark and was on the next leg (see rule C9 18.1). Yellow’s entitlement to mark-room ceases at position 1 when she leaves the zone, under rule 18.2(c). At this point the boats are not overlapped.

When Yellow left the zone, the boats were not overlapped. As Blue remains in the zone she is considered the first boat to reach the zone when rule 18.2(a) is re-applied. Blue is therefore entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2).
Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Rule 18.1 is altered slightly from 138-18 in order to provide a rule that can be better umpired. This slight change provides more certainty for sailors in understanding when the rule (and the umpire) dictates when mark-room no longer applies.

2. Language of 18.3 changed to be consistent with the language of the RRS (exonerated vs not penalized).

3. Language of 18.3 also clarifies when the other boat needs to be affected in order for a boat breaking this rule to be penalized.

4. The change to Call E9 reflects the change to C2.9 – 18.1.