

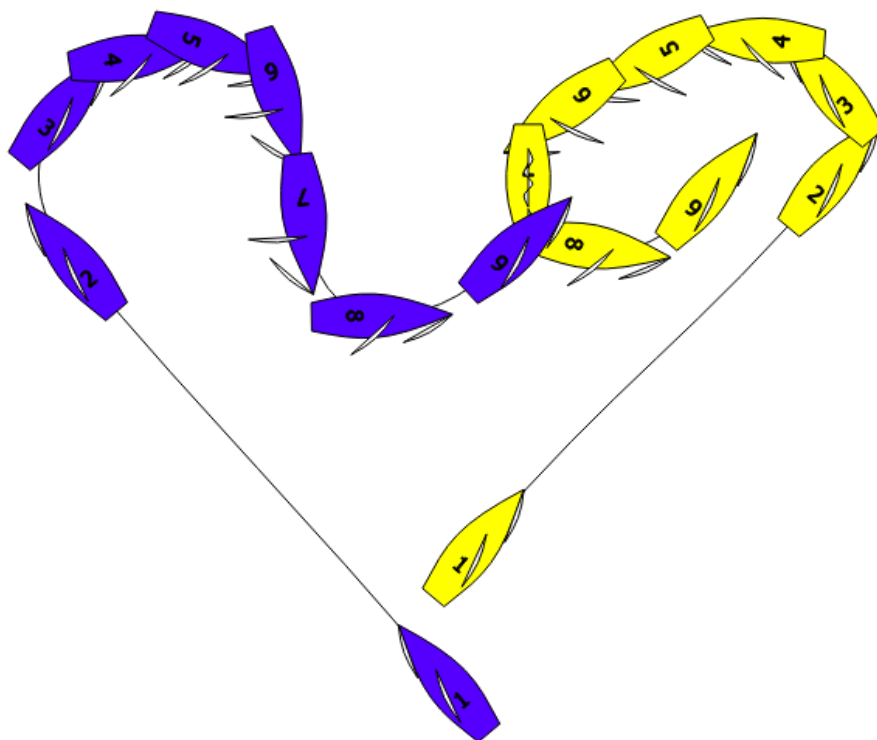
RAPID RESPONSE MATCH RACING CALL 2021.02

Rule 16.1 **Changing Course**
Rule C7.2(a)(1) **All Penalties**
Definitions **Room**

Question

Wind is approximately 8 knots and the sea state is flat. The boats are Catalina 37's that are travelling at approximately 4 to 5 knots after the tack.

On a leg of the course to a windward mark, Yellow is close-hauled on port tack and Blue is close-hauled on starboard tack on diverging courses and Yellow has an outstanding penalty. At approximately six hull lengths separation Yellow and Blue both tack simultaneously and immediately bear away to a course that is below their proper course and more than 90 degrees from the true wind. Both Blue and Yellow end up on parallel courses with approximately two hull lengths separation. Yellow gybes to port tack and Blue luffs to a close-hauled course. Flag Y is displayed. What should the call be?



Answer

If Blue had a need to “immediately” change course to keep clear as a result of Yellow changing course after pos 4, then Yellow has broken rule 16.1 (see MR Call D6). Penalize Yellow, then signal that Yellow has completed one penalty (and Yellow has one penalty outstanding).

If Blue did not have a need to “immediately” change course to keep clear as a result of Yellow changing course after pos 4, then Yellow has not broken rule 16.1. Display the green and white flag and then signal that Yellow has completed her penalty.

The umpires' decision is based on the size, speed and manoeuvrability of the boats, the wind and sea conditions, and the distance between and relative positions of the boats when Yellow sailed below 90 degrees to the true wind.