Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix F, Mark Room Definition and Rule

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

A new definition and rule for mark-room that better suits kiteboard racing. Both proposals should be considered as one package, not as separate submissions or options.

Proposal 1

Delete definition Mark-Room, and replace with the following:

Mark-Room  Room for a kiteboard to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark.

Proposal 2

Delete rule 18 and replace with the following:

F2.18 MARK-ROOM

F2.18.1 When Rule F2.18 Applies

Rule F2.18 applies between kiteboards when they are required to leave a mark on the same side and at least one of them is in the zone. However, it does not apply

(a) between a kiteboard approaching a mark and one leaving it.

(b) between kiteboards on opposite tacks

F.2.18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When entering the zone,

(1) if kiteboards are overlapped, the outside kiteboard at that moment shall thereafter give the inside kiteboard mark-room.
(2) if kiteboards are not overlapped, the kiteboard that has not reached the zone shall thereafter give mark-room.

(b) If the kiteboard entitled to mark-room leaves the zone, the entitlement to mark-room ceases and rule F2.18.2(a) is applied again if required.

(c) If a kiteboard obtained an inside overlap and, from the time the overlap began, the outside kiteboard is unable to give mark-room, she is not required to give it.

F2.18.3 Tacking or Gybing

When an inside overlapped right-of-way kiteboard must tack or gybe at a mark to sail her proper course, until she tacks or gybes she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule F2.18.3 does not apply at a gate mark.

Current Position

Current rule F2.18.

Reasons

1. The above wording originates from the Match Racing Rules Test Package. It covers the special requirements of kiteboarding equipment much better than the current rule or Standard RRS 18. It especially covers the issue with the 3-dimensional movement of the kite when rounding the mark and bearing away to the new proper course. Under the new rule, a kiteboard entitled to mark-room is protected until leaving the zone (see 2014 submission to re-introduce a zone of 30m around a mark for kiteboards). This is usually the area in which problems have occurred when bearing away, between a kiteboard entitled to mark-room which becomes subject to rule 16.1 (changing position of the kite) after passing the mark.

2. The new definition and rule is also much easier to read and understand. Definition and rule originate from the Americas Cup rules and help dealing with very fast moving vessels.

3. It simplifies the rules to pure application of rule 10 when approaching a mark on opposite tacks on both windward and leeward marks/gates. Mark-Room only applies between kiteboards approaching a mark on the same tack.