Racing Rules of Sailing

MR Call K2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Clarify the relationship between a boat being entitled to room at a finish mark and the obligation to keep clear while taking a penalty.

Proposal

Change the answer to Call K2 as follows:

MR CALL K2

Rule 11 On the Same Tack, Overlapped
Rule 18.2 Giving Mark-Room (C2.9)
Rule 22.2 Taking Penalties

Question

Yellow enters the zone of the finishing mark clear ahead of Blue, and is taking a penalty around the finishing mark. As Yellow tacks and bears away on port, Blue, approaching the mark on starboard, bears away and gybes to port. There is a Y-flag. What should the call be?

Answer

Because Yellow enters the zone clear ahead of Blue, she is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(2). When Yellow passes head to wind rule 18.2(a)(2) continues to apply, but as Yellow also begins taking a penalty, she must keep clear of Blue under rule 22.2 until she completes her penalty by bearing away to a downwind course. **Although Yellow is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, she is not exonerated for her breach of rule 22.2 under rule 21(a) because rule 21(a) does not include rules in Section D or 64.1(a) because Yellow was not compelled to break rule 22.2.** A change of course by Blue may be to keep clear of Yellow, to give Yellow mark-room, or to keep clear of her after gybing.
If Blue is required to change course take avoiding action before Yellow completes her penalty, Yellow is not keeping clear under rule 22.2, even if Blue is also changing course to give mark-room. Signal that Yellow has completed her penalty and penalize Yellow again for breaking rule 22.2. See MR Call N7.

If Blue’s change of course is not required until after Yellow completes her penalty, display the green and white flag.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

1. Clarifies that a breach of rule 22.2 is not exonerated when the boat breaching this rule is entitled to mark-room.

2. Provides a binary response for the umpire to determine what action to take.