

CYA Racing Rules **2020**

Introduction to the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)

See pages 2 and 3 for a reality check then pages 4 to 10 for background information regarding the course .

What is happening here?



See next page.

1. Where are the boats on the course?
2. Which boat has Right of Way?
3. What do you think are the **facts** of the situation in the picture?
4. What Rules apply?

(See the last page for answers)

Introduction

- This course is an introduction to the Racing Rules of Sailing for sailors and club officials.
- The course will include some online modules, including this Introduction, emailed modules and face to face discussions.

Course Objectives

- To provide an opportunity to explore and become familiar with the Rules and how they are applied in racing.
- To develop the ability to apply the Rules while sailing.
- To provide links to opportunities to support clubs in providing well managed events.

Rules Authority

- The Racing Rules of Sailing are owned by World Sailing
- Yachting New Zealand is affiliated to World Sailing
- Sailors in clubs affiliated to YNZ use the rules and apply the Rules between boats while racing.
- YNZ appoints Judges who can resolve issues that sailors can't decide on the water using the Protest and Arbitration processes.

Purpose of the Racing Rules of Sailing

The rules have several purposes. To:

1. Allow boats to race close together without colliding. (Sailing is a Non-Contact sport!)
2. Make racing as fair as possible.
3. Promote safety.

What are the Rules of Sailing?

- RRS including Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, Preamble and rules of Appendices (but not Titles)
- Notices of Race
- Sailing Instructions
- YNZ Safety Regulations
- Prescriptions of National Authorities
- Class Rules, Handicap or Rating Systems
- World Sailing Regulation 19, 20, 21 & 22
- and any other documents that govern the event.

The Rule Book

The essential resource for this course.

Books are available from YNZ, www.yachtingnz.org.nz, clubs and boat shops.



Contents of The Rule Book

- Race Signals (See YNZ online learning Embark)
<https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/clubs/embark-online-learning>
- **Definitions (The topic of the first module)**
- Parts 1 – 7 contain rules that affect all competitors:
 - Part 1: Fundamental Rules
 - **Part 2: When Boats Meet**
 - **Part 3: Conduct of a Race**
 - Part 4: Other Requirements When Racing
 - **Part 5: Protests, Redress, Hearings ...**
 - Part 6: Entry and Qualification
 - Part 7: Race Organization
- Appendices A – T provide details of rules, rules that apply to particular kinds of racing, and rules that affect only a small number of the competitors or officials.
- The topics in **Red** will be covered in this course with the first module covering **Definitions.**

Module 1: Definitions

The Definitions clarify the meaning of key words used in the Rules. Key words used in the rules are written in *italics*. The meaning of the words may be much more detailed than can be expressed just in the key words. It is always necessary to understand the rules meaning of these words when used in a Rule.

See the following important definitions.

Definitions

Abandon

A race that a race committee or protest committee abandons is void but may be re-sailed.

See Race Signals, Flag N, and the use of the term in RRS 32.

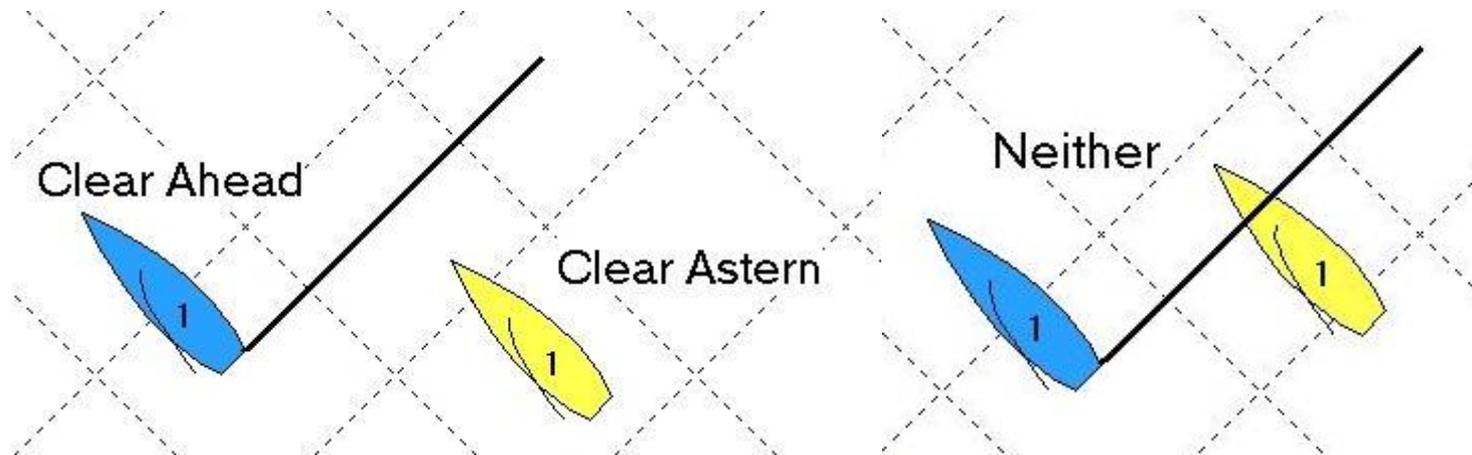
Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped

One boat is *clear astern* of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is *clear ahead*. They *overlap* when neither is *clear astern*. However, they also *overlap* when a boat between them *overlaps* both. These terms always apply to boats on the same *tack*. They apply to boats on opposite *tacks* only when rule 18 applies between them or when both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped



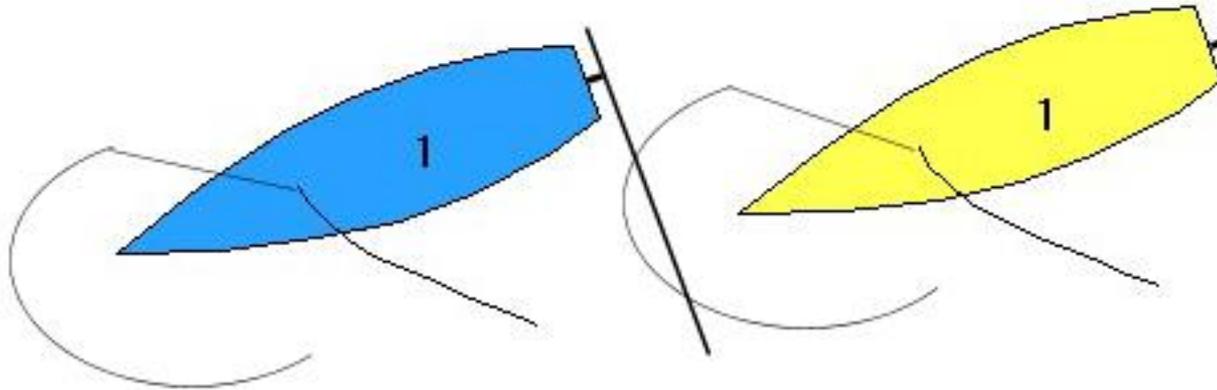
Draw a line perpendicular the center line of the boat through the aftermost point of her hull or equipment in normal position.

Left picture – the yellow boats hull and equipment in normal position is clear astern. The blue boat is clear ahead.

Right picture - They are overlapped because neither is clear astern.

Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped.



Draw a line perpendicular the center line of the boat through the aftermost point of her hull or equipment in normal position.

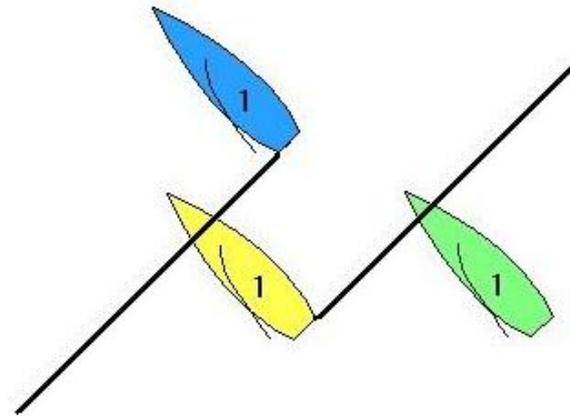
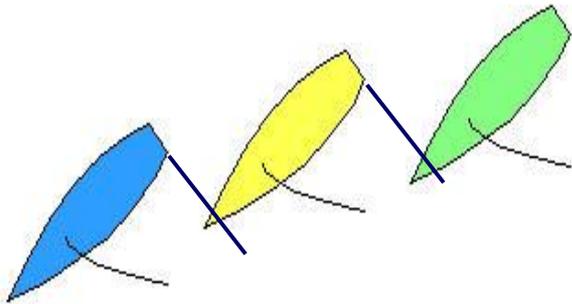
The aftermost point might be the back edge of an outboard rudder.

On a downwind leg Yellow's spinnaker in its normal position may cause an overlap even when the hulls are not overlapped.

Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped

- Boat Between
- Boat **NOT** Between



In both pictures Yellow is overlapped with both Blue and Green.
In the picture on the left - because Yellow is between Blue and Green and overlapped with each this means that Blue and Green are also overlapped.
In the picture on the right – Blue and Green are not overlapped because Yellow is not between them.

Definitions

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped

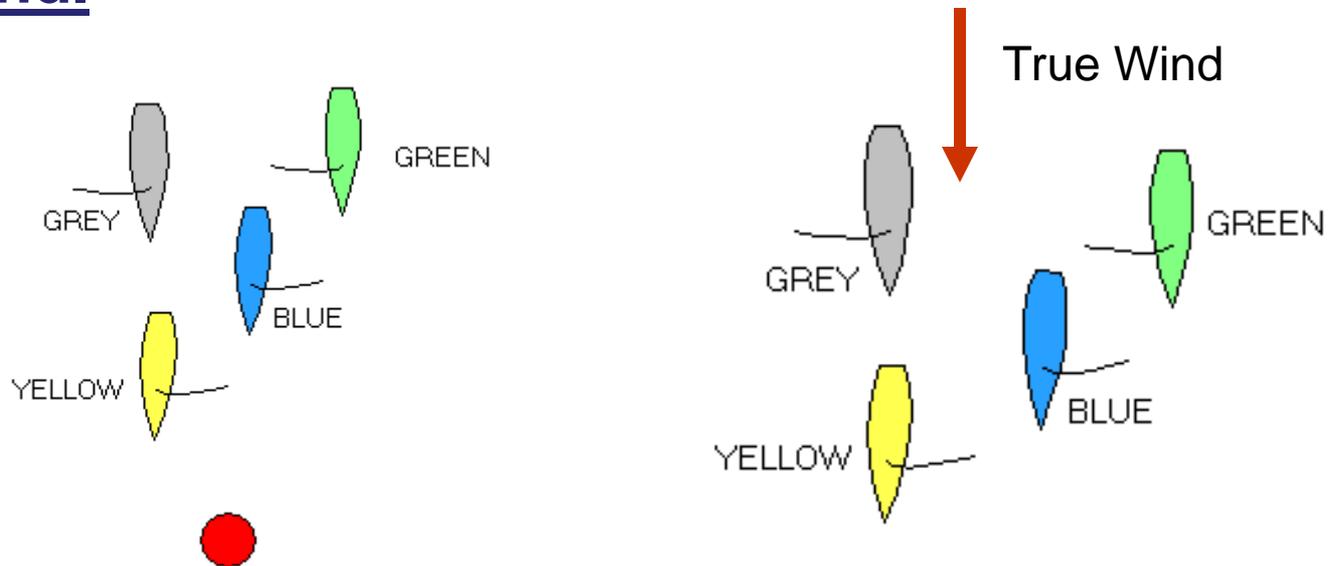
- **Same Tack**

- **These terms always apply to boats on the same *tack***

Definitions

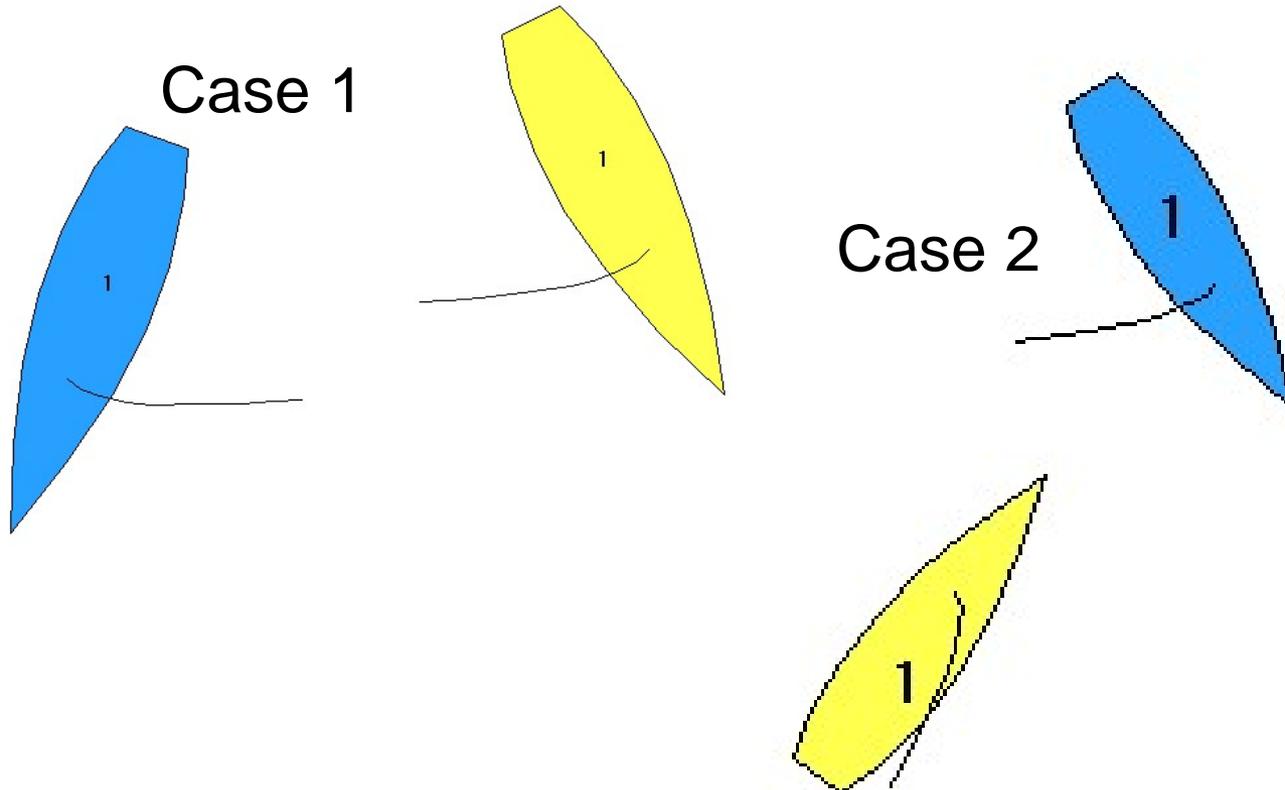
Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlapped

- **Opposite Tacks – when rule 18 applies. OR both boats are sailing more than 90° from the true wind.**



Definitions

Is there an overlap between
Blue and Yellow?

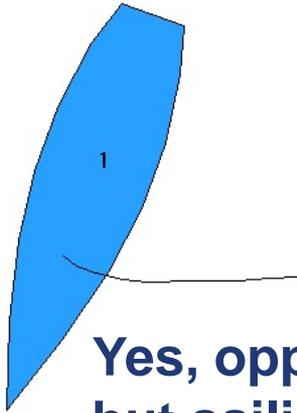


See next page for answers.

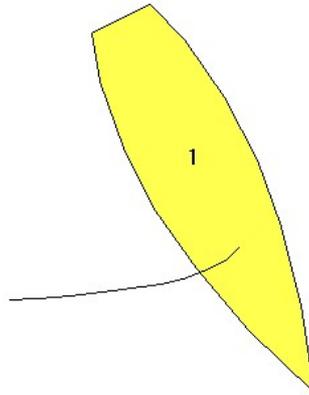
Definitions

Is there an overlap between Blue and Yellow?

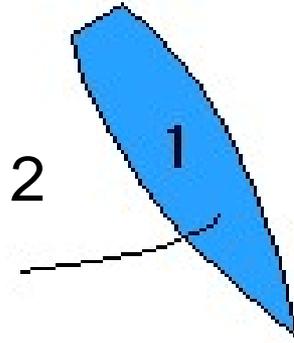
Case 1



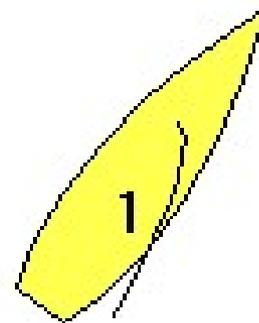
Yes, opposite tacks but sailing more than 90 degrees from the true wind.



Case 2

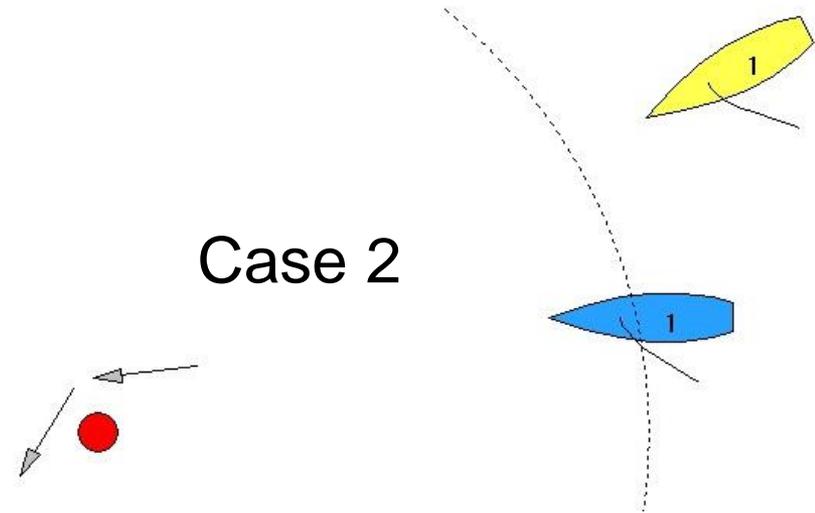
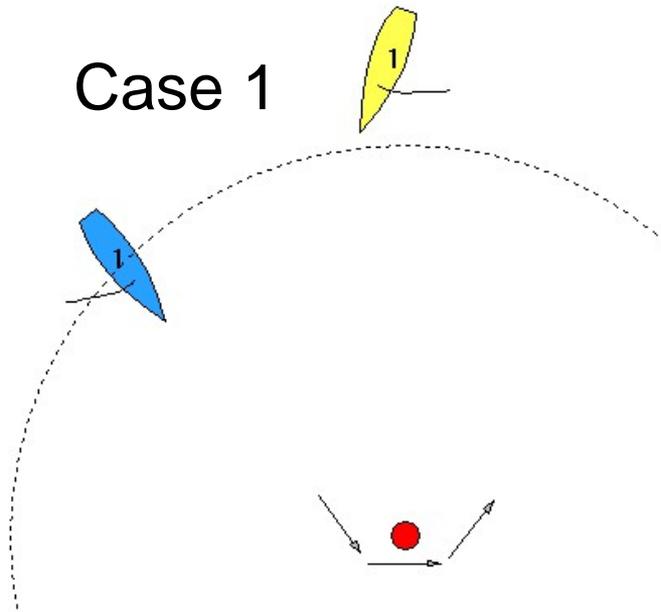


Yes, they are on the same tack and neither is clear astern.



Definitions

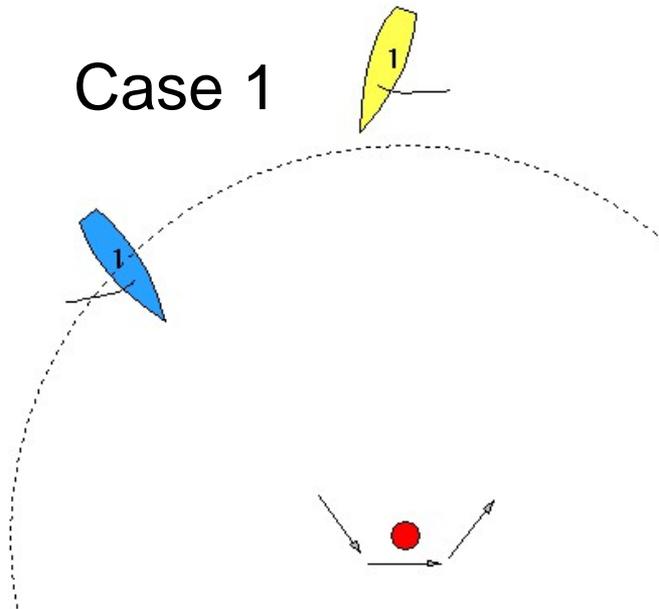
Is there an overlap between
Blue and Yellow?



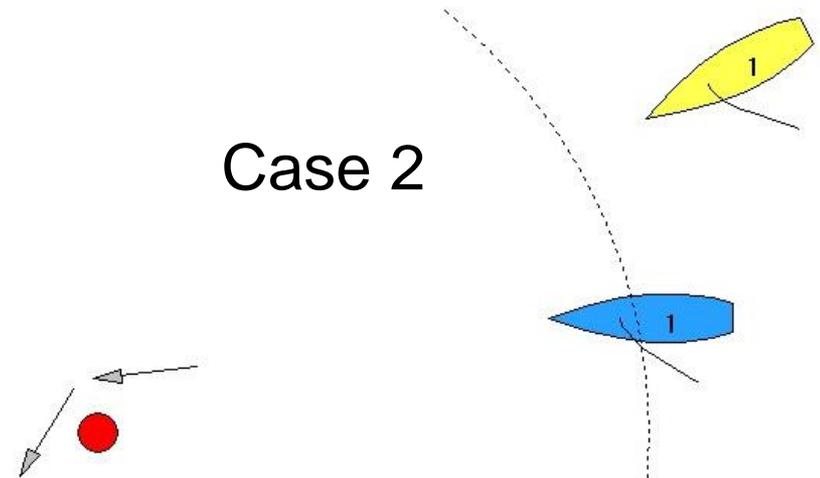
See next page for answers.

Definitions

Is there an overlap between Blue and Yellow?



Yes, even though they are on opposite tacks, because they are sailing more than 90° from the wind.

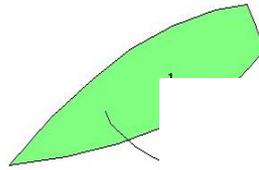
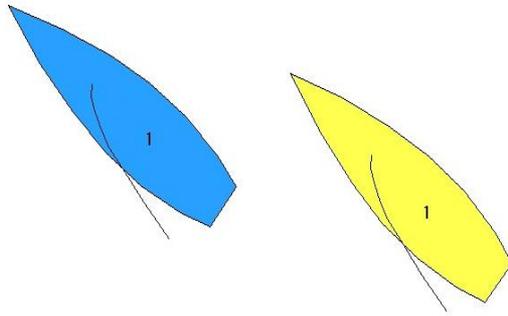


Yes, they are on the same tack and neither is clear astern.

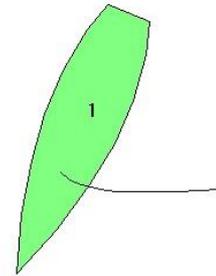
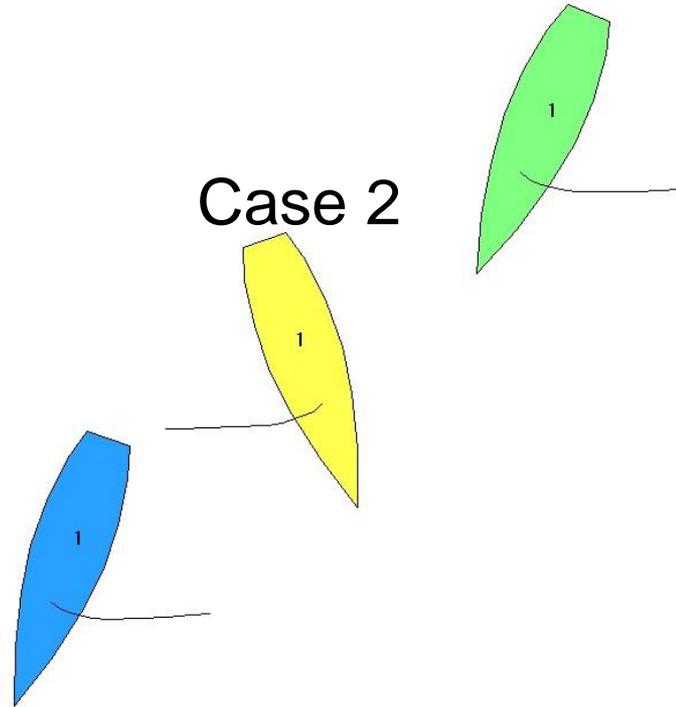
Definitions

Is there an overlap between
Blue and Green?

Case 1



Case 2

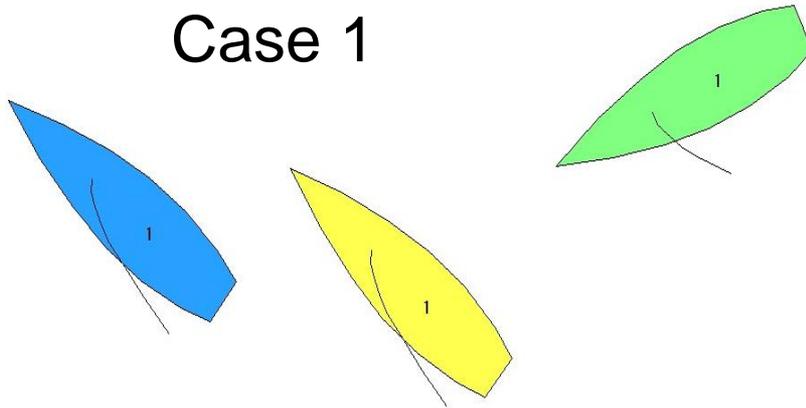


See next page for answers.

Definitions

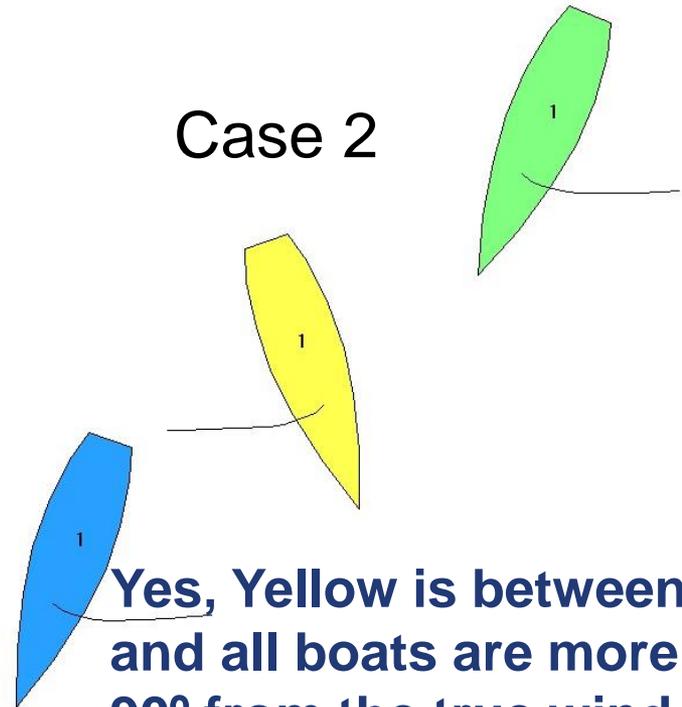
Is there an overlap between Blue and Green?

Case 1



Yes, Yellow is overlapped with both and between them.

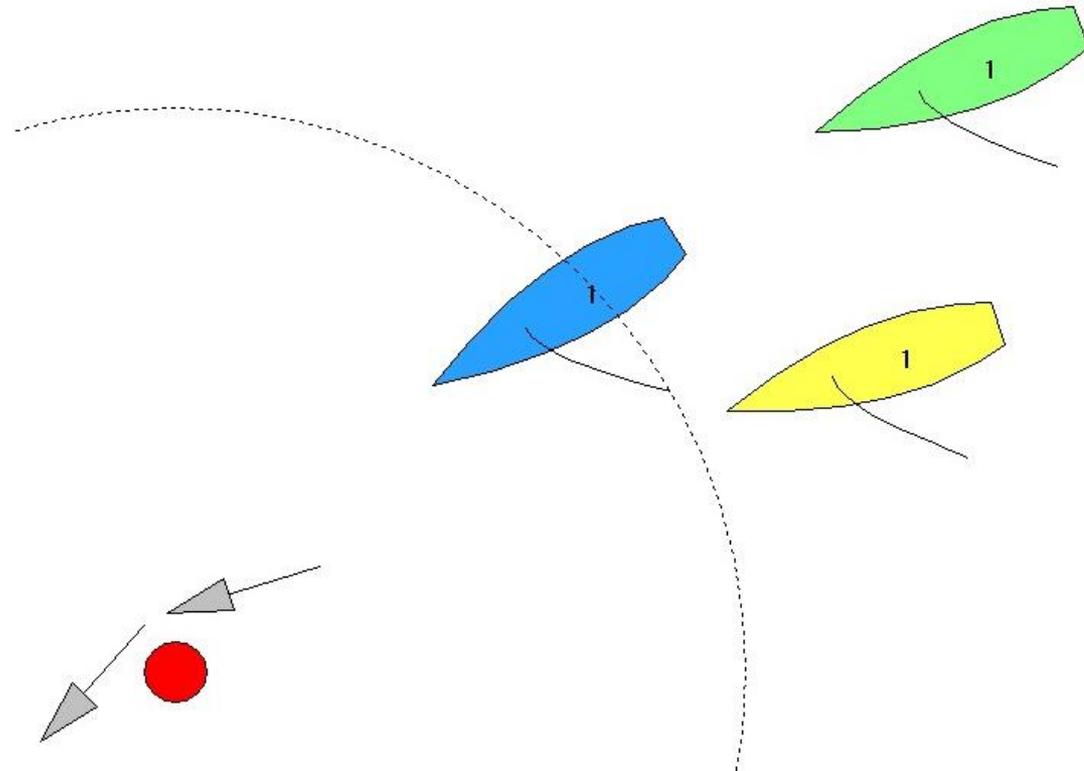
Case 2



Yes, Yellow is between both and all boats are more than 90° from the true wind.

Definitions

Is there an overlap between
Blue and Green?

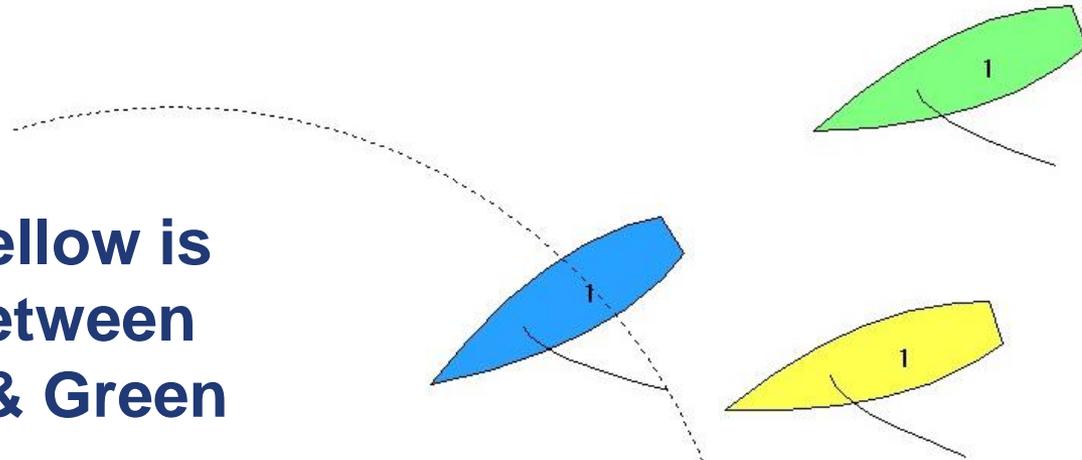


See next page for answers.

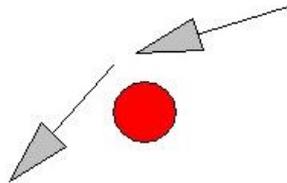
Definitions

Is there an overlap between Blue and Green?

No, Yellow is not between Blue & Green



But Yellow is overlapped with Blue and Yellow is overlapped with green, separately.



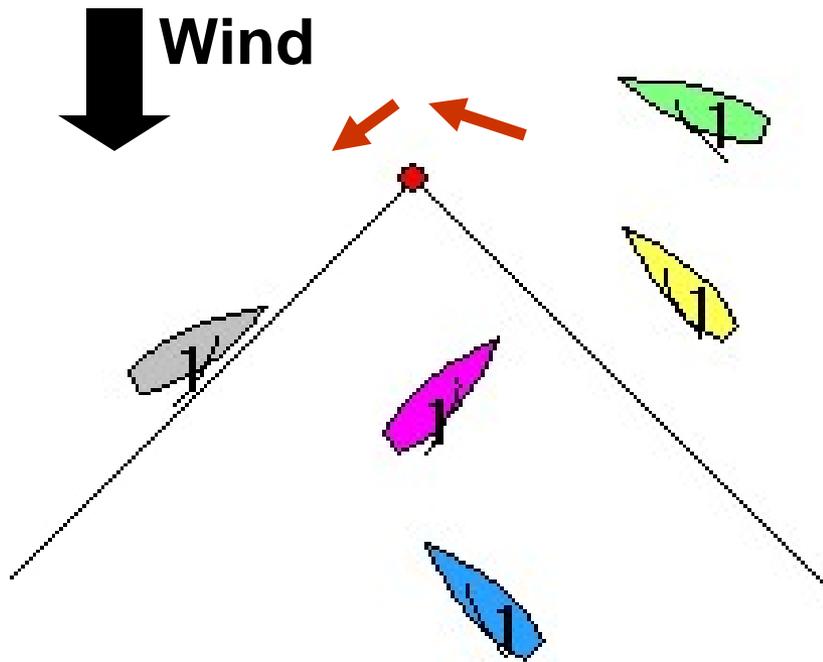
Definitions

Fetching

A boat is *fetching* a *mark* when she is in a position to pass to windward of it and leave it on the required side without changing *tack*.

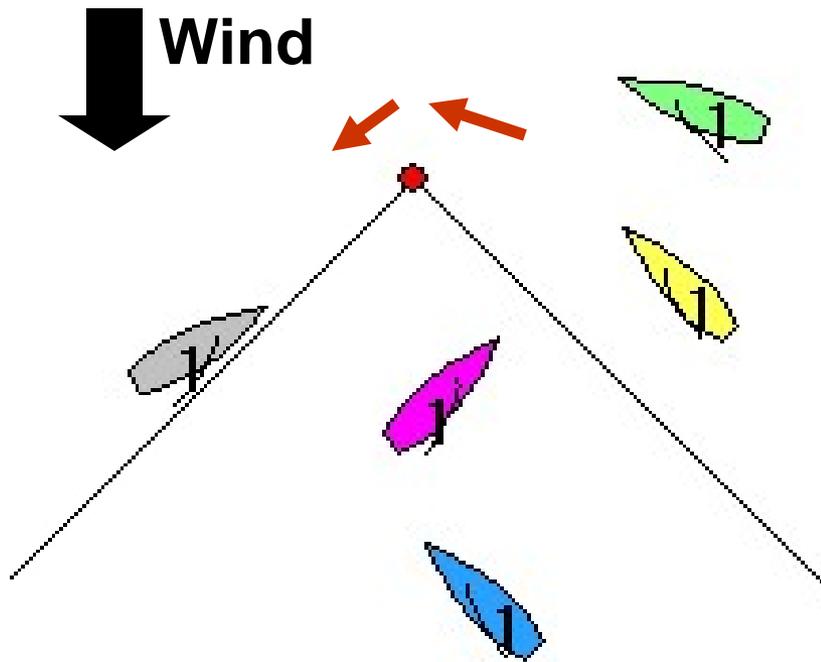
Definitions

Which boats are fetching the mark?



See next page for answers.

Definitions



Which boats are fetching the mark?

Green & Yellow: Yes

Blue, Pink & Gray: No

Definitions

Finish *

A boat *finishes* when, after *starting*, any part of her hull crosses the finishing line from the course side.

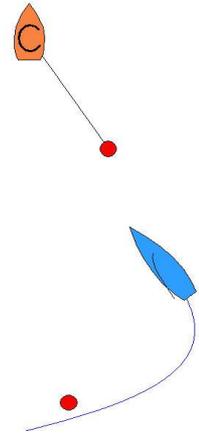
However, she has not *finished* if after crossing the finishing line she

- a) Takes a penalty under rule 44.2
- b) Corrects an error *sailing the course* made at the line, or
- c) Continues to *sail the course*.

Definitions

Finish

- 1. What must cross the line?*
- 2. Crossing the finishing line from the course side.*



Two important things to remember about finishing:

The first is that while crew and equipment in normal position are part of the boat (in relation to finishing and starting) in the 2017-2020 Rules, the 2021-2024 Rules use the hull only for finishing (and starting). Normal position is generally defined as where they would be located for the existing wind and sea conditions.

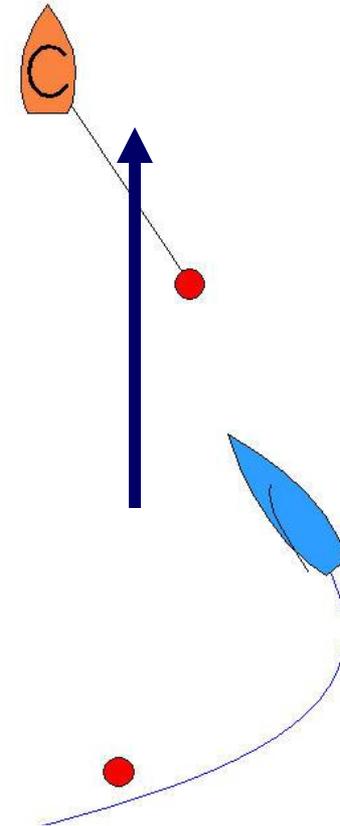
The second item about finishing is that the boat must cross the line in the direction from the last mark.

Which way should blue cross this finish line? (Answer next page)

Definitions

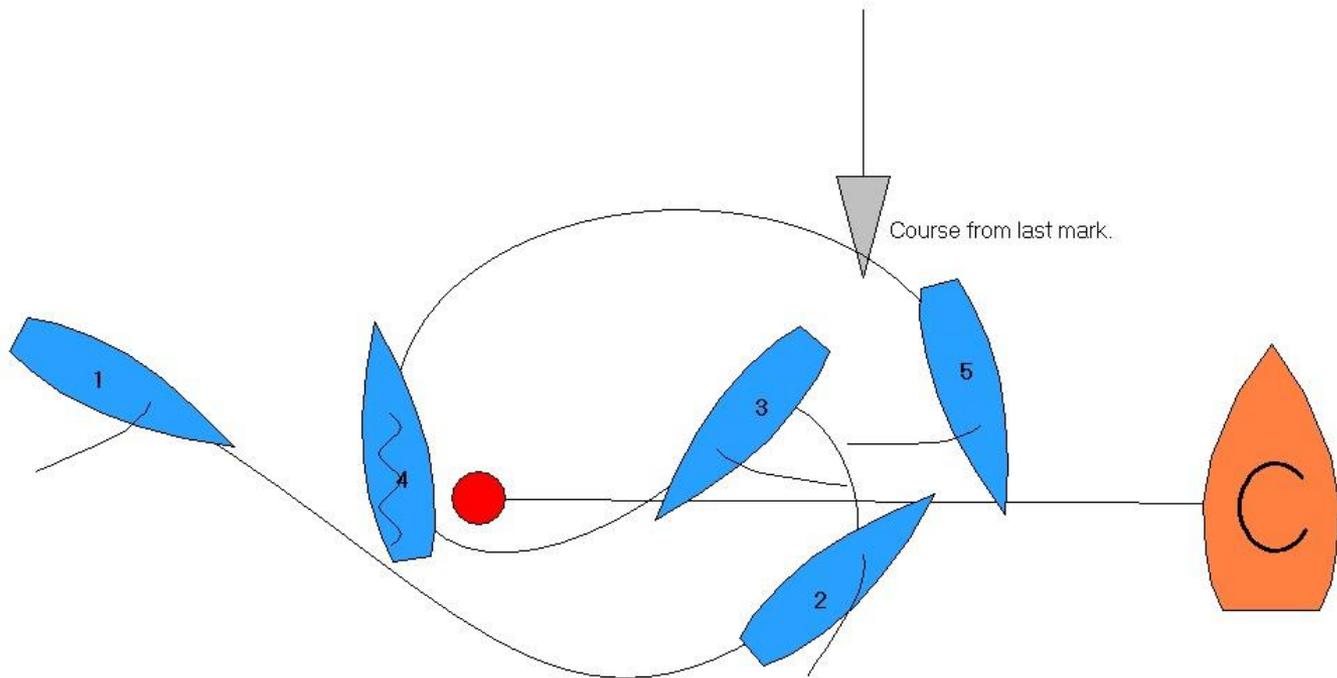
Finish

From the course side.



Definitions

**When does Blue finish?
Position 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5?**



Definitions

NOTE:

However she has not *finished* if after crossing the finishing line she:

- (a) takes a penalty under rule 44.2**
- (b) corrects an error in sailing the course made at the line, or**
- (c) continues to sail the course.**

Answer: 5

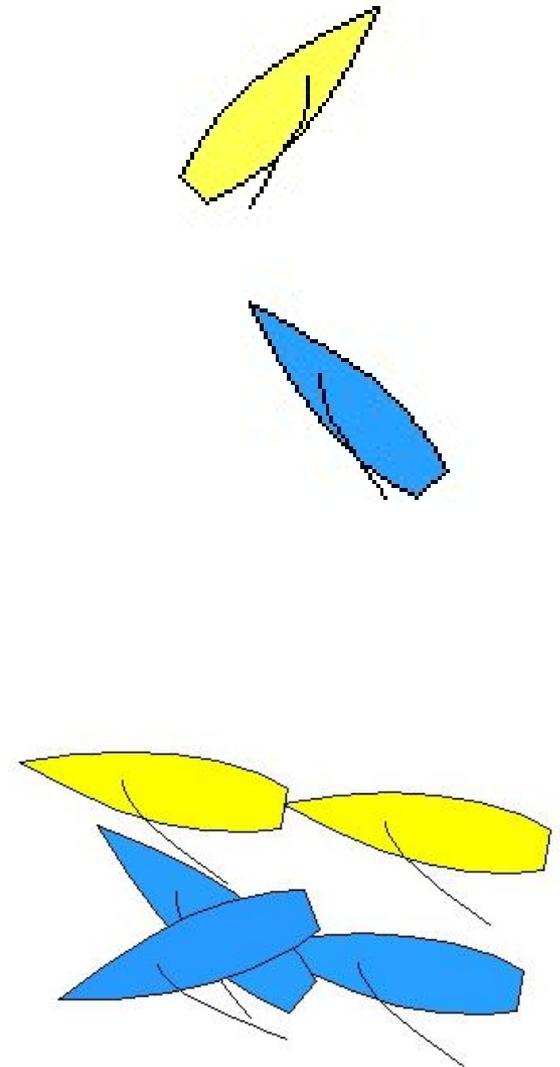
Definitions

Keep Clear

A boat *keeps clear* of a right-of-way boat:

if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,

when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right of way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.



Definitions

Leeward and Windward

A boat's *leeward* side is the side that is, or when she is head to wind, was away from the wind.

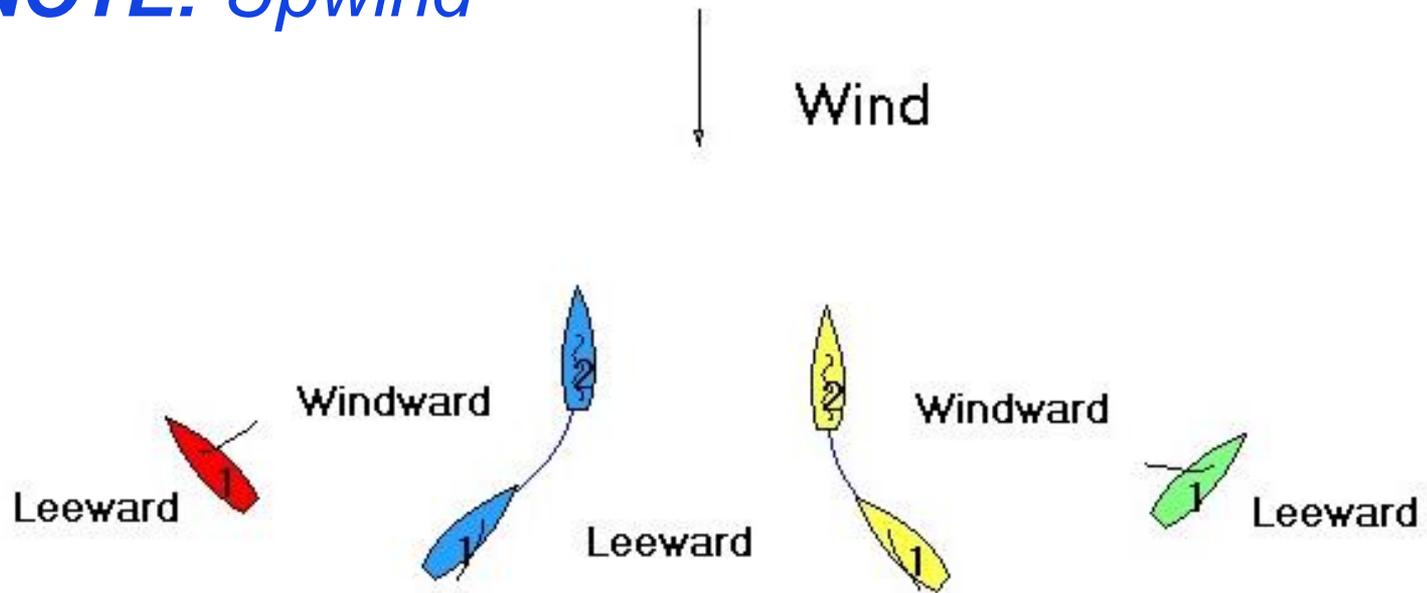
However, when sailing by the lee or directly downwind , her *leeward* side is the side on which her mainsail lies. The other side is her *windward* side.

When two boats on the same *tack overlap*, the one on the *leeward* side of the other is the *leeward* boat. The other is the *windward* boat

Definitions

Leeward and Windward

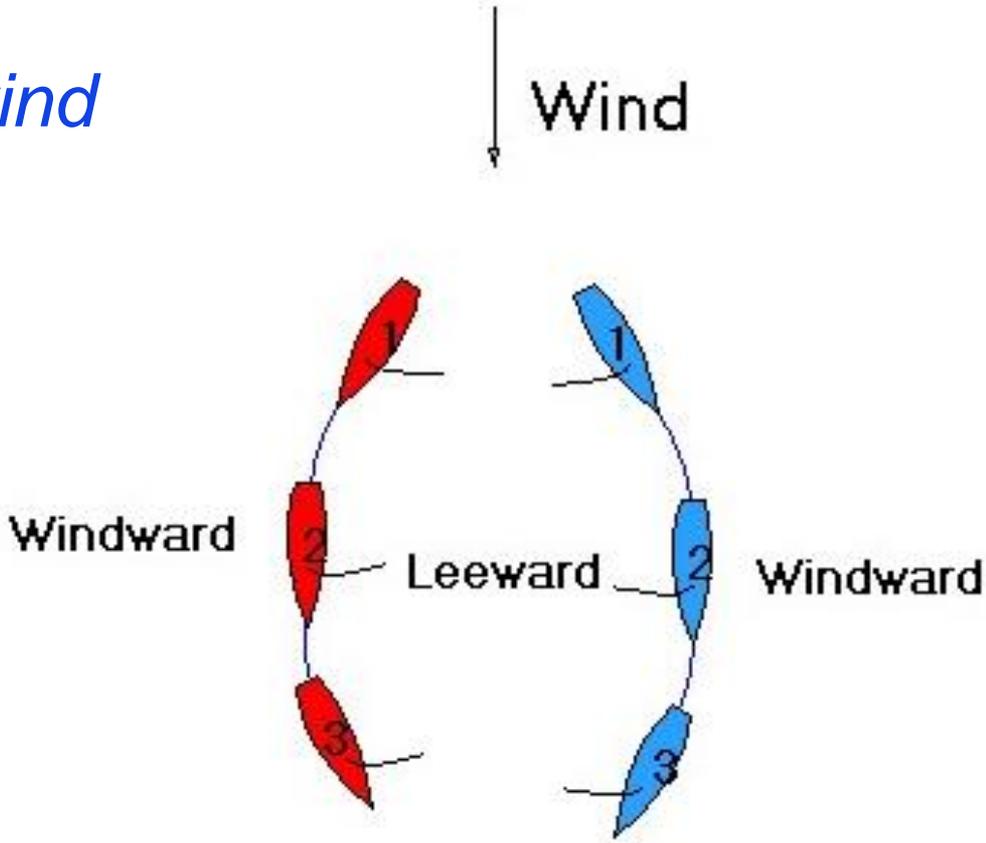
NOTE: Upwind



Definitions

Leeward and Windward

NOTE: Downwind



Definitions

Mark

An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends.

An anchor line or an object attached accidentally to a *mark* is not part of it.

Definitions

Mark-Room

Room for a boat to leave a *mark* on the required side. Also,

- (a) *room* to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it, and
- (b) *room* to round or pass the *mark* as necessary to *sail the course* without touching the *mark*.

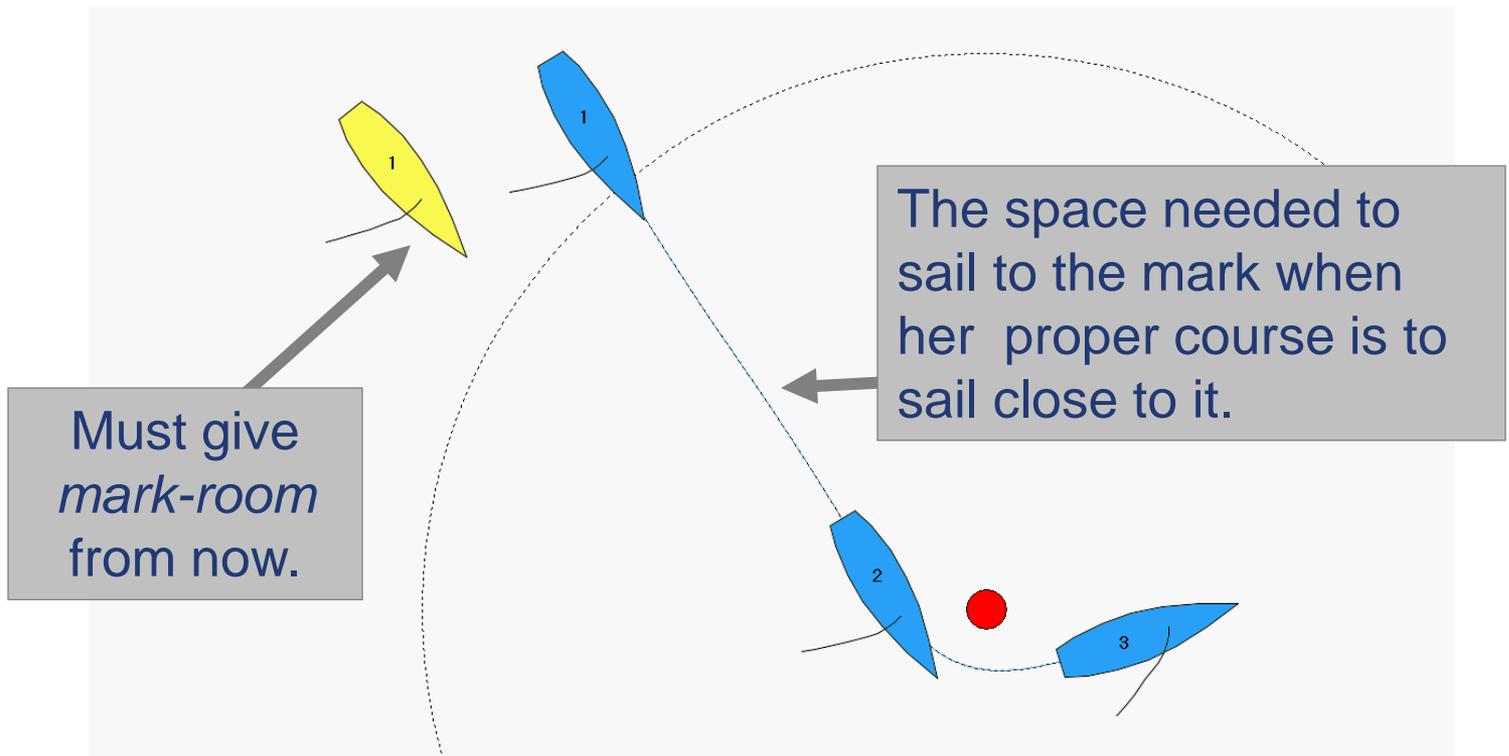
However, *mark-room* for a boat does not include *room* to tack unless she is *overlapped* inside and to *windward* of the boat required to give *mark-room* and she would be *fetching* the *mark* after her tack.

See RRS 18 for application.

Definitions

Mark-Room

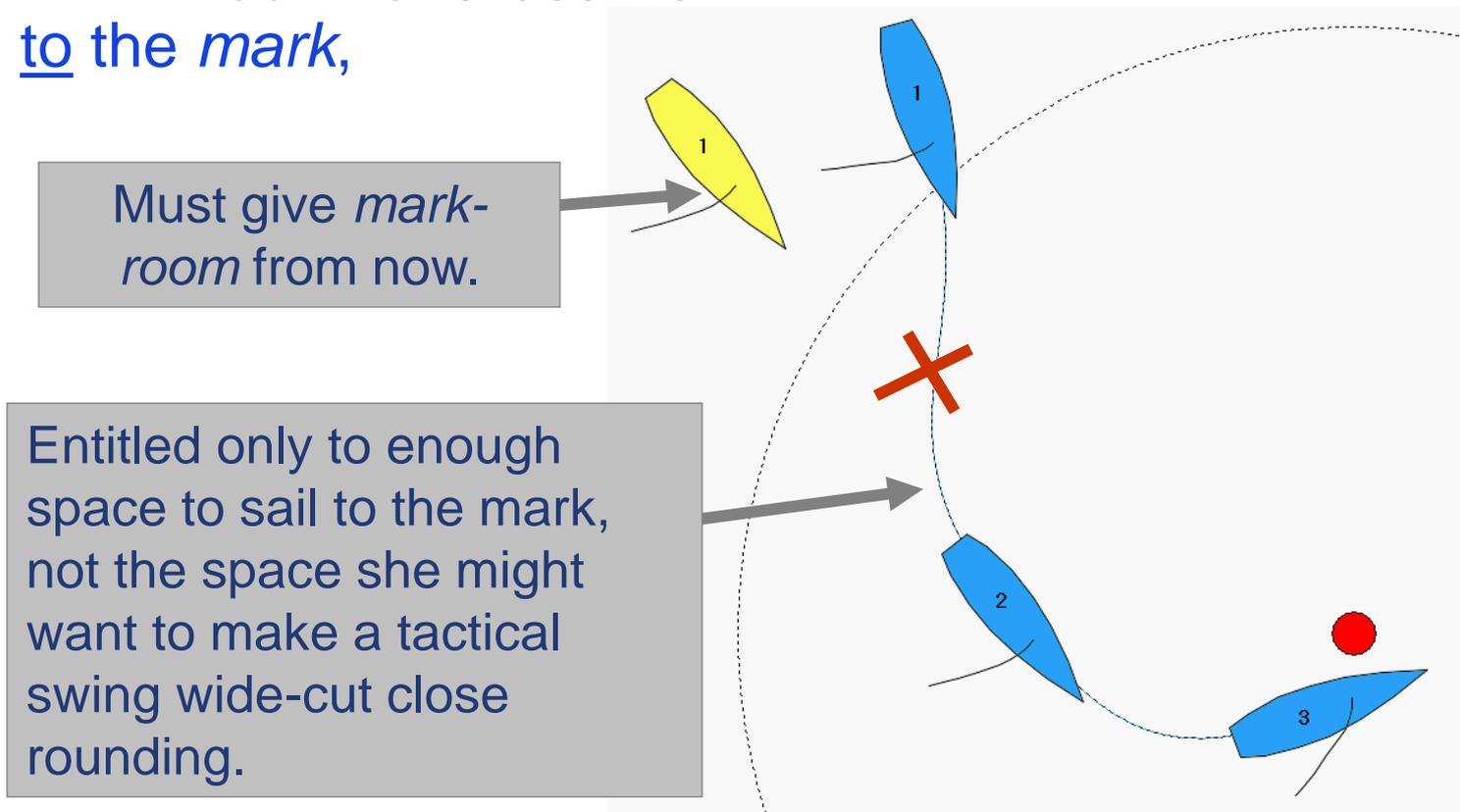
NOTE 1: Room for a boat to sail to the *mark*,



Definitions

Mark-Room

NOTE 2: Room for a boat to sail to the mark,



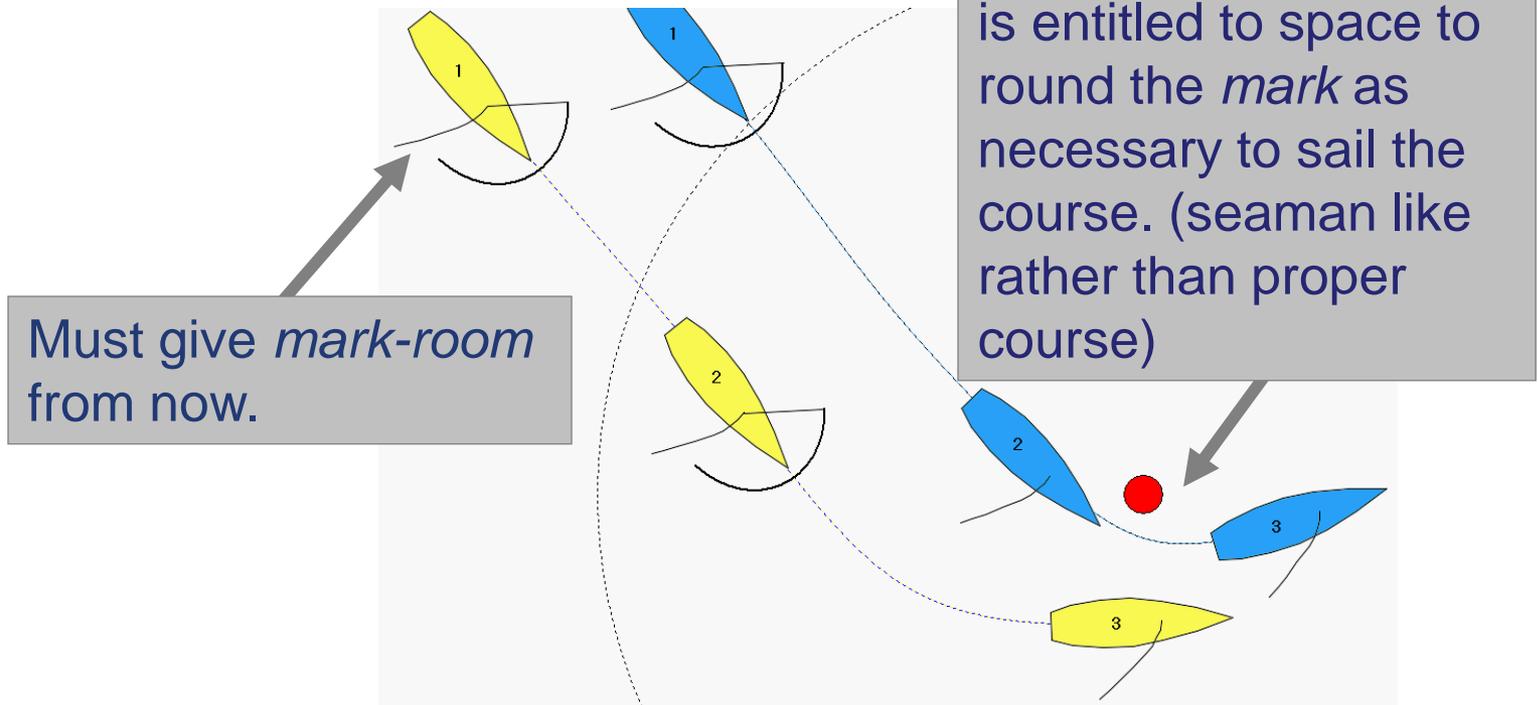
Must give *mark-room* from now.

Entitled only to enough space to sail to the mark, not the space she might want to make a tactical swing wide-cut close rounding.

Definitions

Mark-Room

NOTE 3: ...and then *room* to round the *mark* as necessary to sail the course.

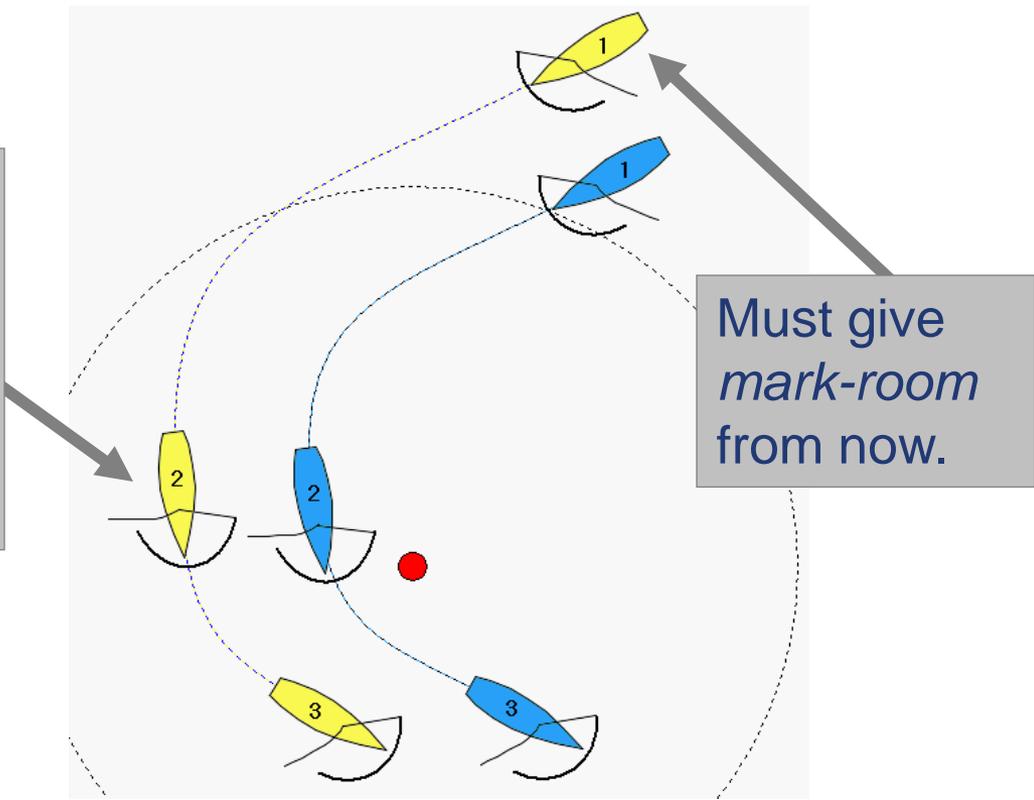


Definitions

Mark-Room

NOTE 4: ... and then *room* to round the *mark* as necessary to sail the course.

Her mark rounding may include a gybe. Yellow must leave enough space for Blue's boom to come across with the gybe.



Definitions

Obstruction

An object that a boat could not pass without changing course substantially, if she were sailing directly towards it and one of her hull lengths from it.

An object that can be passed safely on only one side and an object, area or line so designated by the sailing instructions are also *obstructions*.

However, a boat *racing* is not an *obstruction* to other boats unless they are required to *keep clear* of her or, if rule 22 applies, avoid her. A vessel under way, including a boat *racing*, is never a continuing *obstruction*. (See RRS 19.2)

Definitions

Obstruction

NOTE:

The object must be large enough to require a substantial course change if you were aiming right at it.

The amount of course change required ($10^{\circ}+$) is determined from a point one-boat length from the object.

The size of course change must be substantial.

The starboard tack boat and the Keep Clear area are both obstructions for the port tack boats.



Definitions

Obstruction

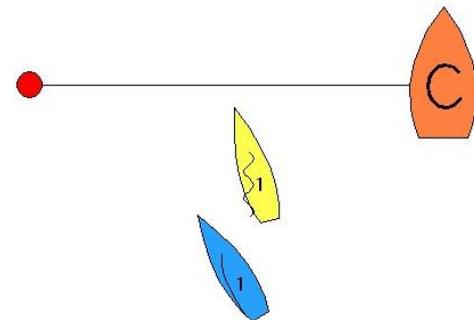
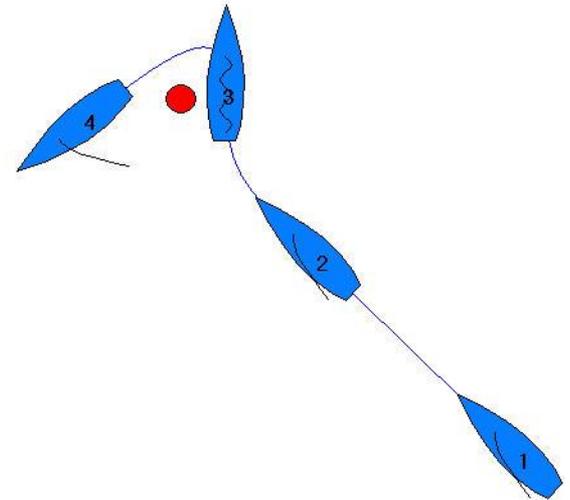
A vessel under way, including a boat racing, is never a continuing obstruction.

Definitions

Proper Course

A course a boat would choose in order to *sail the course* and *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term.

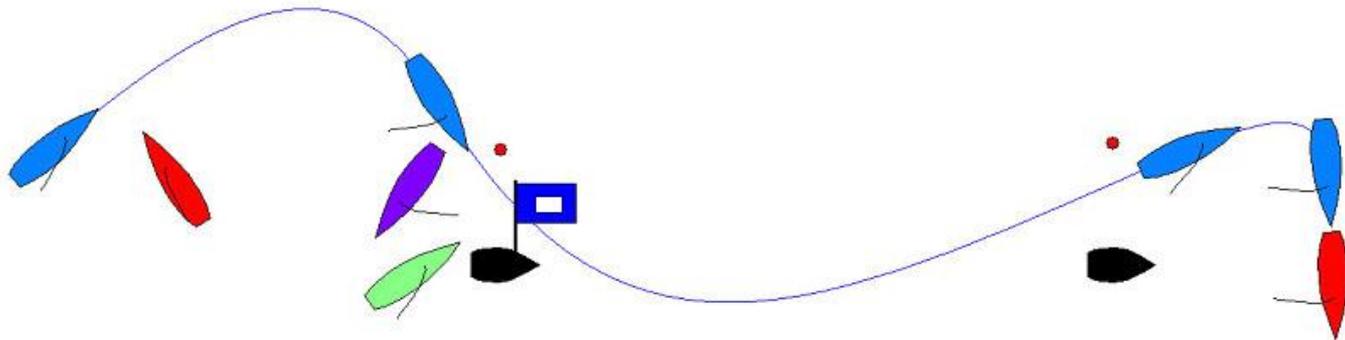
A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.



Definitions

Racing

A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and *marks* or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, postponement or abandonment.



NOTE:

Preamble to Part 2 requires that you understand when a boat is racing and when a boat must follow which rules...

Definitions

Room:

The space a boat needs in the **existing conditions**, including space to comply with her obligations under the rules of Part 2 and rule 31, while maneuvering **promptly** in a **seamanlike** way.

NOTE:

promptly – time (generally interpreted as without unreasonable delay), as soon as prompted.

existing conditions – allowing for big waves, strong winds, current.

seamanlike – not beginner or expert, but competent, safe.

A good understanding of this definition is essential for close racing where the establishment of Right of Way, with its ***Keep Clear*** obligation, is common.

Definitions

Rule

- (a) The rules in the current book, including the Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, preambles, and rules of relevant appendices, but not the titles;
- (b) World Sailing Regulations that have been designated by World Sailing as World Sailing website.
- (c) the prescriptions of the national authority, unless they are changed by the notice of race or sailing instructions in compliance with the national authority's prescription, if any, to rule 88.2
- (d) the class rules (for a boat racing under a handicap or rating system, the rules of that system are 'class rules');
- (e) the notice of race;
- (f) the sailing instructions; and
- (g) any other documents that govern the event.

Definitions

Rule includes:

- ISAF Regulations: 19 (Eligibility),
20 (Advertising),
21 (Anti-Doping),
22 (Sailor Classification)
- The prescriptions of the national authority (YNZ)
- Class rules
- NOR and SIs
- Any other documents that govern the event
(eg Deed of Gift)

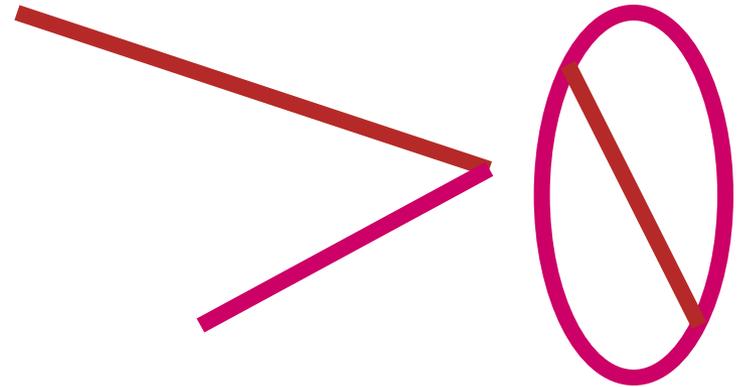
Definitions

What about...

? – ISAF CASES

? – YNZ Appeals

? – Q & A



No, they are not rules. They are authoritative interpretations and explanations of the rules.

Definitions

Sail the Course

A boat *sails the course* provided that a string representing her track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its prestart side to *start* until she *finishes*, when drawn taut,

- a) Passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the required order,
- b) Touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding *mark*, and
- c) Passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous *mark*.

Definitions

Sail the Course

NOTE:

This is a new definition in the 2021-24 rules.

It replaces much of the information in Rule 28 of the 2017-20 rules.

It requires that sailing instructions designate which marks are rounding marks.

Question

Which marks of a traditional triangular course with the start/finish line halfway up the beat need to be designated 'rounding marks'?

Definitions

Start

A boat *starts* when, her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with Rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side.

NOTE

In the 2021-24 rules it is only the boat's hull that needs to be on the pre-start side!

Definitions

Support Person Any person who

- a) provides or may provide physical or advisory support to a competitor, including any coach, trainer, manager, team staff, medic, paramedic or any other person working with, treating or assisting a competitor in or preparing for the competition, or
- b) is the parent or guardian of the competitor.

NOTE

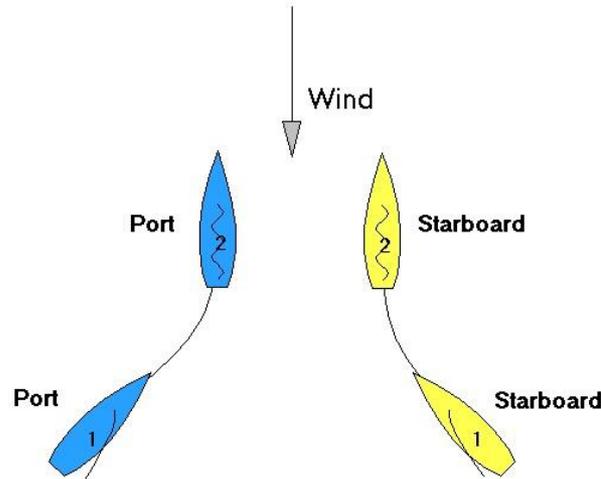
This identifies people that penalties can be applied in a hearing by a protest committee under rule 60.3 (d), 64.4 or can be considered under rule 69 Misconduct .

Definitions

Copy of TSS software registered to Gail Bernstein

Tack, Starboard or Port

A boat is on the *tack*, *starboard* or *port*, corresponding to her *windward* side.



Note:

See Leeward and Windward definition.

Definitions

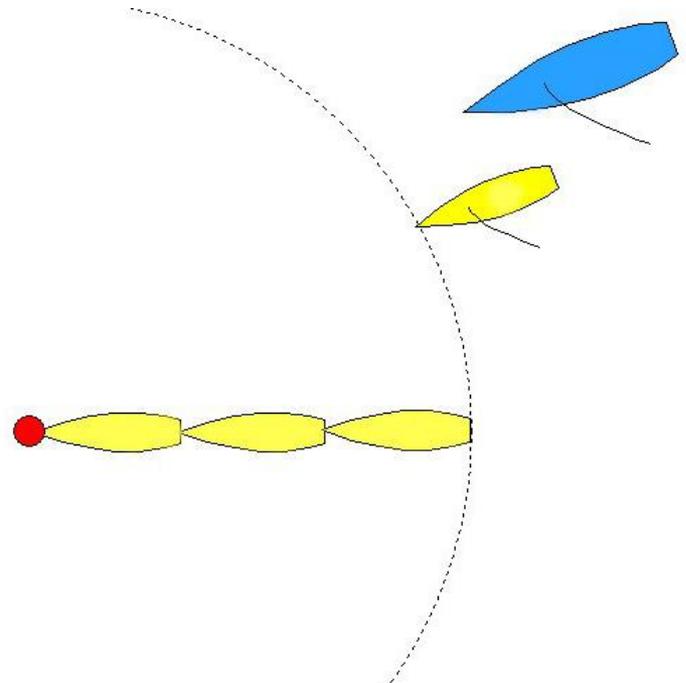
Zone

The area around a *mark* within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it.

A boat is in the *zone* when any part of her hull is in the *zone*.

Note:

Obstructions don't have zones.

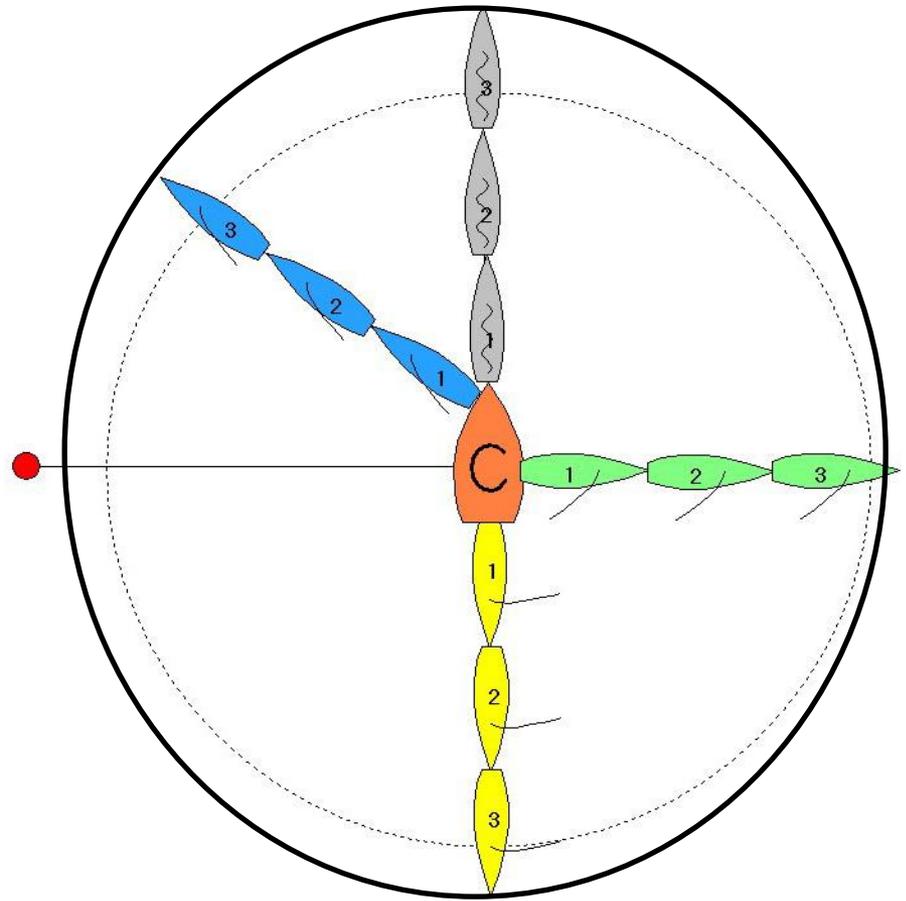


Definitions

Zone

NOTE:

The three-length zone is not necessarily a circle. It's an area around a *mark* that is less than three hull lengths from the perimeter of that object, which may be a large committee vessel!



Revision questions: All answers above

1. Who is first responsible for applying the RRS in a race?
2. Are the Sailing Instructions rules of sailing?
3. Can an abandoned race be resailed?
4. What does it mean if neither of two boats on the same tack are clear astern of the other?
5. Can a boat's equipment be part of an overlap?
6. When can boats on different tacks be overlapped?
7. Which boats are overlapped when two boats on the same tack that are clear ahead/clear astern have a third boat on the same tack to leeward overlapping both of the windward boats?
8. Is a boat that must luff to head to wind to squeeze around a mark fetching the mark?
9. Can a boat correct a Sail the Course error after finishing?

Revision questions: All answers above

10. What does it mean to Keep Clear?
11. Which side of a boat by the lee downwind is her leeward side?
12. Is the anchor line a part of a mark that a boat racing must not touch?
13. How much room is mark room?
14. How big is the zone around a mark in fleet racing?
15. How big must an object be to be classified as an obstruction?
16. What is a boat's proper course?
17. Can a boat be finished but still racing?
18. How much space and how much time is required to give room?
19. If a crewmember's body is on the course side of the start line at the start signal does that make the boat OCS? (In 2020? In 2021?)
20. Which marks must the string in Sail the Course definition touch?
21. Which tack is a head to wind boat on??

Conclusion:

- Hope you have found the Definitions exercise of the Introduction to Racing Rules of Sailing useful in understanding the terms.
- If you wish to continue with exercises exploring the Rules of Part 2, WHEN BOATS MEET, all you have to do is to send an email to may.madr@xtra.co.nz with Canterbury RRS in the subject line and include your name, club and phone number(optional) in the message.
- Please feel free to ask any questions raised in the exercise. We will try to answer ASAP.
- What were your answers to the questions on page 3?
- We will send the next exercise and information regarding opportunities for discussion meetings, depending on demand.
- Hope to hear from you soon
- Ross May and Jim Park (CYA Judge and Race Officer Convenors)