Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing – New CALL UMP 45

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

CALL UMP 45

Rule 17  On the Same tack; Proper Course
Definitions  Proper Course

Question 1

Shortly after rounding the windward mark, Yellow establishes a leeward overlap on Blue from clear astern. The conditions are such that the boats would normally set a spinnaker to finish as soon as possible. Yellow does not set a spinnaker and sails a course that is a proper course for a boat with a headsail, but above a proper course for a boat with a spinnaker.

Blue luffs and keeps clear. There is a Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer 1

Display the green and white flag.

When Yellow establishes a leeward overlap at position 2 she is subject to rule 17 and shall not sail above her proper course. However, there is no requirement for her to sail with a spinnaker. Her proper course is determined by the course she would sail, in the absence of Blue, to finish as soon
as possible with the sails she is using at that time. Yellow is not sailing above her proper course and does not break rule 17.

**Question 2**

Would the answer be different if Yellow had an outstanding penalty?

**Answer 2**

No.

**Current Position**

As above. Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2010.003.

**Reason**

To give a clear answer to the question about whether the definition proper course, when no special circumstances are present, place an obligation on boats to sail using the sail configuration that would bring the boat fastest around the course under the current conditions.