

## WHEN BOATS MEET

*The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to **race**, are **racing**, or have been **racing**. However, a boat not **racing** shall not be penalized for breaking one of these rules, except rule 22.1. When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or government right-of-way rules. However, an alleged breach of those rules shall not be grounds for a **protest** except by the race committee or protest committee. If the sailing instructions so state, the rules of Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way rules of the IRPCAS or by government right-of-way rules.*

### SECTION A

## RIGHT OF WAY

*A boat has right of way when another 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**.*

10

### 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**.*

### 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 entitled to **room***

*(a) need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not **keeping clear** or giving **room**, and*

*(b) shall not be penalized under this rule unless there is contact that causes damage or injury.*

### 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, 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**.*

Part 2 WHEN BOATS MEET 13

11

## 17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

**17.1** 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 *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*.

**17.2** Except on a beat to *windward*, while a boat is less than two of her hull lengths from a *leeward* boat or a boat *clear astern* steering a course to *leeward* of her, she shall not sail below her *proper course* unless she gybes.

## SECTION C

## AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

To the extent that a Section C rule conflicts with a rule in Section A or B, the Section C rule takes precedence.

### 18 ROUNDING AND PASSING MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

In rule 18, *room* is *room* for an inside boat to round or pass between an outside boat and a *mark* or *obstruction*, including *room* to tack or gybe when either is a normal part of the manoeuvre.

#### 18.1 When This Rule Applies

Rule 18 applies when boats are about to round or pass a *mark* they are required to leave on the same side, or an *obstruction* on the same side, until they have passed it. However, it does not apply

(a) at a starting *mark* surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time the boats are approaching them to *start* until they have passed them, or

(b) while the boats are on opposite *tacks*, either on a beat to *windward* or when the *proper course* for one of them, but not both, to round or pass the *mark* or *obstruction* is to tack.

Part 2 WHEN BOATS MEET **18.1**

12

#### 18.2 Giving Room; Keeping Clear

##### (a) OVERLAPPED – BASIC RULE

When boats are *overlapped* the outside boat shall give the inside boat *room* to round or pass the *mark* or *obstruction*, and if the inside boat has right of way the outside boat shall also *keep clear*.

Other parts of rule 18 contain exceptions to this rule.

##### (b) OVERLAPPED AT THE ZONE

If boats were *overlapped* before either of them reached the *two-length zone* and the *overlap* is broken after one of them has reached it, the boat that was on the outside shall continue to give the other boat *room*. If the outside boat becomes *clear astern* or *overlapped* inside the other boat, she is not entitled to *room* and shall *keep clear*.

##### (c) NOT OVERLAPPED AT THE ZONE

If a boat was *clear ahead* at the time she reached the *two-length zone*, the boat *clear astern* shall thereafter *keep clear*. If the boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* outside the other boat, she shall also give the inside boat *room*. If the boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* inside the other boat, she is not entitled to *room*. If the boat that was *clear ahead* passes head to wind, rule 18.2(c) no longer applies and remains inapplicable.

##### (d) CHANGING COURSE TO ROUND OR PASS

When after the starting signal rule 18 applies between two boats and the right-of-way boat is changing course to round or pass a *mark*, rule 16 does not apply between her and the other boat.

##### (e) OVERLAP RIGHTS

If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not. If the outside boat is unable to give *room* when an *overlap* begins, rules 18.2(a) and 18.2(b) do not apply.

### **18.3 Tacking at a Mark**

If two boats were approaching a *mark* on opposite *tacks* and one of them completes a tack in the *two-length zone* when the other is fetching the *mark*, rule 18.2 does not apply. The boat that tacked

Part 2 WHEN BOATS MEET **18.2**

13

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid her or prevent the other boat from passing the *mark*, and
- (b) shall give *room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her, in which case rule 15 does not apply.

### **18.4 Gybing**

When an inside *overlapped* right-of-way boat must gybe at a *mark* or *obstruction* to sail her *proper course*, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the *mark* or *obstruction* than needed to sail that course.

### **18.5 Passing a Continuing Obstruction**

While boats are passing a continuing *obstruction*, rules 18.2(b) and 18.2(c) do not apply. A boat *clear astern* that obtains an inside *overlap* is entitled to *room* to pass between the other boat and the *obstruction* only if at the moment the *overlap* begins there is *room* to do so. If there is not, she is not entitled to *room* and shall *keep clear*.

## **19 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION**

**19.1** When approaching an *obstruction*, a boat sailing close-hauled or above may hail for *room* to tack and avoid another boat on the same *tack*. However, she shall not hail unless safety requires her to make a substantial course change to avoid the *obstruction*. Before tacking she shall give the hailed boat time to respond. The hailed boat shall respond by either

- (a) tacking as soon as possible, in which case the hailing boat shall also tack as soon as possible, or
- (b) immediately replying 'You tack', in which case the hailing boat shall tack as soon as possible and the hailed boat shall give *room*, and rules 10 and 13 do not apply.

**19.2** Rule 19.1 does not apply at a starting *mark* surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to *start* until they have passed them or at a *mark* that the hailed boat can fetch. When rule 19.1 applies, rule 18 does not.

Part 2 WHEN BOATS MEET **19.2**

14

## **SECTION D**

## **OTHER RULES**

*When rule 20 or 21 applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.*

### **20 STARTING ERRORS; PENALTY TURNS; MOVING ASTERN**

**20.1** A boat sailing towards the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions after her starting signal to *start* or to comply with rule 30.1 shall *keep clear* of a boat not doing so until she is completely on the prestart side.

**20.2** A boat making a penalty turn shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

**20.3** A boat moving astern by backing a sail shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

### **21 CAPSIZED, ANCHORED OR AGROUND; RESCUING**

If possible, a boat shall avoid a boat that is capsized or has not regained control after capsizing, is anchored or aground, or is trying to help a person or vessel in danger. A boat is capsized when her masthead is in

the water.

## **22 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT**

**22.1** If reasonably possible, a boat not *racing* shall not interfere with a boat that is *racing*.

**22.2** A boat shall not change course if her only purpose is to interfere with a boat making a penalty turn or one on another leg or lap of the course.