Racing Rules of Sailing

The Call Book for Match Racing - New CALL UMP 47

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

CALL UMP 47

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Question 1

Yellow and Blue are on a beat to windward with Yellow on starboard tack and Blue on port tack. Yellow passes head to wind and completes a tack clear ahead and slightly to windward of Blue’s course line. Her tack slows Yellow down, and Blue creates an overlap to leeward, without either boat changing course. The separation between the boats is only a few centimetres. Yellow luffs to keep clear and there is immediately contact. Both boats Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer 1

Blue has no need to alter course before Yellow completes her tack. After Yellow completes her tack Blue has room to keep clear by bearing away if needed, so Yellow fulfils her obligation under rule
15 to initially give Blue room to keep clear. When Blue shortly thereafter acquires right of way by establishing a leeward overlap, Blue must give Yellow room to keep clear under rule 15.

If, when the overlap is established, Yellow makes every effort to keep clear but is unable to do so, then Blue breaks rule 15. Yellow breaks rule 11 but will be exonerated under rule 64.1(c). However, if Yellow does not make every effort to keep clear and Blue, after initially giving room, is then required to take avoiding action or there is contact, then Yellow breaks rule 11.

**Question 2**

Would the answer be different if Yellow completed the tack clear ahead and further to windward, but was moving forward at slower speed than Blue and slipping sideways reducing the separation between Blue and Yellow.

**Answer 2**

No.

**Current Position**

The proposal is a compromise between Rapid Response MR Call 2009.009 and a later rapid response call that was rejected in favour of editing the current call.

**Reason**

In RR Call 2009.009, the emphasis was on the windward boat drifting down and this was illustrated in a manner that is not common on the water, although it does happen in some classes and conditions (Elliot 6 in light conditions).

The submitted call includes this situation, but the main question is about the application of rule 15 when a boat completes a tack clear ahead of another boat who, immediately thereafter, establishes an overlap to leeward of the boat that tacked.

In match racing, rules transitions happen quickly and often and this call gives a clear answer to a common situation.