**Racing Rules of Sailing**

Match Racing Call D6

A submission from the Chairman of Racing Rules Committee

**Purpose or Objective**

Clarify when the right of way boat breaks rule 16.1 in this scenario.

**Proposal**

**Question**

Blue is close-hauled on port tack and Yellow is close-hauled on starboard tack on a leg to the windward mark. Yellow bears away to a [**downwind course**](#), a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind, and that is below her proper course and as a result Blue has to immediately change course to keep clear. There is a Y-flag. What should the call be?

**Answer**

Penalize Yellow. Yellow breaks rule 16.1 by not giving Blue room, namely the space to manoeuvre in a seamanlike way."

**Current Position**

As above

**Reasons**

1. This makes it clear that the starboard tack boat that bears away to greater than 90 degrees to the wind only breaks rule 16.1 if the port tack boat has to immediately change course to keep clear.

2. It is noted in the Index to the Call Book “...Although the phrase ‘a downwind course’ has been replaced by ‘a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind’ in the rulebook, the Call Book still uses the phrase ‘a downwind course’...“

There are plans to do a global change in the call book to be consistent with the language of the rule. This amendment makes the change.