Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing - New CALL MR 41

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

CALL MR 41

Rule 10 On Opposite Tacks
Rule 11 On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 18.2(b) Giving Mark-Room
Rule 18.5 Exoneration
Rule C2.4 While Tacking or Gybing
Definitions Mark-Room and Proper Course

Question

Yellow and Blue are approaching the windward mark on port tack. Yellow enters the zone clear ahead of Blue. Yellow then luffs above her proper course before rounding the mark. Blue bears away to a course between Yellow and the mark. Yellow gybes onto starboard. When next to the mark and while sailing her proper course, Yellow is forced to bear away to avoid Blue.

There is Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer

When Yellow enters the zone clear ahead, rule 18.2(b) applies and requires Blue to thereafter give Yellow mark-room. Shortly after position 2, when Yellow’s bow is abreast of the mark, Yellow is ‘at the mark’ and from that time on, Blue is required to give Yellow ‘room to sail her proper course while she is at the mark.’ Between position 2 and 3, Yellow’s course is not consistent with rounding the mark on her proper course so when she luffs she will not be exonerated if she breaks rule 16.1.
At position 4, when Blue overlaps Yellow to leeward she is still required to give Yellow mark-room. If, while taking that mark-room Yellow breaks a rule of Part 2 Section A or rule 15 or 16, she will be exonerated under rule 18.5.

Blue has not given Yellow mark-room. Penalize Blue.

**Current Position**

As above. ISAF Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2009/008

**Reason**

To clarify that a right-of-way boat entitled to mark-room, that luffs above her proper course while at the mark, remains entitled to mark-room. In addition, to clarify that gybing round the windward mark may be a proper course, and that when relevant, room to gybe at the mark is therefore included in mark-room.