



SCOW Seminar Series

Introduction to Sailboat Racing

Racing Rules of Sailing Part I

Instructors

- David Metcalf – SCOW Racing Director
 - 1969 San Diego Bay Sailboat Racing Junior Champion (as crew)
 - Skipper and Captain, FS 5240 Miss Mabel
 - From long line of New England Salts
- Steen Byskov -
 - Opti sailor since age 7, then Laser, Flipper, H-Boat, taught sailing and navigation, then kids..
 - ... and now master Laser sailor Racer at Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA)
 - Native of Denmark – known for sailing since the middle ages.



March Seminar Program

- Imagined race walkthrough 6 March
- A. ROW Rules: 10, 11, 12 and 13 6 March
- B. Limits on ROW Boat 14, 15, 16 and 17 6 March
- C. Mark Room: 18 13 March
- Sail Fast! Part 1 – Basic sail trim 13 March
- *C. Obstructions: 19 and 20.* later
- Other Rules – Starting, Exoneration, Penalties 20 March
- Rule Recap, Spirit of the Rules & Protests 20 March
- Starting and Course Strategies. 20 March
- Sail Fast! Part 2 – Advanced techniques 27 March
- Open – TBD by popular consent 27 March



Sailboat Race Walkthrough

- We've decided to Race!
- Pre-Race Activities
- Skippers Meeting w PRC / Race Committee
- The Course
- Sail out – check out conditions
- Starting sequence

- Read Sailing Instructions and Notice of Race (NOR)

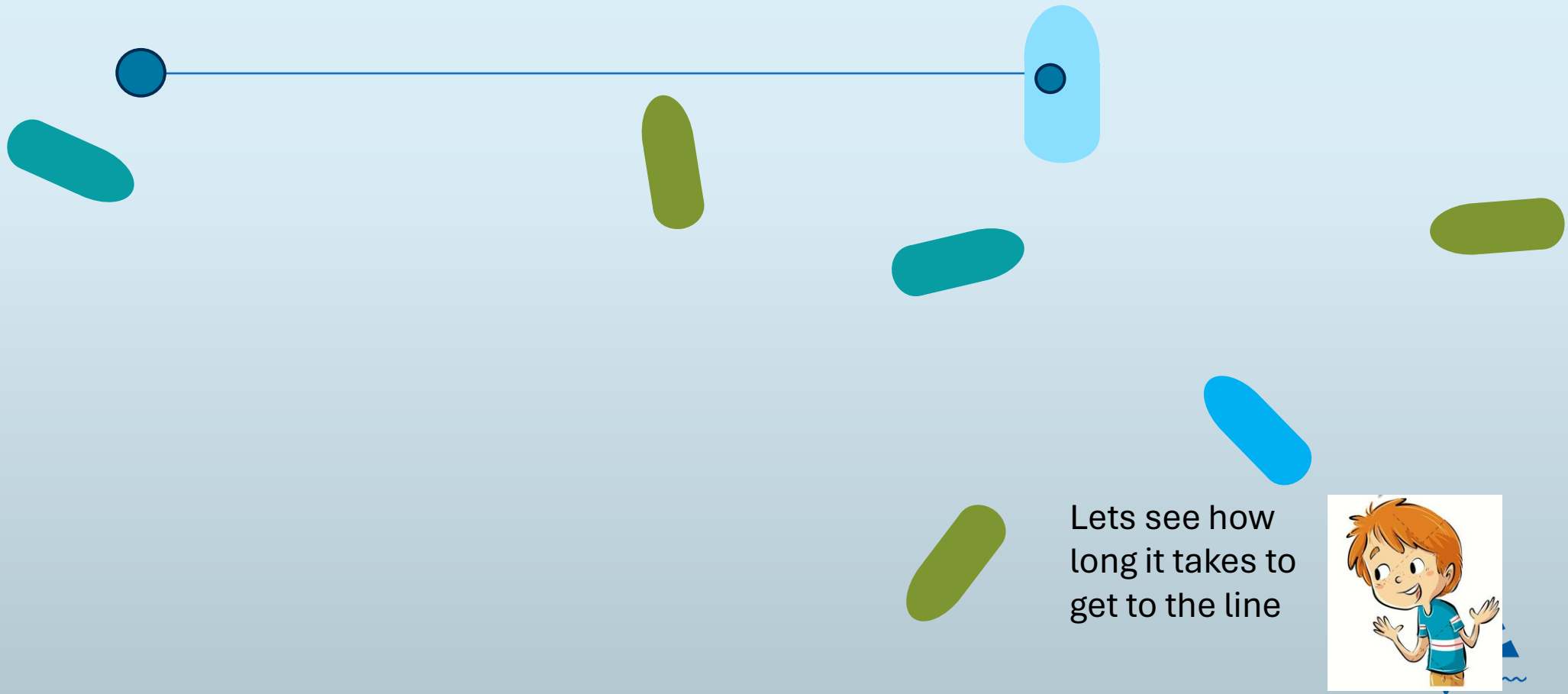
<i>Minutes before starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

0%

The Start



- 3 Minutes to Go

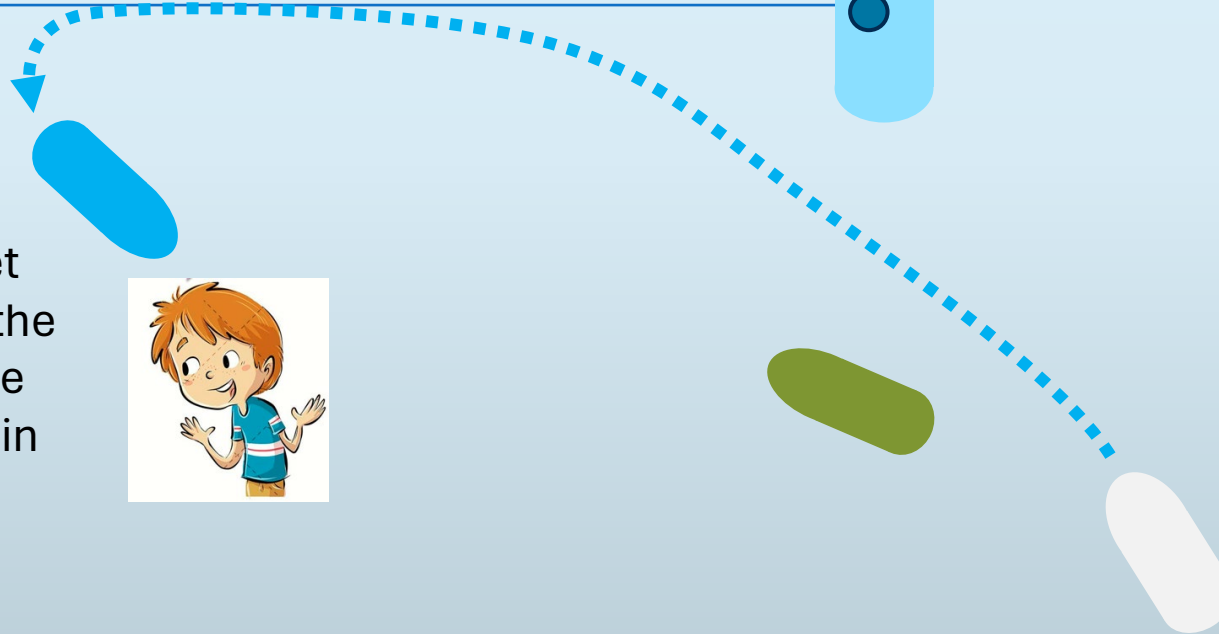


Lets see how
long it takes to
get to the line

The Start



- 2 Minutes to Go



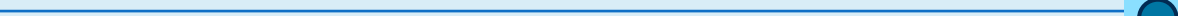
OK, lets get
even with the
flag and the
WM at 1 min



The Start



- 1 Minute to Go



Watch that
Guy! Let me
know if he
tacks..



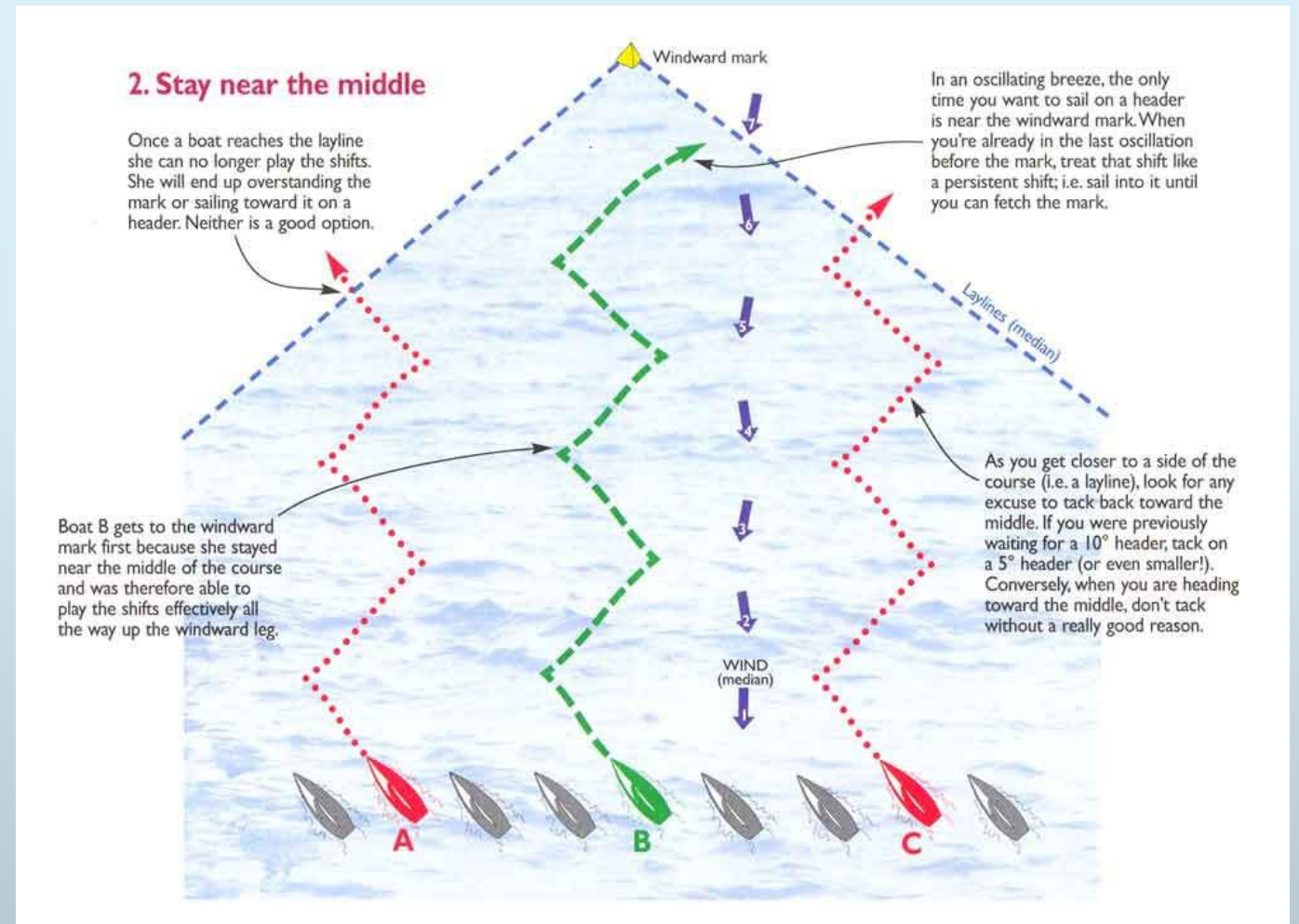
All Clear!



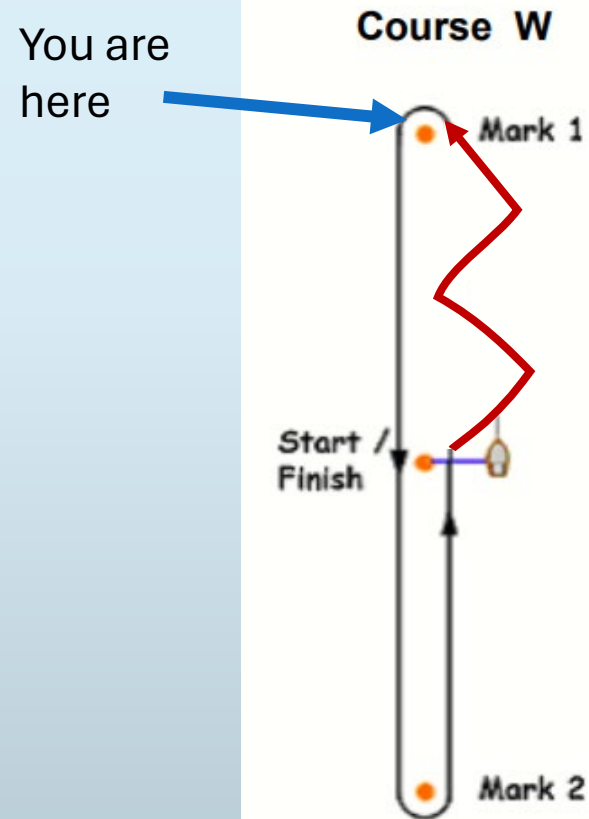
Beat to Windward Mark



- Keep a good lookout!
- Where are the “Rock Stars”?
- What do I need to do to get clean air?
- Where is the current strongest?
- In shifty air, tack on Headers.



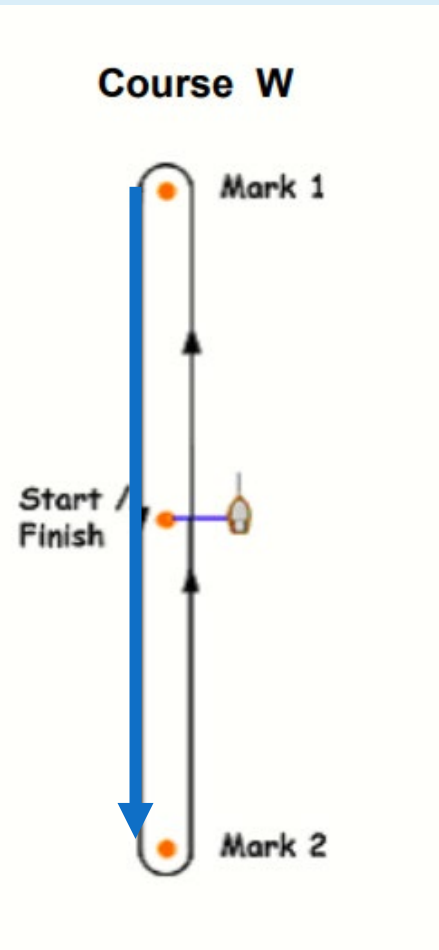
Room at the Mark!



Run to Leeward Mark



- Watch for boats still approaching mark
- Keep our air clear
- Spinnaker is the money sail
- Broad reach or straight run?



Beat To the Finish!



Post Race Comradery

- I thought I had you at the Windward Mark!
- You had a very loose rig. Did that work?
- I just got lucky, tacked right into a good wind-shift.
- How did you have your boom vang?
- There was a good thermal off the airport.

In Summary – *Sailboat Racing – the great undiscovered sport!*



Racing at SCOW

- Wednesday Night Racing WNR
 - Less formal, club boats pick up crew at dock
 - No race committee boat
 - Normally up and back X 2
- SCOW Regatta for Flying Scots
 - Race Committee, Scores and Trophies
 - Brendan Day Regatta 11 May
 - Magellan - 8 June
 - Director's Cup: 5 October

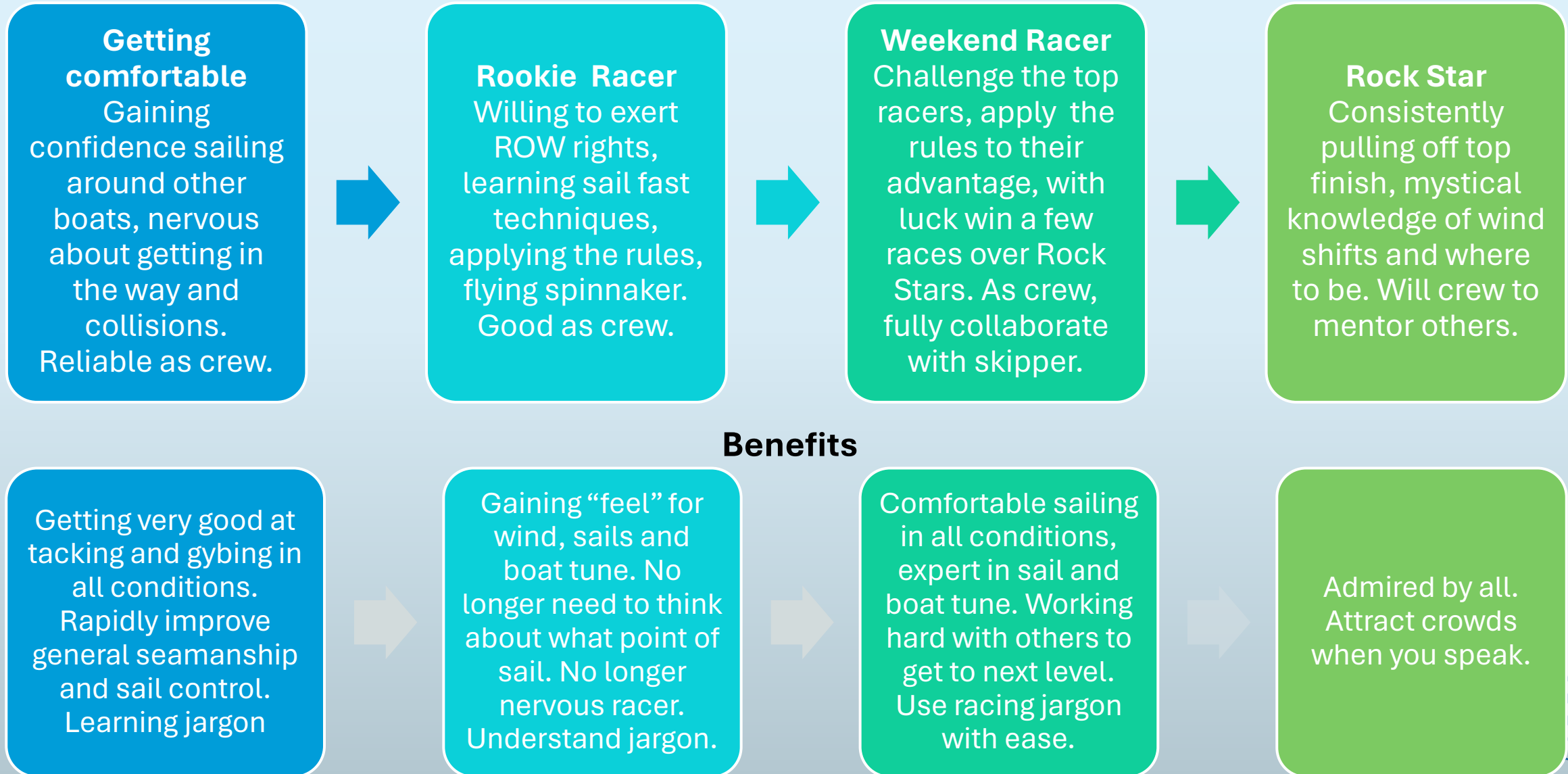


Racing at Washington Sailing Marina

- Potomac River Sailing Association PRSA
 - Spring Regatta: 25-26 May
 - President's Cup: 21-22 September
 - Sunday racing through all of Spring and Fall
- Daingerfield Island Sailing Club
 - Mount Vernon Chase: 18 May
 - Summer Regatta: 15-16 June
 - Bridges Fiasco: 13 Jul
 - Mt Vernon Boomerang: 21 September



Progression of the SCOW Racer



Video – Every Weekend

- [Every Weekend - YouTube](#)





Introduction to Racing Rules of Sailing

Overview

CONTENTS

Race Signals	<i>Inside front cover</i>
Online Rules Documents	4
Introduction	5
Definitions	7
Basic Principles	11
Part 1 Fundamental Rules	11
Part 2 When Boats Meet	14
Part 3 Conduct of a Race	21
Part 4 Other Requirements When Racing	26
Part 5 Protests, Redress, Hearings, Misconduct and Appeals	34
Part 6 Entry and Qualification	50
Part 7 Race Organization	52
Appendix A Scoring	57
Appendix B Windsurfing Fleet Racing Rules	61
Appendix C Match Racing Rules	72
Appendix D Team Racing Rules	86
Appendix E Radio Sailing Racing Rules	94
Appendix F Kiteboarding Racing Rules	104
Appendix G Identification on Sails	115
Appendix H Weighing Clothing and Equipment	120
Appendix J Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions	121
Notice concerning Notice of Race Guide	126
Notice concerning Sailing Instructions Guide	126
Appendix M Recommendations for Protest Committees	127
Appendix N International Juries	134



Overview

- A. Right of Way – 10, 11, 12, 13 - Tonight and review on 13 March
- B. Limits on Right of Way Boat – 14, 15, 16 and 17; Spirt of the Rules – Tonight and review on 13 March
- C. Mark Room – 18 - 13 March
- D. Other Rules – Starting and other rules, Final Summary – 20 March
- C. Obstructions – later in the season



Sources

Questions about the SCOW's racing program? Contact the Racing Director at racing@scow.org

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- [SCOW Racing Policy 2023](#)
- [World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024](#)
- [Wednesday Night Racing Standing SIs 2023](#)
- [Flying Scot Class Rules](#)
- [SCOW Protest Procedures](#)

RACING RESOURCES

- [RYA - Racing Rules of Sailing](#)
- [North Sails 2023](#)
- [S&S 2022 Sp](#)
- [RACING BASICS](#)
- [Racing Skills](#)
- [More Flying Scot](#)
- [Greg Fisher C](#)
- [Norman](#)
- [North Sails T](#)
- [Racing Flags](#)

RACE COMMITTEE

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

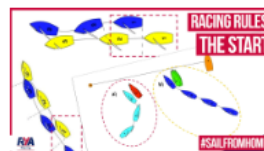
Series 1 - The rules of Part 2 'When Boats Meet'

Series 1 provides an introduction to the racing rules of sailing and covers the rules and scenarios you are most likely to come across on the race course.

Title	Content	Presenter
Introduction	Finding your way around the rule book. How do we decide which boat has right of way?	Chris Lindsay
The Start	Does anything limit the right of way boat?	Matt Goodbourn
The Windward Leg	Revision of the right-of-way rules. Obstructions and hailing for room to tack.	Niall McLeod
Marks Part 1	Marks, and who is entitled to mark room.	Chris Atkins
The Run	When do I have to sail my proper course?	Mark Rushall
Marks Part 2	Marks Masterclass	Jon Napier



Introduction to the Racing Rules of



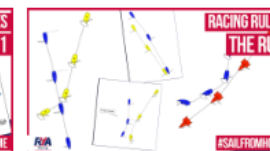
The Start



The Windward Leg



Marks - Part 1



The Run



Marks Part 2

A. Right of Way

SECTION A

RIGHT OF WAY

*A boat has right of way over another boat when the other boat is required to **keep clear** of her. However, some rules in Sections B, C and D limit the actions of a right-of-way boat.*

10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

*When boats are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat.*

11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

*When boats are on the same *tack* and *overlapped*, a *windward* boat shall *keep clear* of a *leeward* boat.*

12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

*When boats are on the same *tack* and not *overlapped*, a boat *clear astern* shall *keep clear* of a boat *clear ahead*.*

13 WHILE TACKING

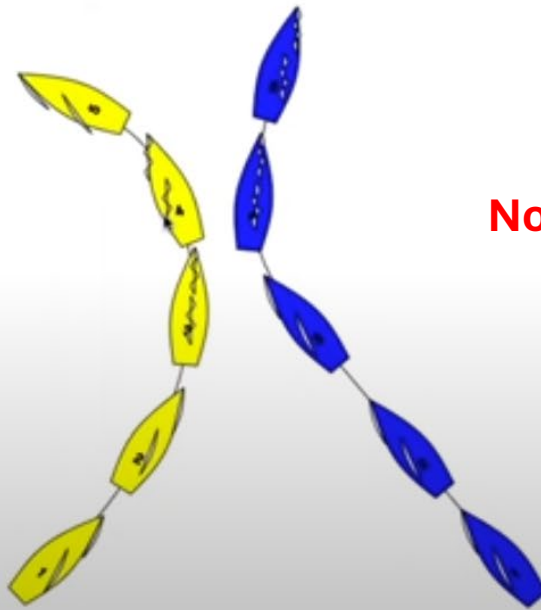
*After a boat passes head to wind, she shall *keep clear* of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.*

Key Definition

Keep Clear

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

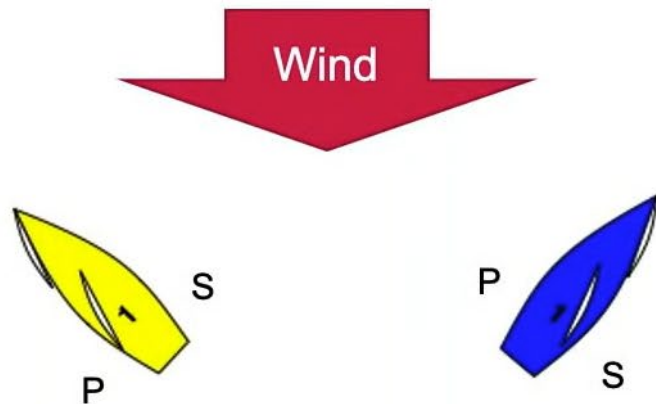
- (a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,*
- (b) when the boats are overlapped, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.*



Note: No contact necessary.



10. ...a *port tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard tack* boat.



Boats have a **windward** side and a **leeward** side

A boat's tack is her windward side

Wind hitting port side? **Then port tack**

But.....if sailing by the lee or directly downwind

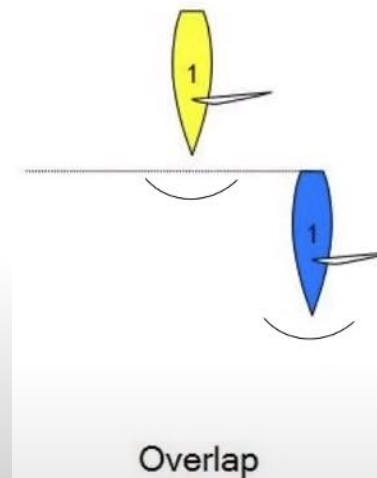
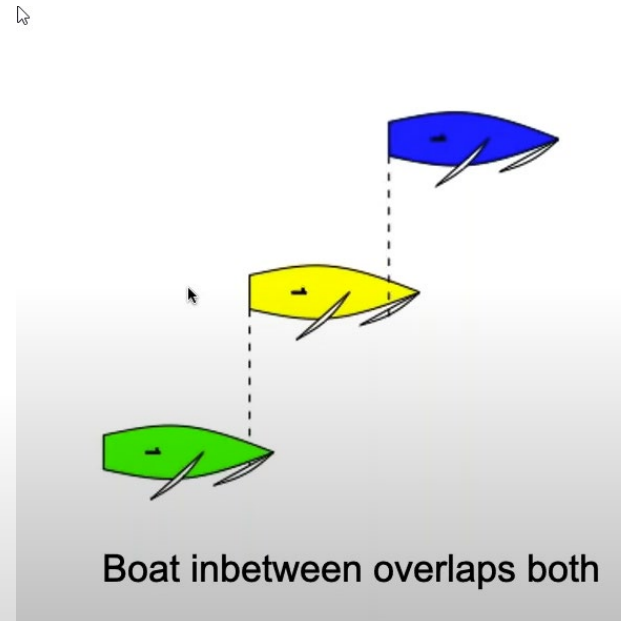
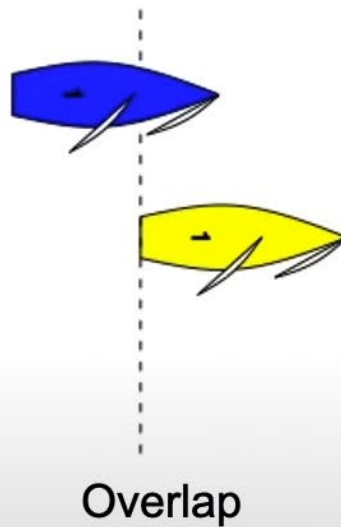
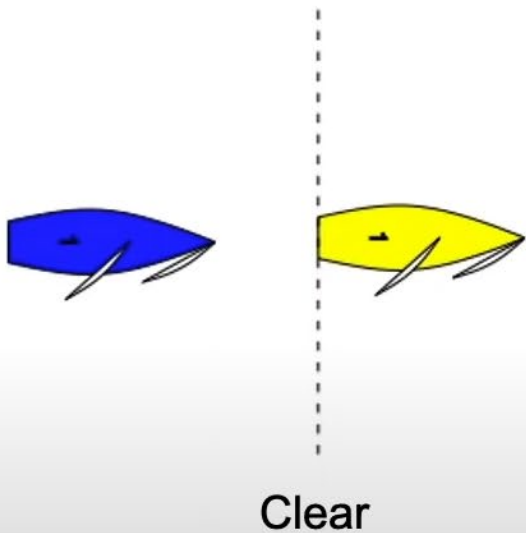
Leeward side is the side on which the mainsail lies



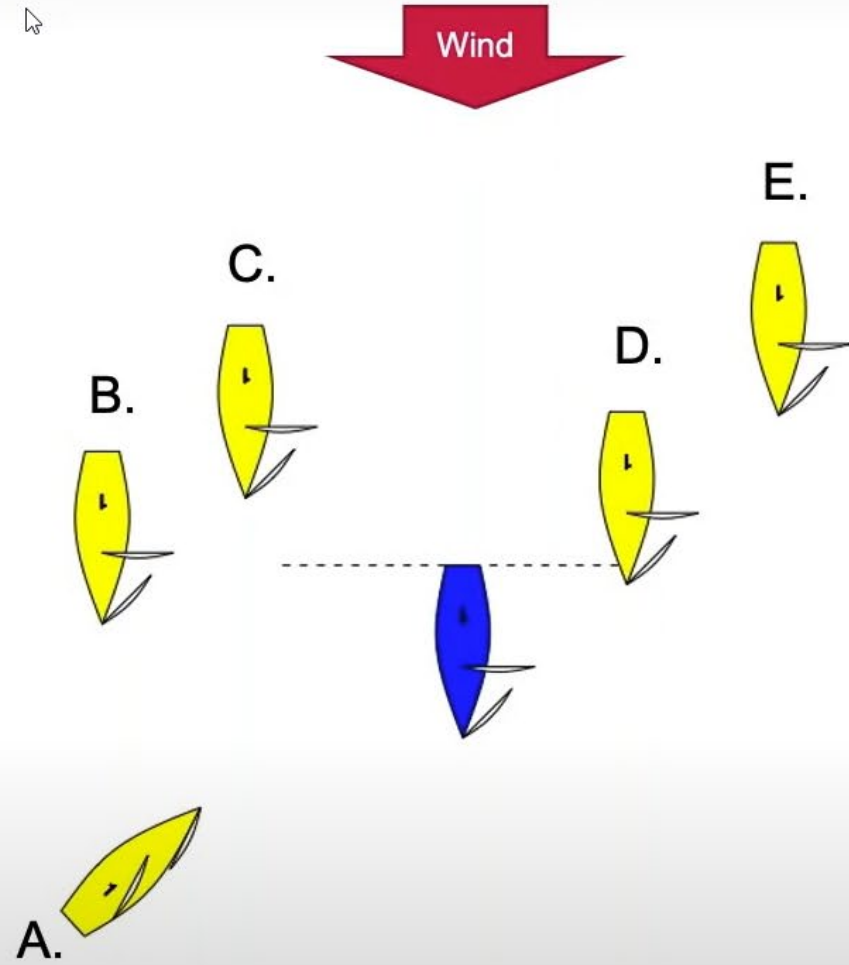
11... On same tack and overlapped, windward keep clear of leeward

Overlap

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



Poll 2



Which boat(s) are NOT overlapped with Blue?

A.

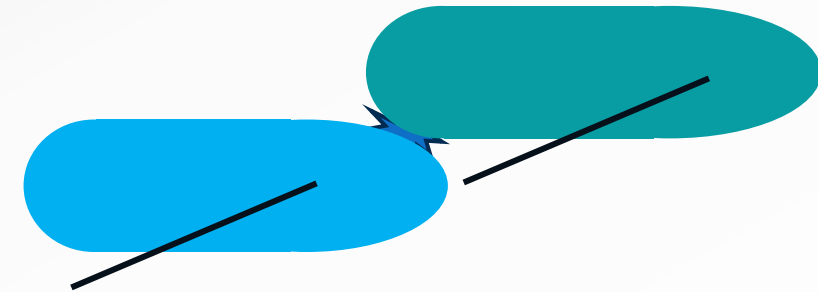
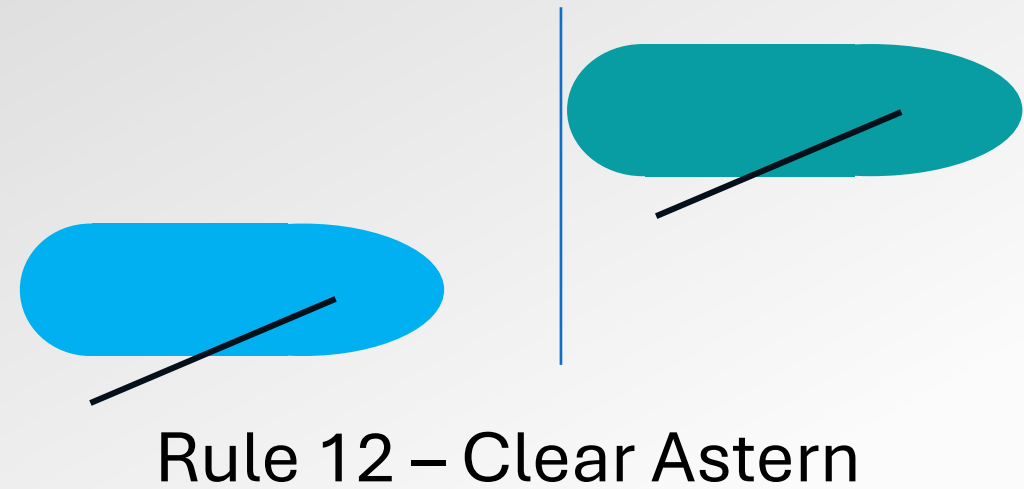
B.

C.

D.

E.

12..same tack, not overlapped, clear astern keep clear



Rule 12 – Clear Astern

Or ?

Rule 11 – Windward –
Leeward

Or...



Wind

Poll 3

A.



B.



Which blue boat must keep clear of yellow?

A.

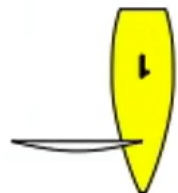
B.

C.

D.

E.

F.



C.



E.



D.



13. Keep clear while tacking

Rule 13 While Tacking

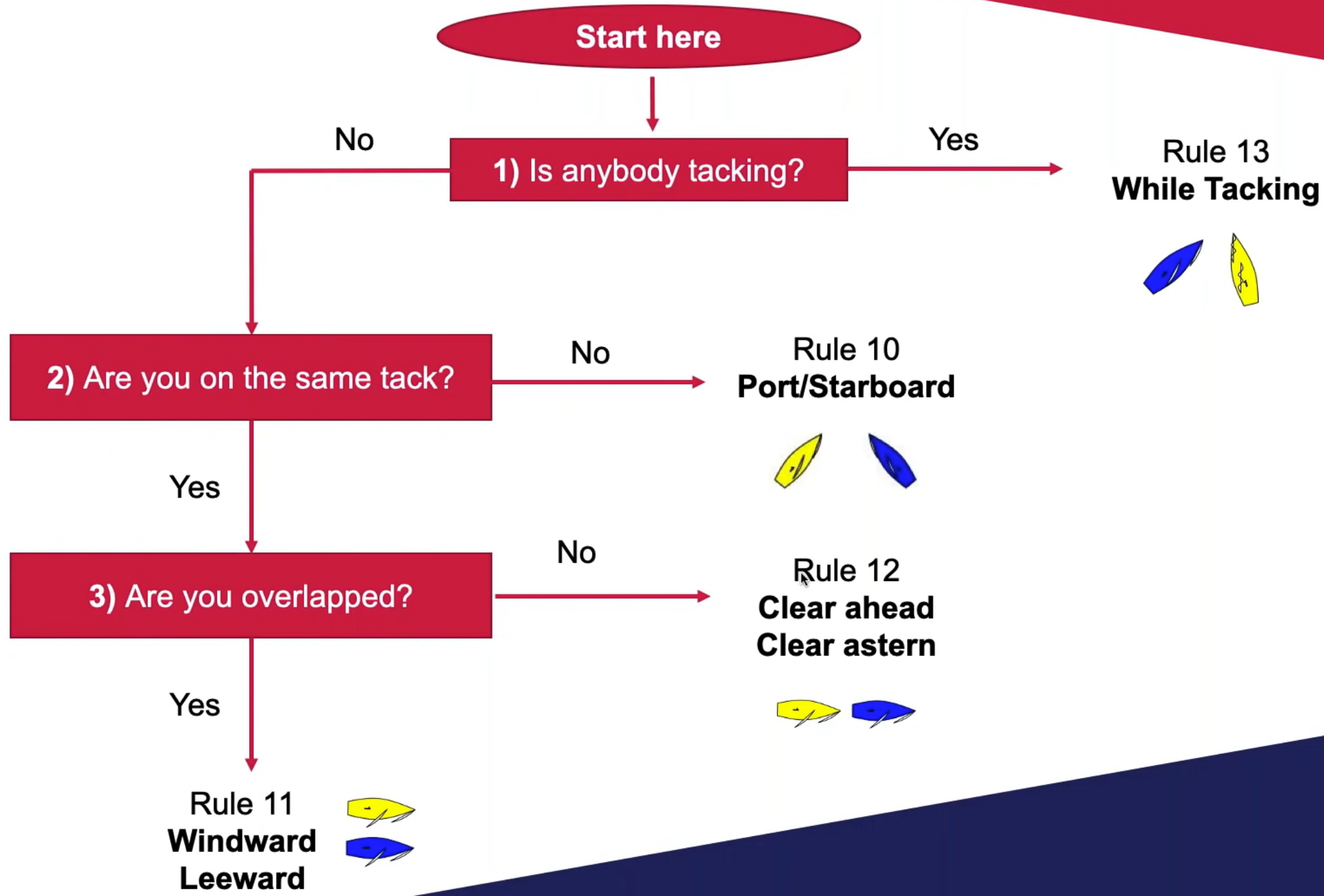
After a boat passes head to wind, **she shall keep clear of other boats** until she is on a close-hauled course.



If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

Hint: "If you are on the right, you've got the rights"





Rule 14: Sailboat Racing is not a contact sport

SECTION B GENERAL LIMITATIONS

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.



NEXT – What limits the Right of Way Boat?

- Definitions
- General Limitations – 14, 15, 16 and 17
- [Tacking Too Close \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

SECTION B

GENERAL LIMITATIONS

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.

15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*.

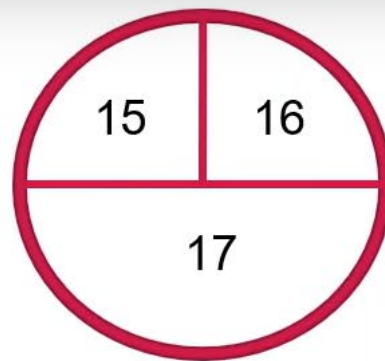
16.2 In addition, on a beat to windward when a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to leeward of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not bear away if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.

17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* within two of her hull lengths to *leeward* of a boat on the same *tack*, she shall not sail above her *proper course* while they remain on the same *tack* and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails *astern* of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*.



Right-of-way Rules



Rules that limit the right-of-way boat

Obstructions

19, 20

Marks

18, 21

14

Avoiding Contact

22

OCS
etc

23

Capsized

24

Interfering



15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions

Room

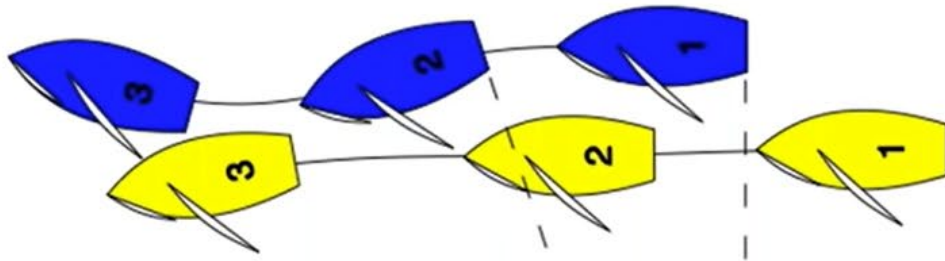
The space a boat needs in the existing conditions, including space to comply with her obligations under the rules of Part 2 and rule 31, while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way

Keep Clear

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

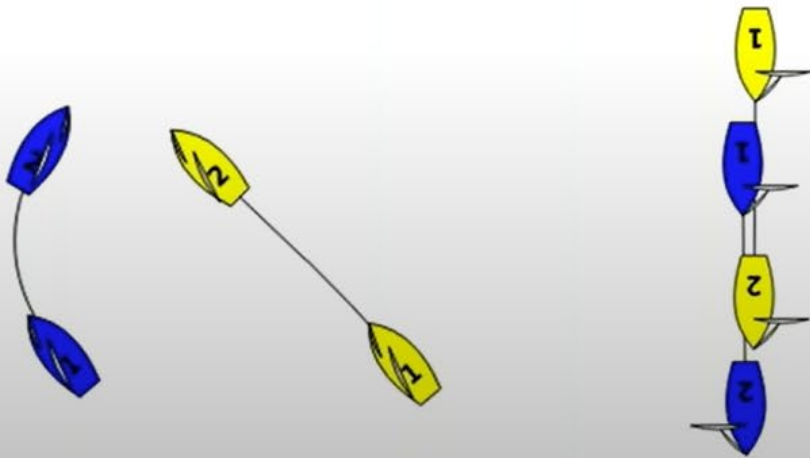
- (a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,
- (b) when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.

But what if the other boat gives up her right of way?

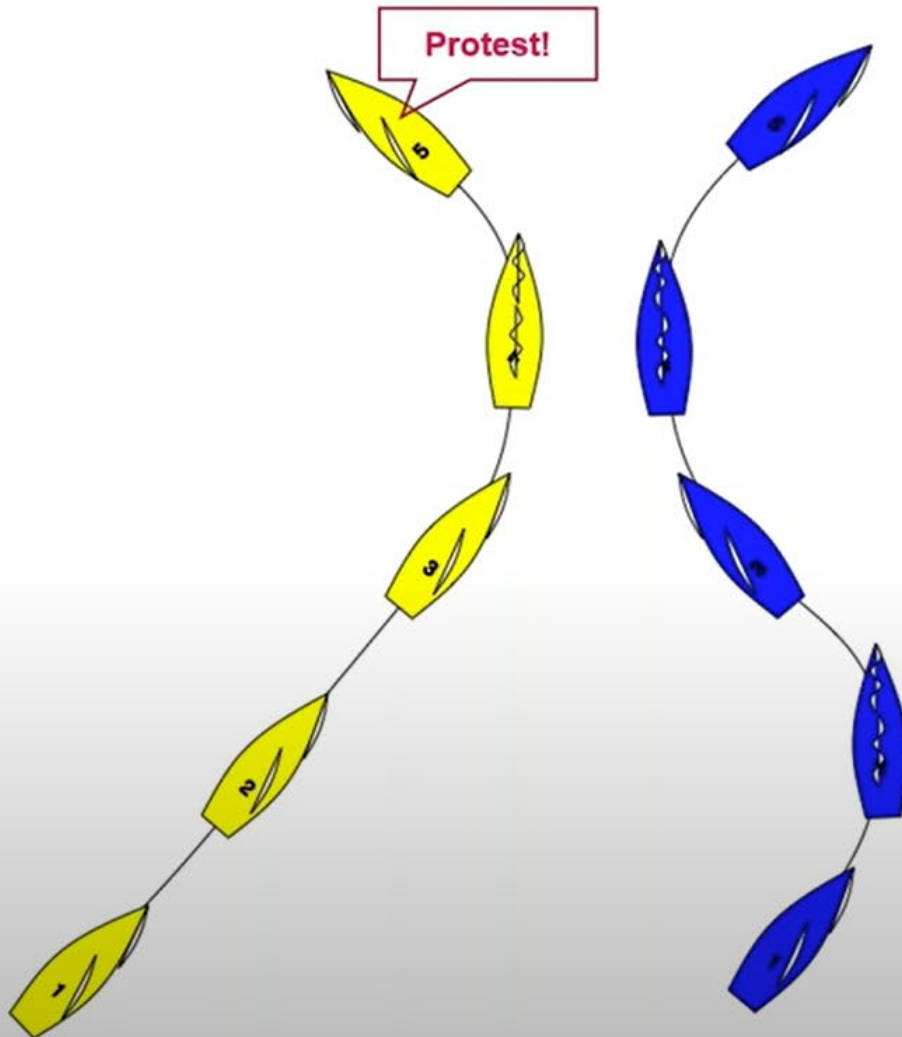


15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room to keep clear*, **unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions**



Question 1



Yellow and Blue are sailing on port tack. Blue tacks onto starboard close to Yellow. When Blue completes her tack onto starboard, both boats immediately have to luff and tack away to avoid contact. Yellow protests.

Which boat broke a rule?

Choose one option

- A – Yellow
- B – Blue
- C – Both
- D – Neither

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass astern of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*.

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 manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way

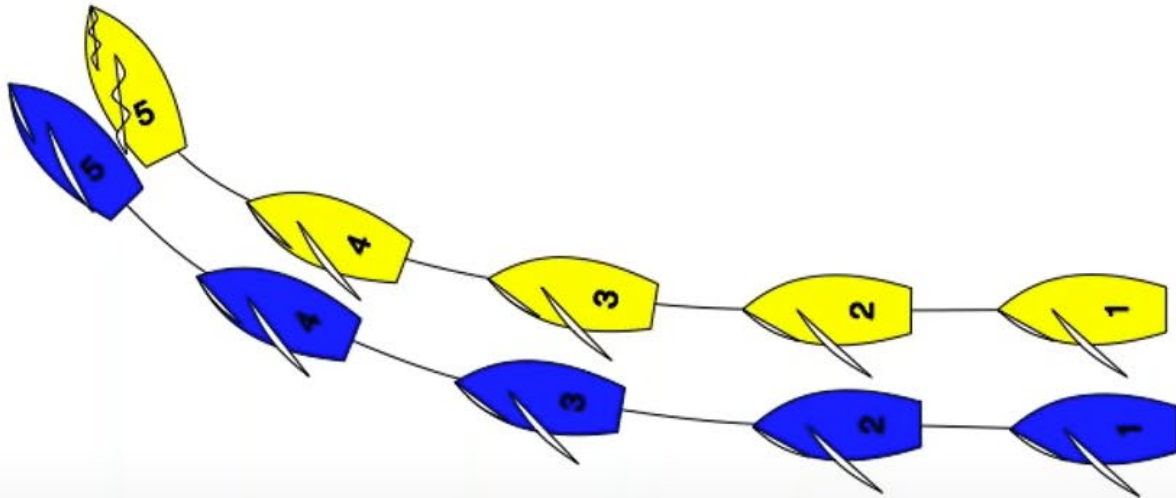
Keep Clear

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

- (a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,
- (b) when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.



16.1



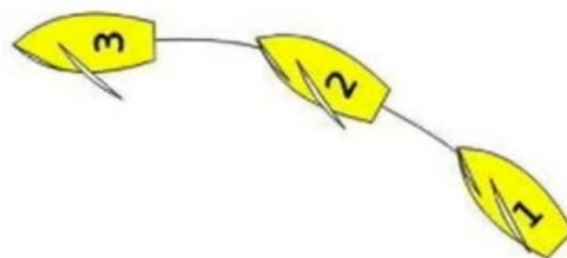
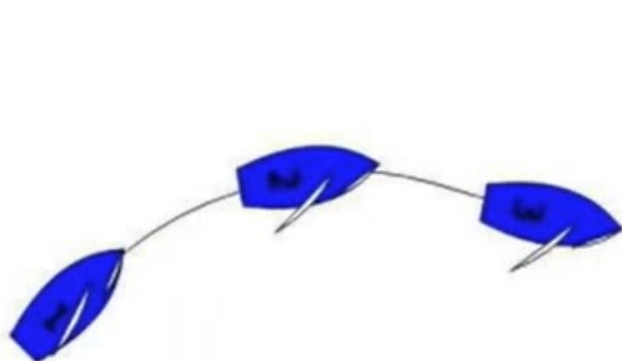
16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal a port-tack boat is keeping clear by sailing to pass astern of a starboard-tack boat, the starboard-tack boat shall not change course if as a result the port-tack boat would immediately need to change course to continue keeping clear.



16.2



Not a Violation of 16.2

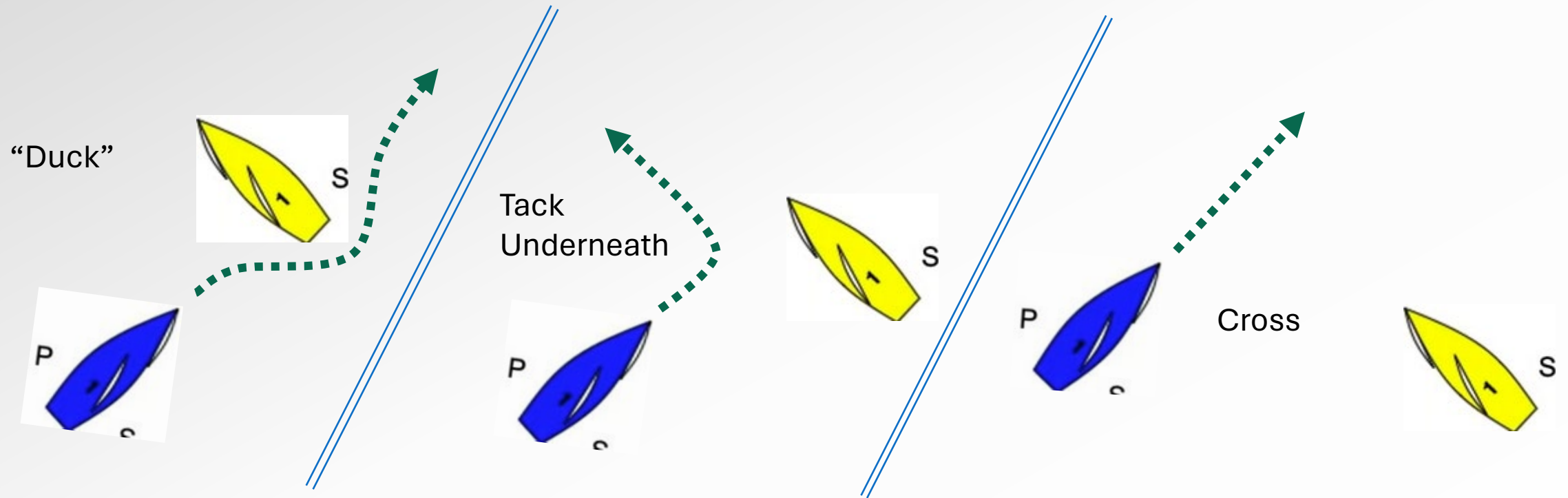
16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass astern of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*.



Port-Starboard Situations



Starboard Tack Boat Courtesy –

- Hail "Starboard" to make sure you have been seen
- It may be to your advantage to wave crossing boat on.
- Waiting to race or early Pre-Start – Show Port Tack boat a consistent course, let Port Tack get out of your way.



17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* within two of her hull lengths to *leeward* of a boat on the same *tack*, she shall not sail above her proper course while they remain on the same *tack* and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*.

Proper Course

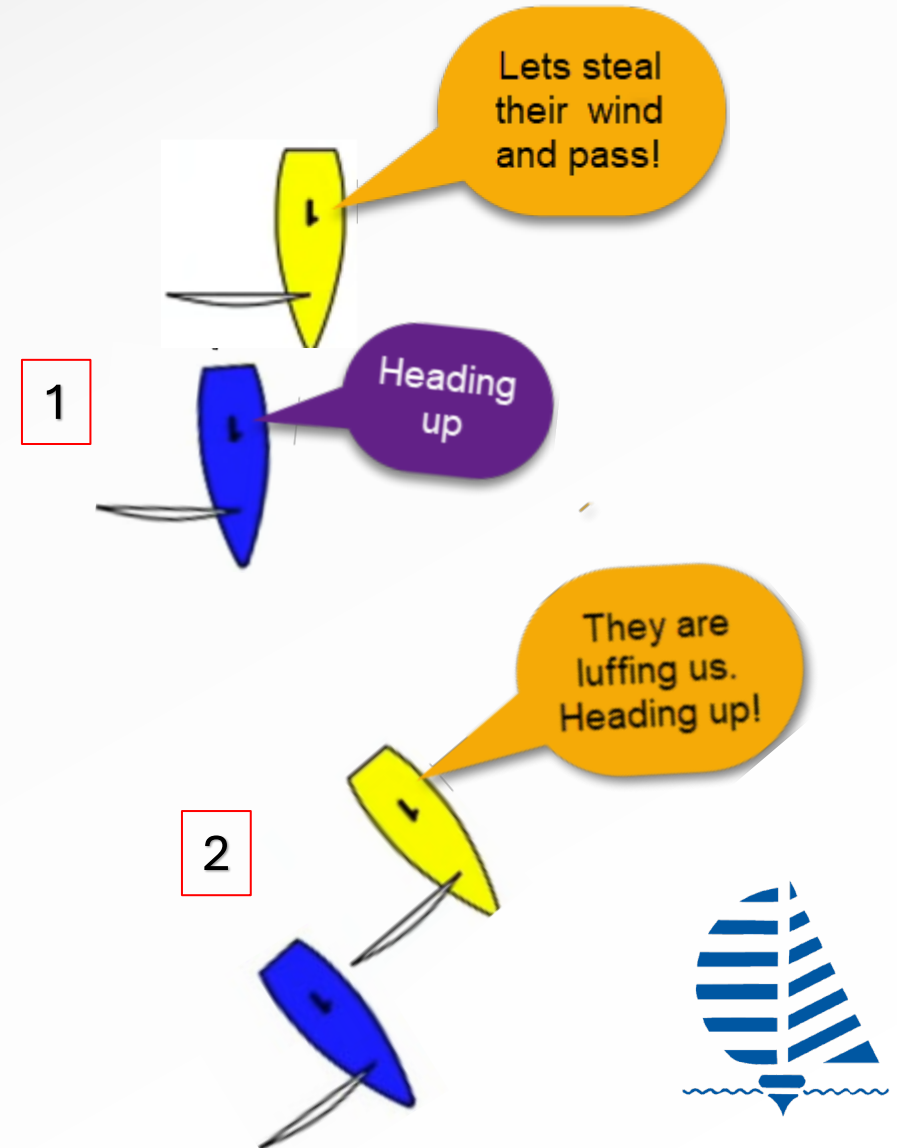
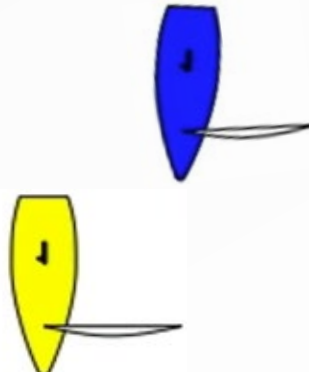
A course a boat would sail to *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal

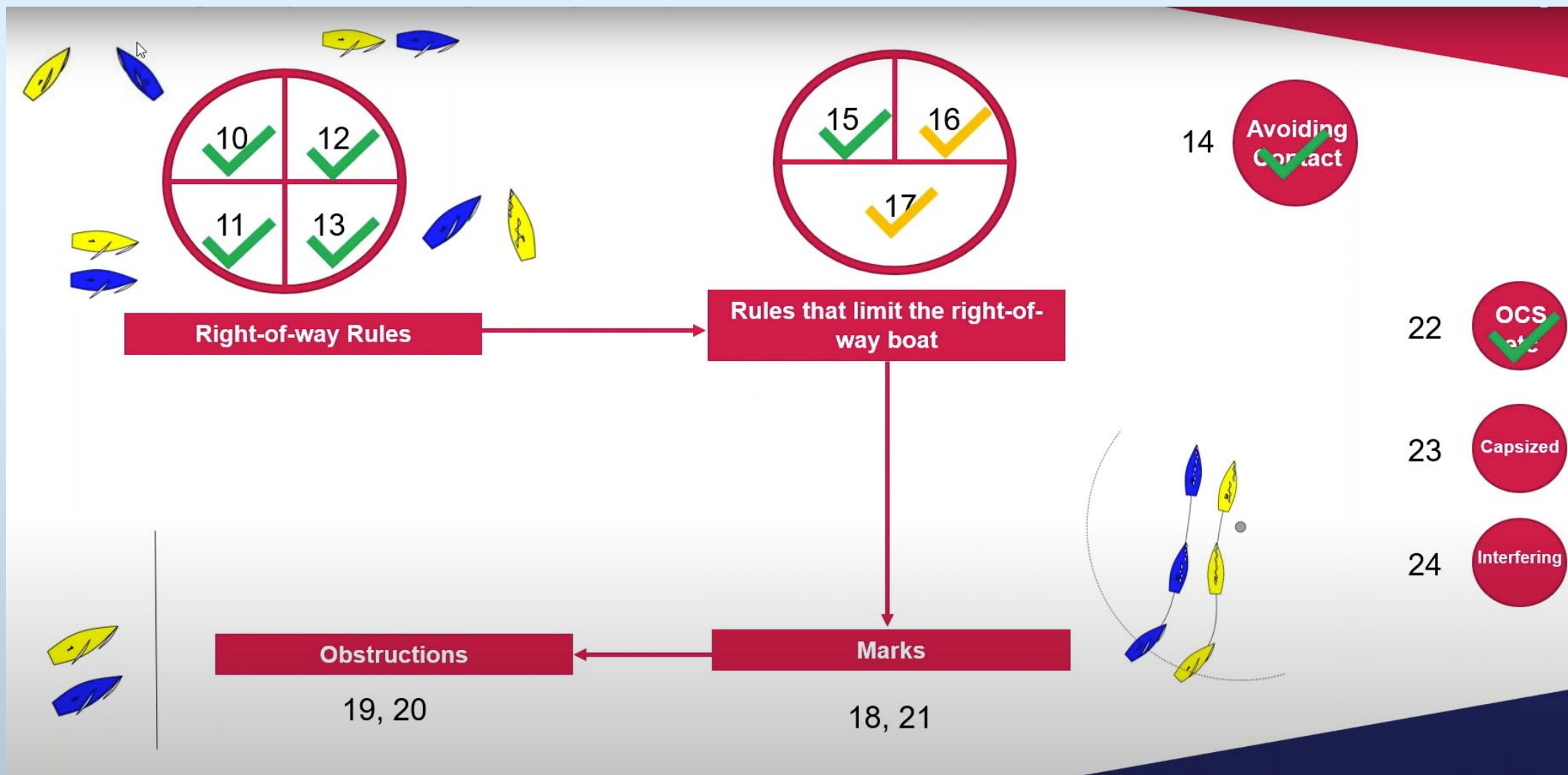
13 WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall *keep clear* of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.

Rule 17 - What it Means on a Run

- IF on a run and Leeward boat is either clear ahead or starts the leg overlapped:
 - **Rule 17 does not apply**
 - **Leeward boat can change course, even “luff” windward.**
- IF Leeward comes up from behind, no luffing allowed. Proper course only.



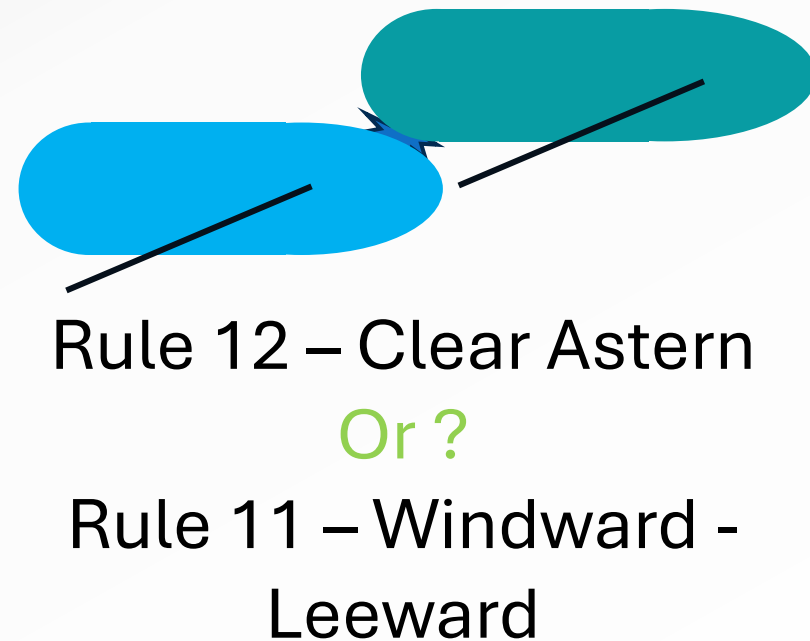
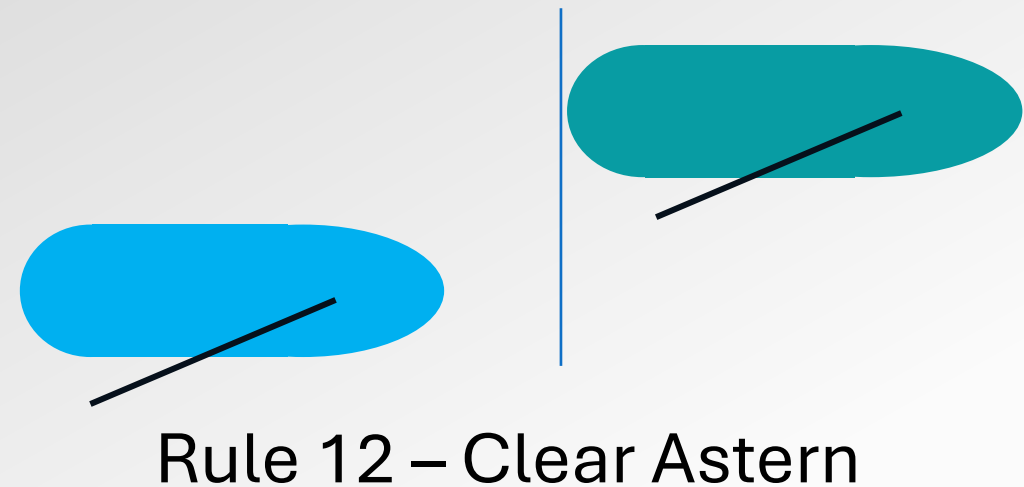


Video – Rule 15 Acquiring Right of Way

- [Tacking Too Close \(youtube.com\)](#)



Quiz: Rule 11, 12 or...

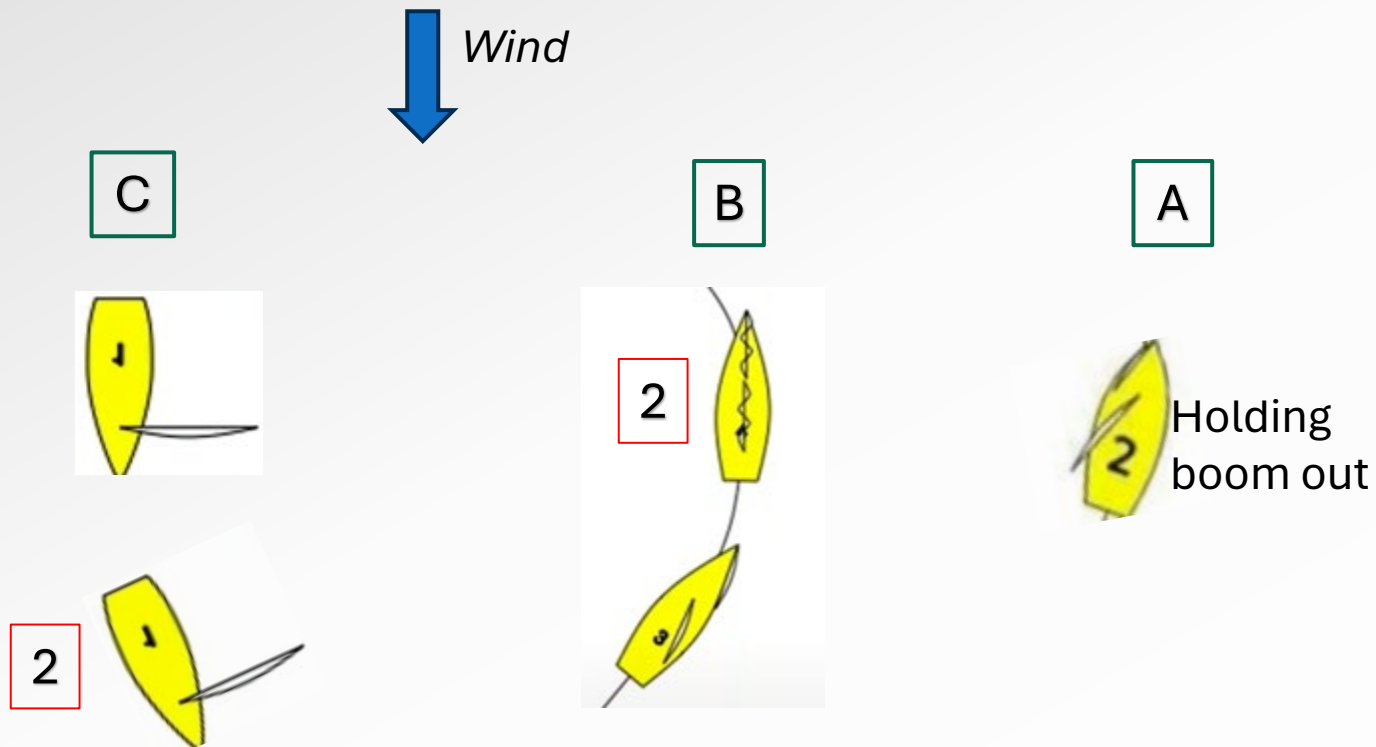


15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions

Quiz 1

- What Tack is each boat on in position 2?

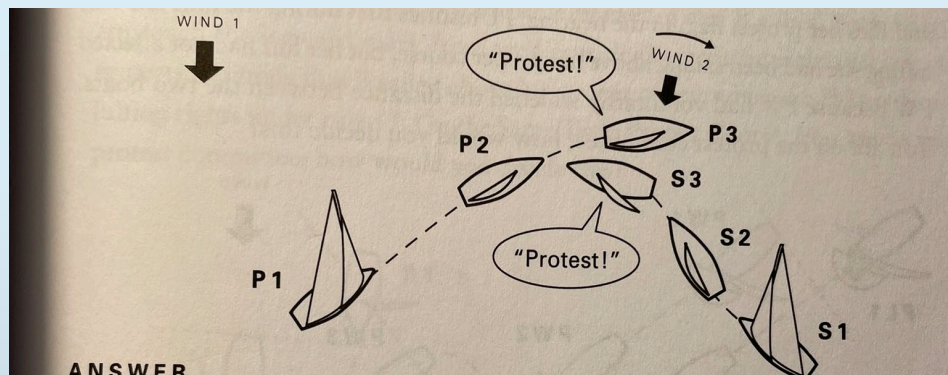


- A. "A boat is on a tack corresponding to her windward side"
- B. "A boat's leeward side is the side that is or, when she is head to wind, was away from the wind."
- C. "...when sailing by the lee or directly downwind, her leeward side is the side on which her mainsail lies."



Quiz 2

Boat S and P, both close-hauled are converging on a beat. P (port tack) will safely cross S (starboard). However, when they are less than two lengths apart, the wind veers. S changes her course in response to the wind shift such that P is unable to keep clear. S bears away passes astern of P and protests. Is the protest valid?



Your Answer:

- A. Boat S protest is held, see RRS 10
- B. Boat S protest is not held, see RRS 16.1 (ROW changing course..)
- C. Boat S is penalized, see RRS 16.2 (starboard cannot change course...)

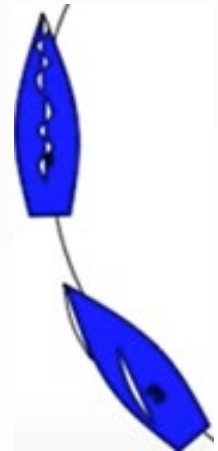
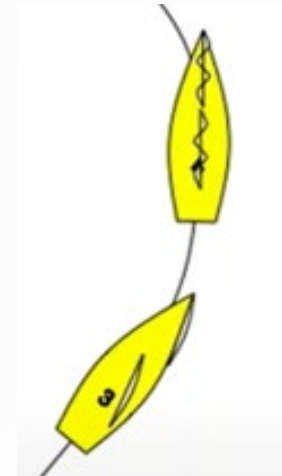
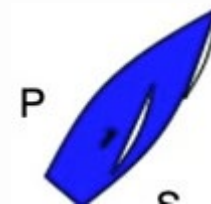
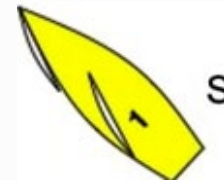
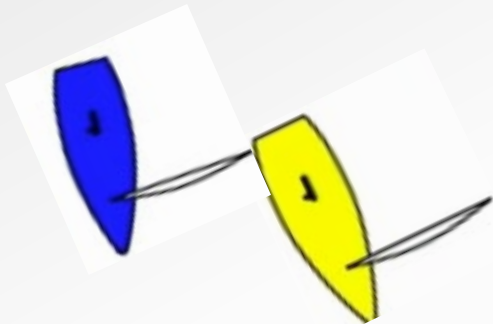
ANSWER

Boat S's protest is disallowed. S changes course when so close to P that P is unable to keep clear on her own. Rule 16.1, Changing Course, states, "When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat room to keep clear." S complies with rule 16.1 by promptly bearing away and giving P room to keep clear. The fact that S's change of course is in response to a windshift is not relevant to the application of rule 16.1.

Because S for a moment cannot sail her course with no need to take action to avoid P, P breaks rule 10, On Opposite Tacks (see the definition Keep Clear). However, because P is sailing within the room she is entitled to under rule 16.1, she is exonerated (freed from penalty) by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration (see US Sailing Appeal 120).



Quiz 3 – Stump the Experts: What if....



Resources

- SCOW Web Page – Race with SCOW

• The

http://
[269

• G

Sail

Find

Questions about the SCOW's racing program? Contact the Racing Director at racing@scow.org

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- [SCOW Racing Policy 2023](#)
- [World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024](#)
- [Wednesday Night Racing Standing SIs 2023](#)
- [Flying Scot Class Rules](#)
- [SCOW Protest Procedures](#)

RACING RESOURCES

- [RYA - Racing Rules Webinars](#)
- [North Sails 2021 Racing Rules Webinar](#)
- [S&S 2022 Sportsmanship Guide](#)
- [RACING BASICS-Mark-Johnson](#)
- [Racing Skills Videos](#)
- [More Flying Scot Racing Videos](#)
- [Greg Fisher Clinic - 2017 Great 48 Lake Norman](#)
- [North Sails Tuning and Sail Trim Guide](#)
- [Racing Flags and What They Mean](#)

RACE COMMITTEE

- [2017 Race Committee Handbook](#)
- [Race Committee Wind Graph](#)
- [Race Committee Worksheet](#)
- [Race Committee Finishing Log](#)
- [National Weather Service Synopsis](#)
- [River Flow Rate Data](#)
- [NOAA Chart 12289 Potomac River - Mattawoman Creek to Georgetown](#)

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- [SCOW 2022 Wednesday Night Racing Overview - Bonnie Sylwester](#)
- [Crew Development \(Dave Beckett - SCOW\)](#)
- [Sailing Fast in Pictures \(Dave Beckett - SCOW\)](#)
- [Racing Rules of Sailing \(Dave Beckett - SCOW\)](#)
- [Racing Rules Scenario Videos \(Beckett - SCOW\)](#)
- [Race Strategy \(Mike Callahan - Georgetown\)](#)
- [Running Race Committee \(Nabeel - PRSA\)](#)
- [Sail Trim \(Brian Hayes - North Sails\)](#)
- [Sail Trim \(Scott - Ullman Sails\)](#)



Coming up

- Imagined race walkthrough 6 March
- A. ROW Rules: 10, 11, 12 and 13 6 March
- B. Limits on ROW Boat 14, 15, 16 and 17 6 March
- C. Mark Room: 18 13 March
- Sail Fast! Part 1 – Basic sail trim 13 March
- C. Obstructions: 19 and 20. later
- Other Rules – Starting, Exoneration, Penalties 20 March
- Rule Recap, Spirit of the Rules & Protests 20 March
- Starting and Course Strategies. 20 March
- Sail Fast! Part 2 – Advanced techniques 27 March
- Open – TBD by popular consent 27 March





Spirit of The Rules

- The rules are not intended to allow boats to be trapped into penalties. No 'gotcha' type moments for keep clear boats.
- The rules may be applied in clever ways to gain an advantage.
- ROW boat also has responsibility to prevent collisions.
-

