

An Overview of the Rules of Part 2: When Boats Meet (RRS 2009-2012)

Section A: the right-of-way rules

10. **opposite tacks:** port keep clear of starboard

same tack:

11. **overlapped:** windward keep clear of leeward

12. **not overlapped** on same tack: overtaking boat keep clear (clear astern keep clear of clear ahead)

13. while changing tacks by **tacking:** tacking boat keep clear of boats not tacking (overrides 10-12)

Section B: limitations on the actions of r-o-w boats

14. avoid contact if reasonably possible

15. boat that moves into an r-o-w position must give the newly burdened boat room to keep clear; the latter must begin avoiding action immediately

16. r-o-w boat's course changes must give burdened boat room to keep clear

17. boat overtaking within 2 lengths to leeward shall not sail above her proper course

Section C: at marks and obstructions

18.0 **mark-room** (room to pass/round + room to tack/gybe when either is a normal part of the procedure, applies to overlapped boats only!!)

18.1 **when this rule applies:** boats in the zone (three-length circle) until past it

- **does not apply** at start marks, between beating boats on opposite tacks, between boat arriving and boat leaving

18.2 **Giving Mark-Room** (a) when boats are overlapped reaching the zone: outside boat must give inside boat room to pass/round

(b) **rounding rights and obligations** when boats were **overlapped** as they reached the Zone: boat with inside overlap at that time maintains rights to room throughout rounding even if other boat pulls ahead

(c) **rounding rights and obligations** when boats were **not overlapped** as they reached the Zone: boat that reached the Zone clear ahead is under no obligation to give room if "clear astern" tries to cut in

(d) claim of a **late change in overlap status** near the Zone must be proved to the RC's satisfaction

(e) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* from *clear astern* and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.

18.3 **Tacking when approaching a Mark:** when two boats approach a windward mark on opposite tacks, a boat that completes a tack in the Zone must, in essence, keep clear of the other boat if the latter is laying the mark - in various nasty ways, rule 18.3 discourages such a tack most strenuously

18.4 **gybing at the mark:** inside boat must sail a proper course rounding, i.e. not unduly delay a gybe required by her proper course

18.5 **Exoneration:** boat to be exonerated if she breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16 as a result of taking *mark-room* to which she is entitled

19. **Room to Pass an Obstruction:** inside boat entitled to room (not mark-room); no zone requirement here – right-of-way boat entitled to choose which side of the obstruction to pass on

20. **room to tack at an obstruction:** a leeward, close-hauled boat that cannot tack without fouling a windward boat, is entitled - upon making a timely, loud-and-clear request - to be given room to tack if her alternative is making a major course alteration to leeward. Once the windward boat reacts, leeward must immediately tack

Section D: other rules

21. boats returning to start, making penalty turns or moving backwards must keep clear of boats not doing so

22. incapacitated boats (e.g. capsized, anchored, rescuing) are to be avoided if possible

23. interfering with another boat:

- if possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with one that is

- a boat shall not deviate from proper course to interfere with a boat doing Turns or sailing another leg