

Overview of Racing Rules applicable when boats meet

definitions: crucial

- * **room:** The space a boat needs in the existing conditions while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way.
- * **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.
- * **proper course:** A course a boat would sail to 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.
- * **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. 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 do not apply to boats on opposite tacks unless rule 18 applies or both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

definitions: new

- * **mark-room:** Room for a boat to sail to the mark, and then room to sail her proper course while at the mark. However, mark-room does not include room to tack unless the boat is overlapped to windward and on the inside of the boat required to give mark-room.
- * **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.
- * **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.

other essential definitions: obstruction; finish; keep clear

18. mark-room (largely protections for give-way boat)

18.1 does this rule apply? yes: first of overlapped group enters zone; **No:** between port/starboard beating; **No:** between boats coming and going

18.2 giving mark-room: freeze-frame as first hull enters zone: outside overlapped to give mark-room to inside boat - rights/obligations unchanged regardless of possible changed overlap status unless mark-room boat leaves zone

18.3 completing a tack in the zone near a boat already laying the mark: tacking boat must give mark-room if other boat becomes overlapped inside and must **not** make other boat sail above closehauled to keep clear

18.4 at a gybe mark: inside overlapped boat must sail proper course until she gybes

18.5 exoneration: boat entitled to mark-room exonerated if she breaks a rules 10-13, 15, 16 while doing rounding to which she is entitled

2A: basic right of way

- 10. port/starboard
- 11. windward/leeward
- 12. overtaking boat
- 13. tacking

2D: other (21, 22 > 2A, 2B)

- 21. OCS; during turns; moving astern
- 22. capsized, etc; rescuing
- 23. racing > not racing

fouls & atonement

- 31. touching a mark
- 44.2 turns penalties

2B & 2C: limitations (mostly on r-o-w)

- 14. avoid contact
- 15. acquiring right of way
- 16. course change by r-o-w
- 17. same tack > proper course (17.2 gone)
- 2C preamble (not at start; 20 > 18, 19)
- 18. mark room
- 19. room at obstruction
- 20. room to tack