Racing Rules of Sailing

MR Call K5

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Update the call as a result of the change to the definition of mark-room.

Proposal

When the callbook is published to take into account the 2021-2024 Racing Rules, change Call K5, Answer 2.

MR CALL K5

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Question 1

Blue, with an outstanding penalty, is clear ahead when she reaches the zone of the finishing mark. Blue luffs, tacks and bears away to a downwind course on port tack at position 4. After position 4, Blue sails at an angle that the umpires agree is her proper course.

After position 4 Yellow (on starboard) bears away to avoid Blue and displays a Y-flag.

What should the call be?

Answer 1

Display the green and white flag.

Blue is entitled to mark-room. Mark-room for Blue is to sail her proper course to pass the mark [rule 18.2(a)(2)]. While Blue’s course to take her penalty is not a proper course (rule C2.3), once Blue has taken her penalty, she is entitled to sail her proper course from that point until she has finished. Blue breaks rule 10, but is exonerated under rule 21.

Question 2

Blue on port and Yellow on starboard are sailing towards the finishing line. When Blue reaches the zone of the finishing mark, she is the inside, overlapped boat.
At position 2, Blue is certain that she has crossed the finishing line and she bears away and gybes
to a course to sail close to, but not hitting, the finishing mark. At the same time Yellow bears away
to avoid contact with Blue. There is a Y-flag.
What should the call be?

Answer 2
Display the green and white flag.

Blue is entitled to mark-room. Mark-room for Blue is room to sail her proper course to pass the
mark and room to pass the mark once Blue has finished [rule 18.2(a)(1)]. Once Blue has
finished she no longer has a proper course, but she has not yet passed the mark. Therefore, the
space Blue is entitled to after finishing is simply the space she needs to pass between Yellow and
the mark from the time she has finished. By bearing away and gybing from position 2, Blue is not
sailing farther from the mark than what she is entitled to.

Current Position
See above.

Reasons
The new definition codifies that the inside boat is entitled to room to pass the mark once the boat
has finished, but is still racing.