Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing - New CALL MR 42

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

CALL MR 42

Rule 11  On the same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 16.1  Changing Course

Question 1

Initially both boats are stationary on starboard tack, but then start moving astern by backing their mainsails.

From position 2, Blue pushes harder on her mainsail and at the same time sculls forcefully on the windward side to make the boat move rapidly sideways (crabbing). There is a Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer 1

When Blue begins traveling to windward between position 2 and 3, she is changing course and must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 16.1.

If, when Blue begins crabbing, Yellow immediately responds and continues to do all she can to keep clear (including crabbing to windward herself) but is unable to keep clear, then Blue is not giving Yellow room to keep clear and breaks rule 16.1. Penalize Blue.

If Yellow could have kept clear, but either responded too slowly or not enough, then Yellow has broken rule 11. Penalize Yellow.
Question 2

Would the answer be different if Blue began crabbing from her stationary position 1?

Answer 2

No

Current Position

As above. ISAF Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2010/002.

Reason

Because rule 42.2(d) is changed in rule C2.11, ‘crabbing’ is permitted in match racing. As this is now being used in particular in the Elliot 6 class, there is a need to clarify whether or not this maneuver constitutes a change of course, thereby activating rule 16. This call makes the situation clear for all involved - thereby providing consistency.