

Summary of Changes to Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 – 2024

Ross Chisholm
International Race Officer, National Judge

Back to basics

The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping, semi-transparent blue triangles and polygons. The colors range from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a focus on geometric forms.

Introduction

- ▶ What makes up “the rules”
 - ▶ Anything listed in the first paragraph of the SIs
 - ▶ NOR, SIs, Racing Rules, National Prescriptions, Class Rules, Col Regs
- ▶ The Racing Rule Book
 - ▶ Race Signals
 - ▶ Definitions
 - ▶ Part 1 – Fundamental Rules
 - ▶ Part 2 – When Boats Meet
 - ▶ Part 3 – 7 – Other Rules
 - ▶ e.g. Race Organisation, Protests
 - ▶ Appendices
 - ▶ Optional – only in force if specified in the SIs
 - ▶ Australian Sailing Prescriptions
 - ▶ e.g. Special Regulations for keelboats

Rules that everyone should know

- ▶ Race Signals
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Opposite Tacks – Rule 10
- ▶ Same Tack
 - ▶ Overlapped – Rule 11
 - ▶ Not overlapped – Rule 12
- ▶ Mark Rounding – Rule 18
- ▶ Obstructions – Rules 19&20

Race Signals

- ▶ Orange Flag - The staff displaying this flag is one end of the starting line
- ▶ Blue Flag - The staff displaying this flag is one end of the finishing line

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.

Rule 10 – On Opposite Tacks – No Change

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

Rule 11 – On the same tack, Overlapped – No Change

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

Rule 12 – On the same tack – not overlapped – No Change

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

Rule 13 – While Tacking – No Change

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

Rule 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*.

Rule 15 – Acquiring Right of Way – No Change

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.

Rule 16 – Changing Course

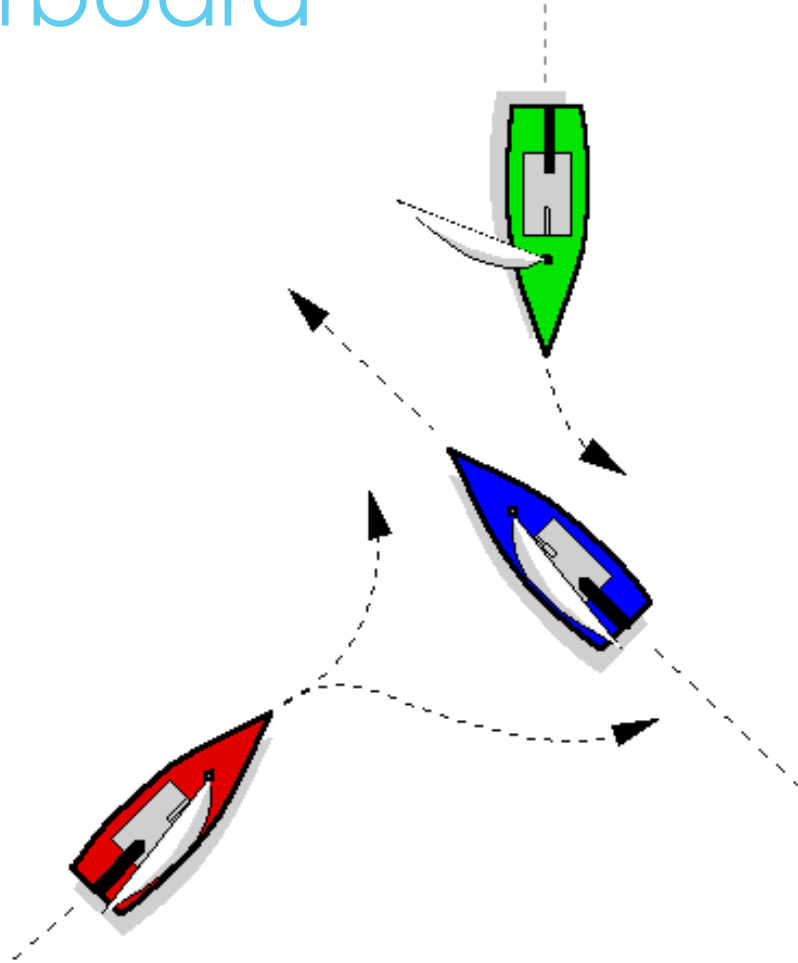
16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat room to keep clear.

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*.

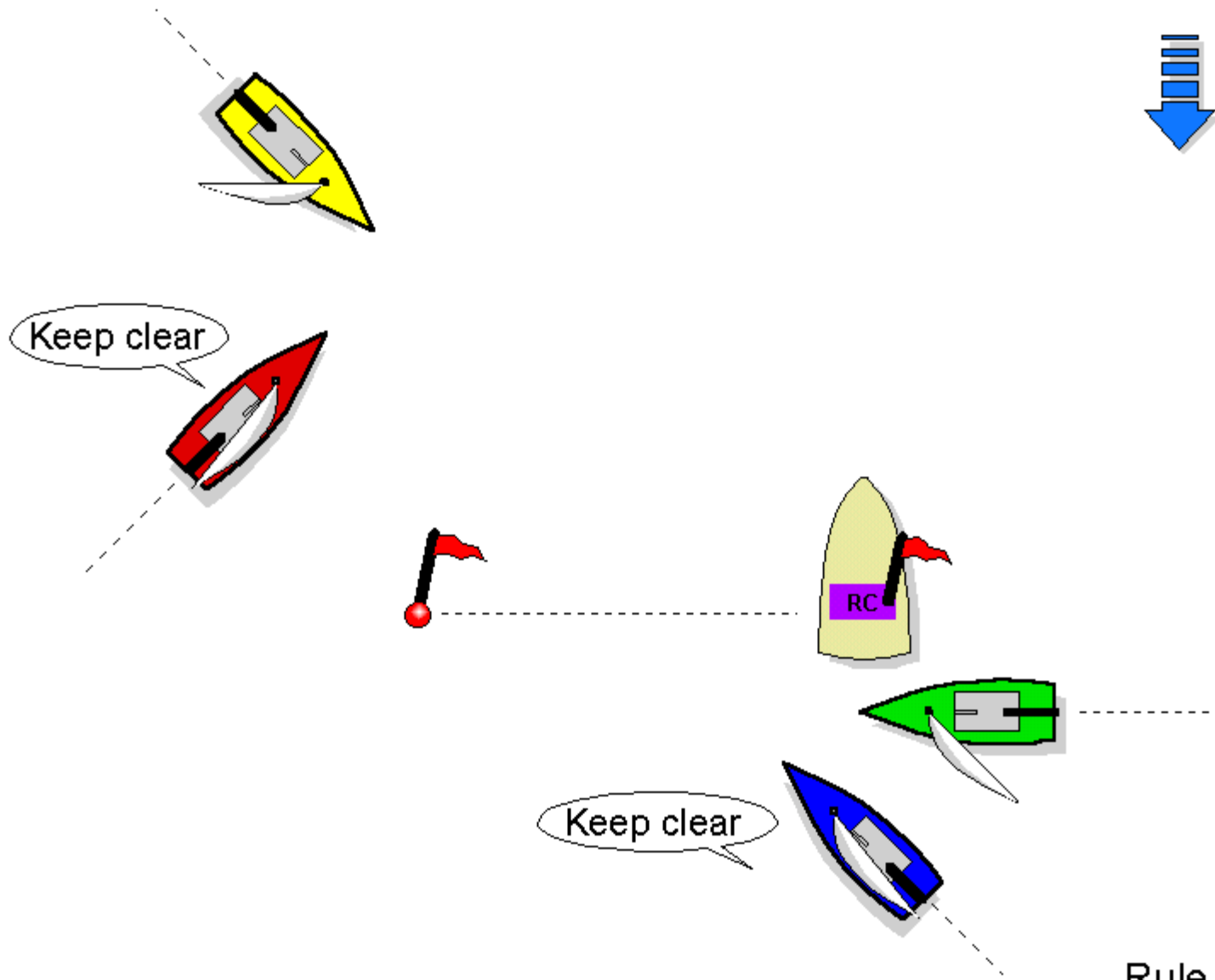
Rule 17 – On the Same Tack – Proper Course – No Change

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*.

Rule 10 - On opposite tacks, port/starboard

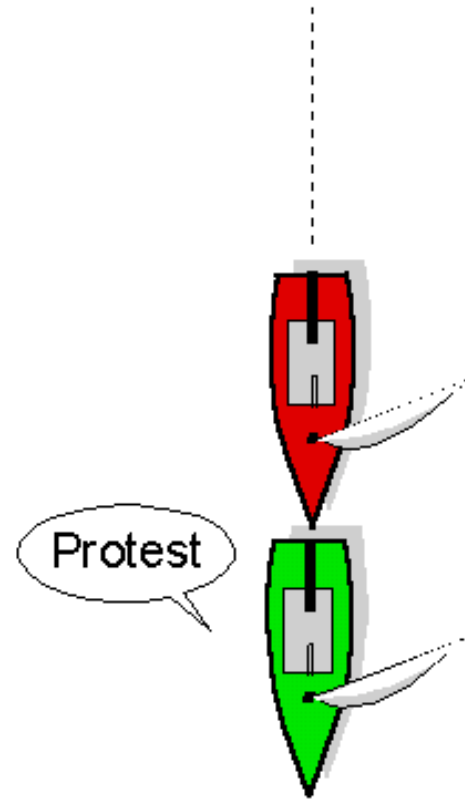


Rule 11 - Same tack, overlapped

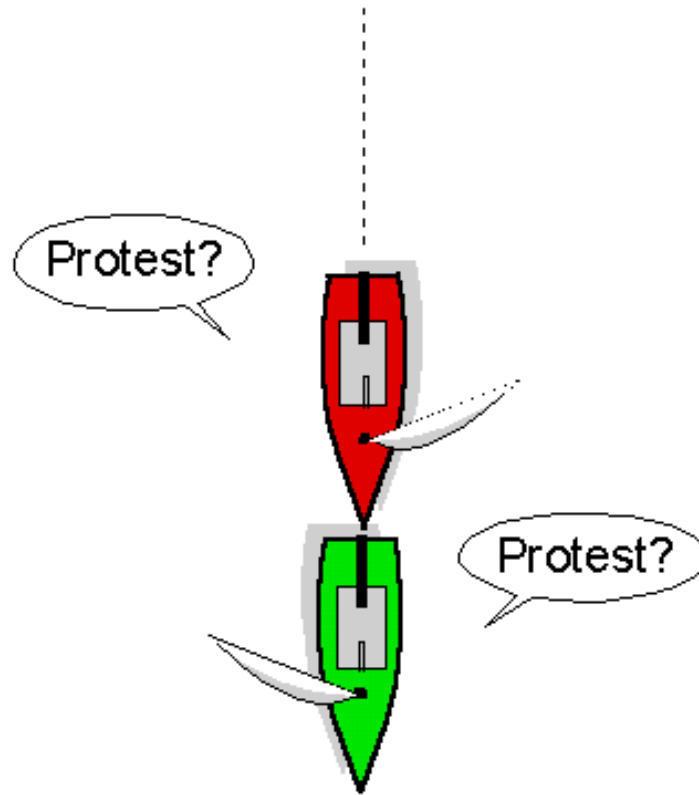


Rule 11

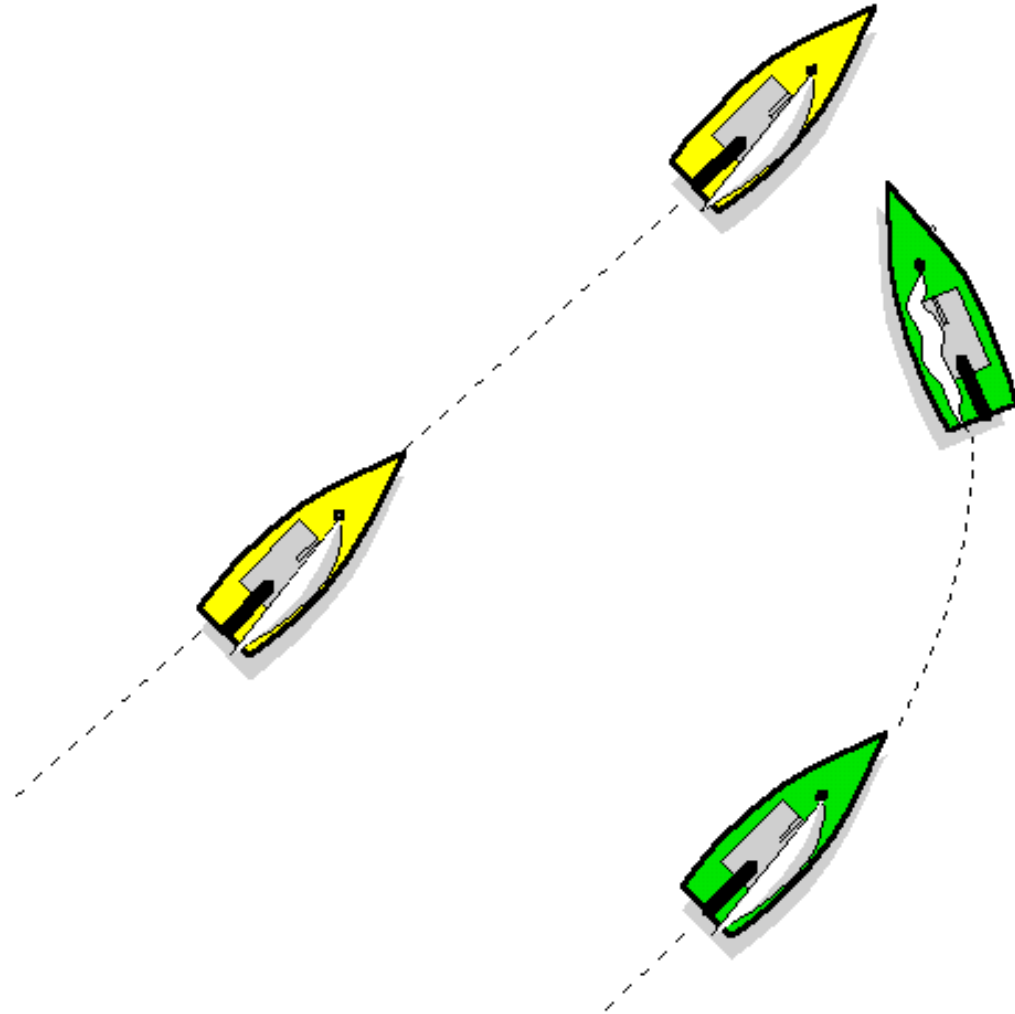
Rule 12 - Same tack, not overlapped



Port starboard vs clear ahead

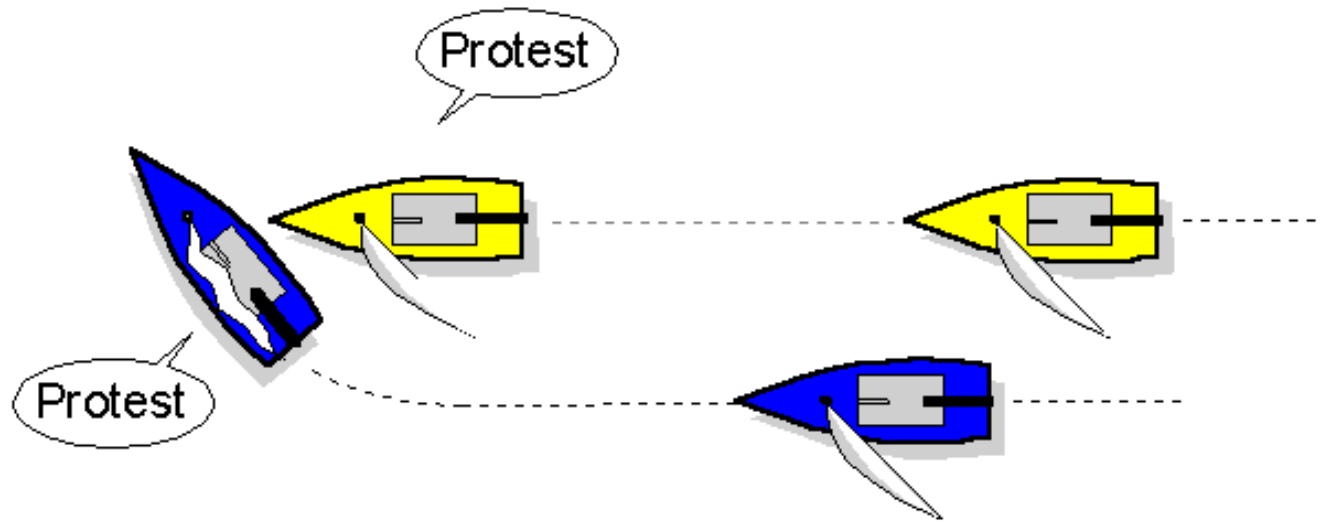


While tacking



Rule 13

Changing course



18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a mark on the same side and at least one of them is in the zone. However, it does not apply

- (a) between boats on opposite tacks on a beat to windward,
- (b) between boats on opposite tacks when the proper course at the mark for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) between a boat approaching a mark and one leaving it, or
- (d) if the mark is a continuing obstruction, in which case rule 19 applies.

Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when mark-room has been given.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.
- (b) If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.

(c) When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b),

(1) she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins;

(2) if she becomes overlapped inside the boat entitled to mark-room, she shall also give that boat room to sail her proper course while they remain overlapped.

(d) Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply if the boat entitled to mark-room passes head to wind or leaves the zone.

(e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

(f) If a boat obtained an inside overlap from clear astern or by tacking to windward of the other boat and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat has been unable to give mark-room, she is not required to give it.

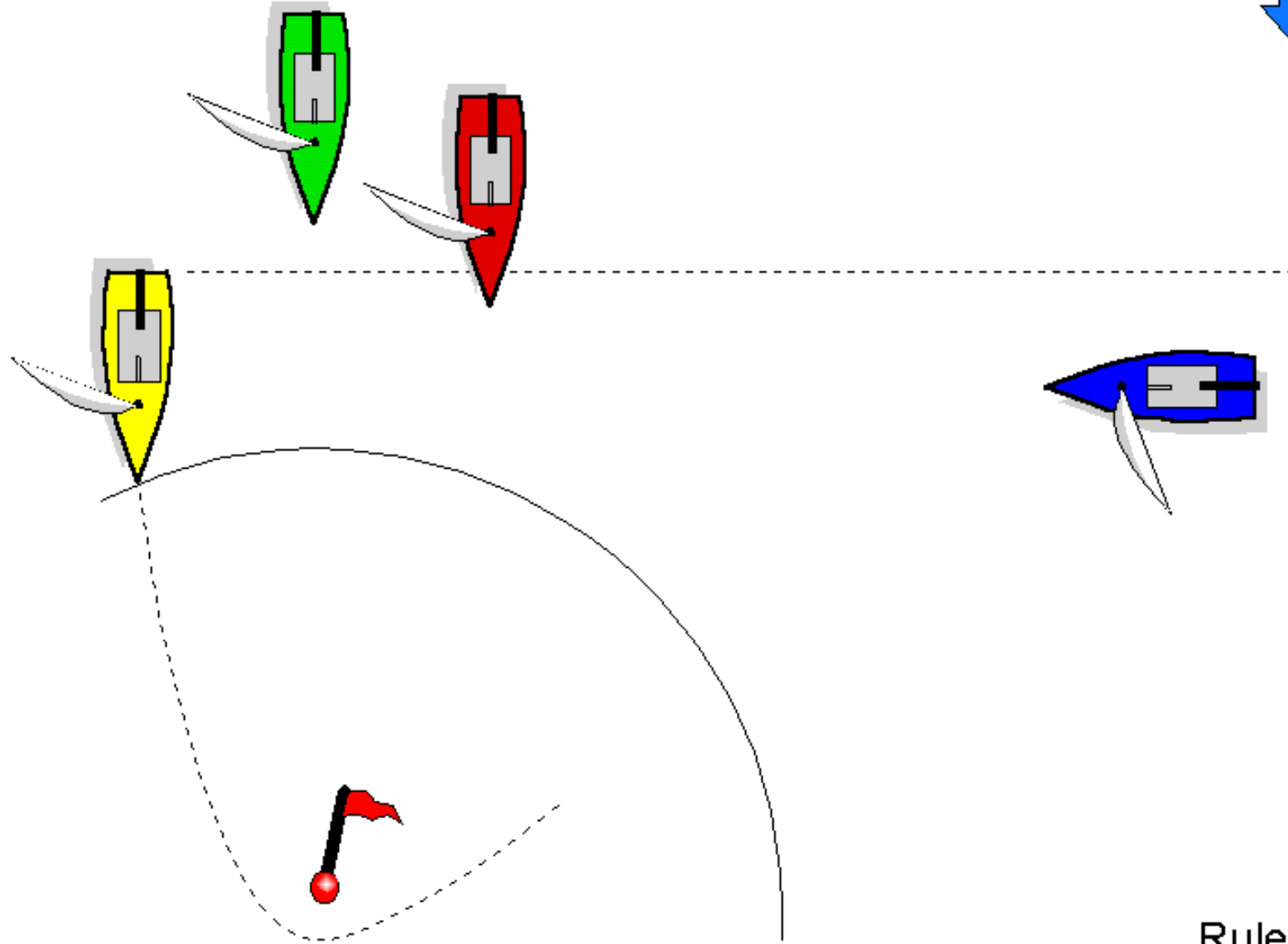
18.3 Passing Head to Wind in the Zone

If a boat in the zone of a mark to be left to port passes head to wind from port to starboard tack and is then fetching the mark, she shall not cause a boat that has been on starboard tack since entering the zone to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give mark-room if that boat becomes overlapped inside her. When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

18.4 Gybing

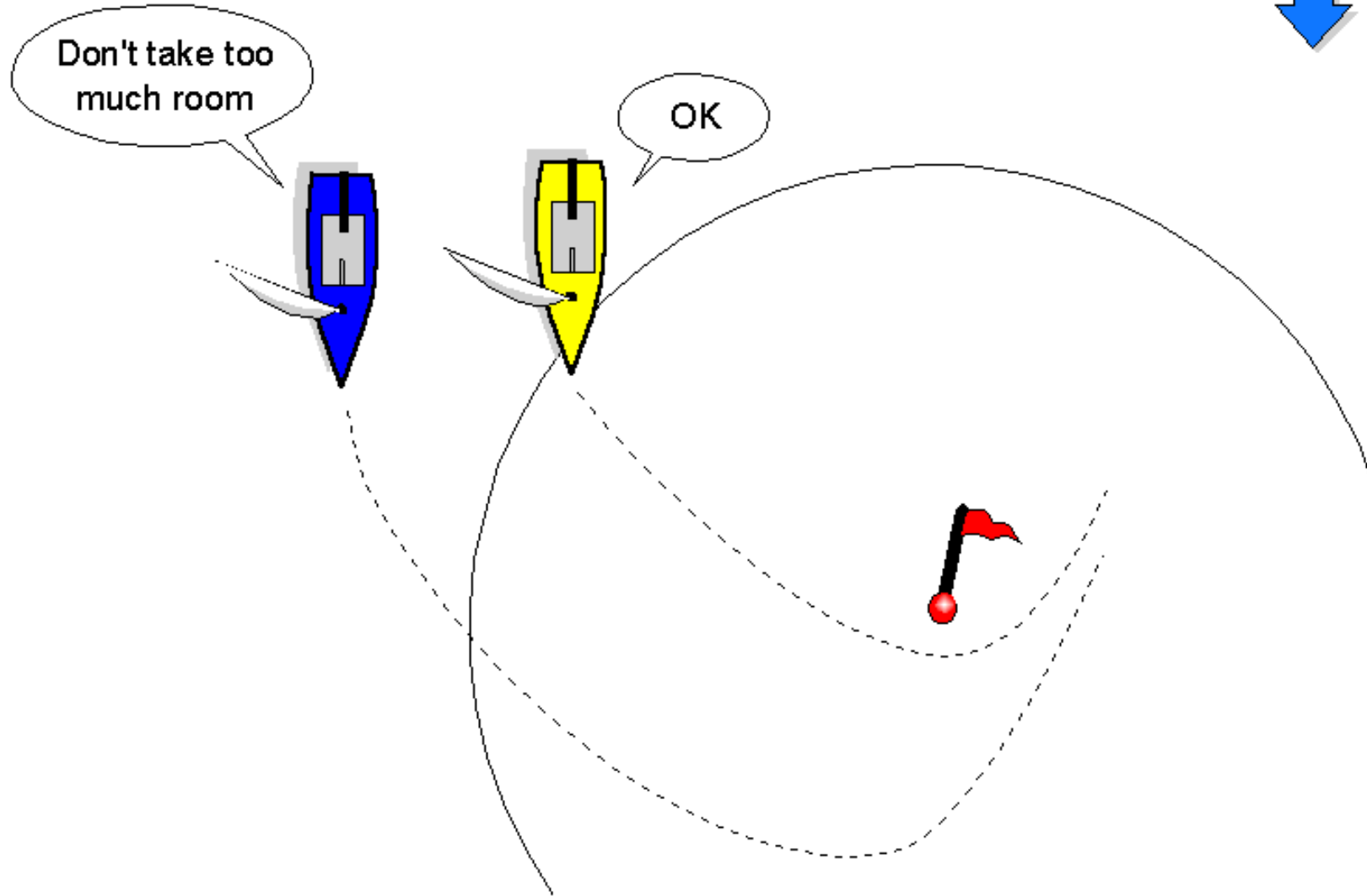
When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must gybe at a mark to sail her proper course, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate mark.

Leeward mark, overlapped



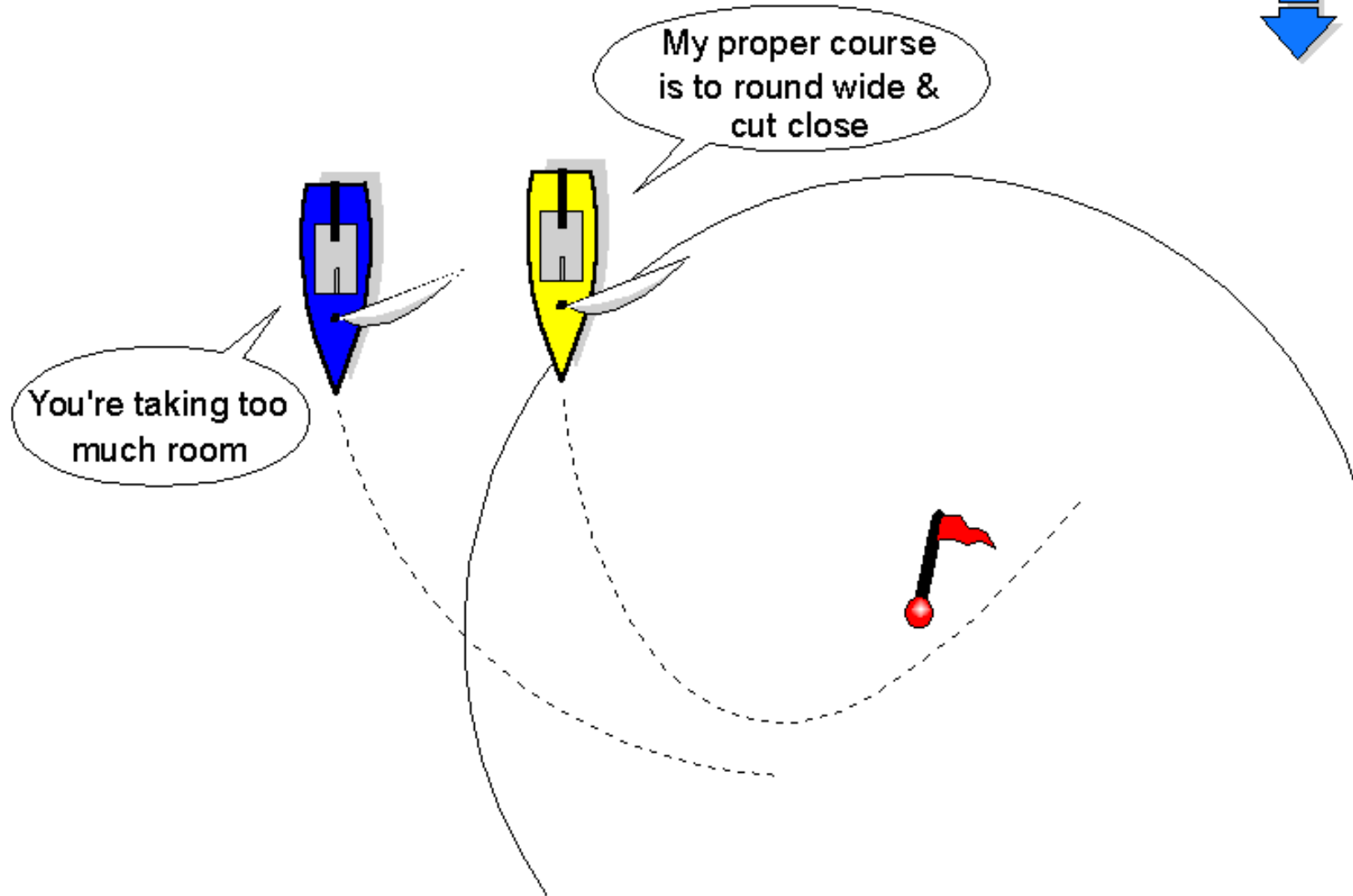
Rule 18

Outside boat has right of way



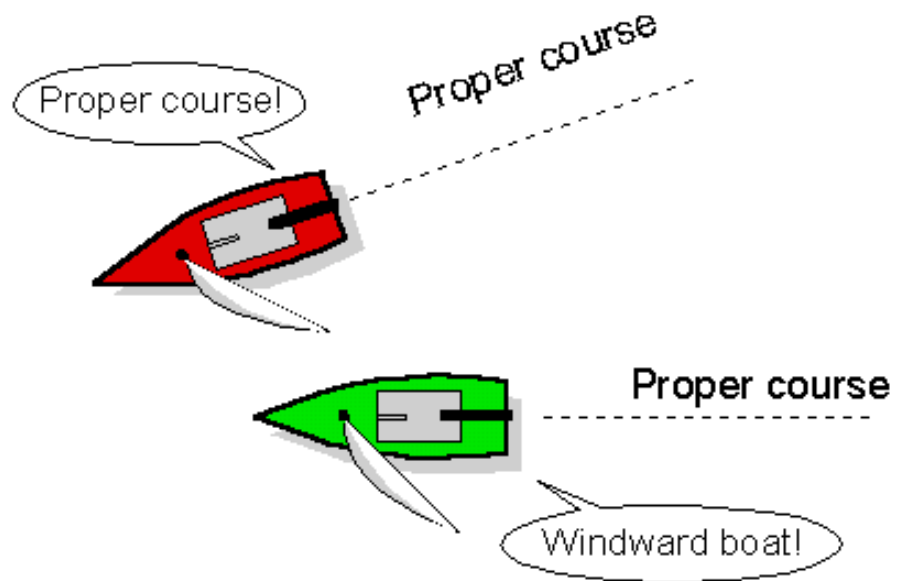
Rule 18.2(a)

Inside boat has right of way



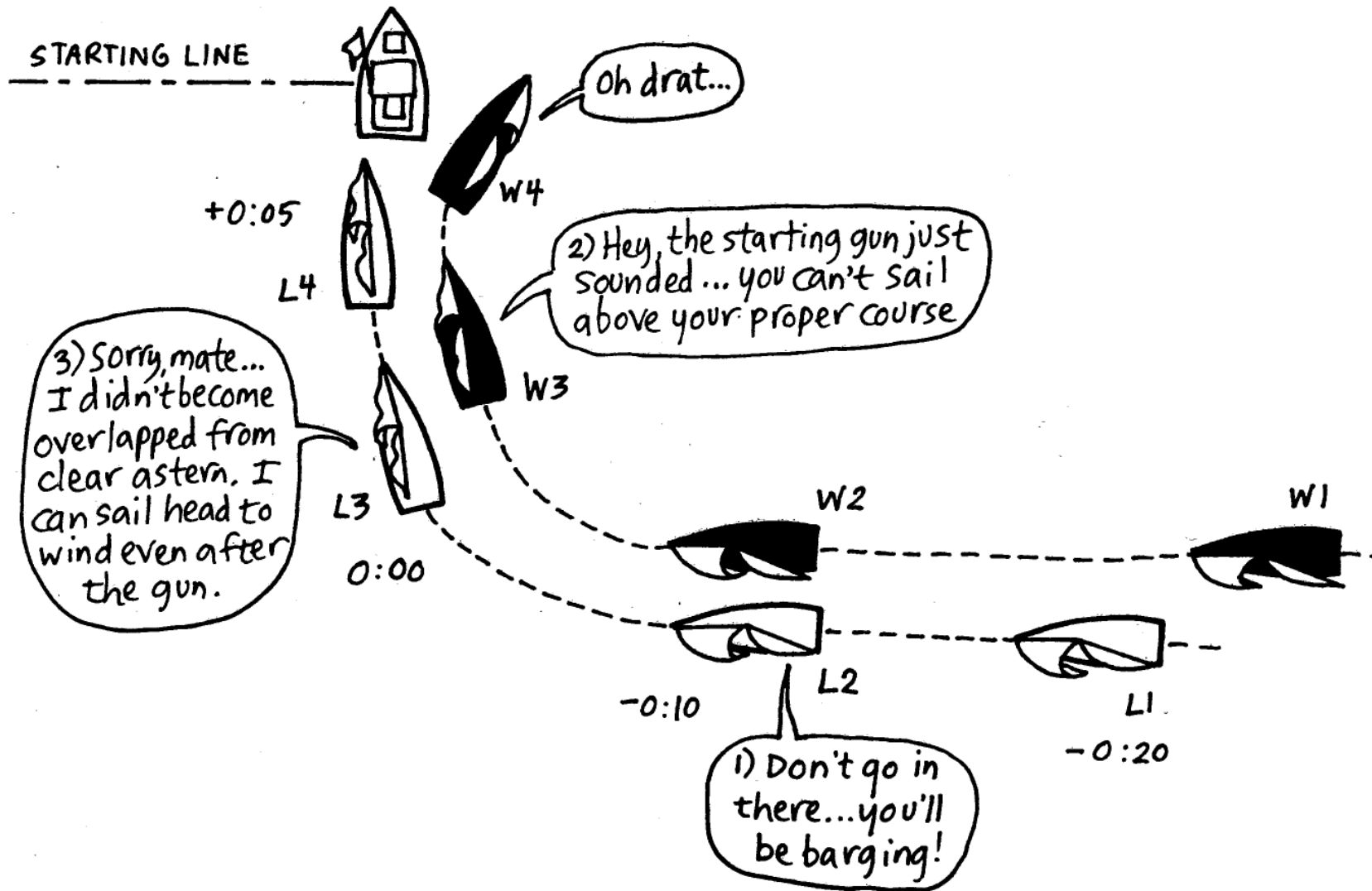
Rule 18.2(a)

On the same tack, proper course

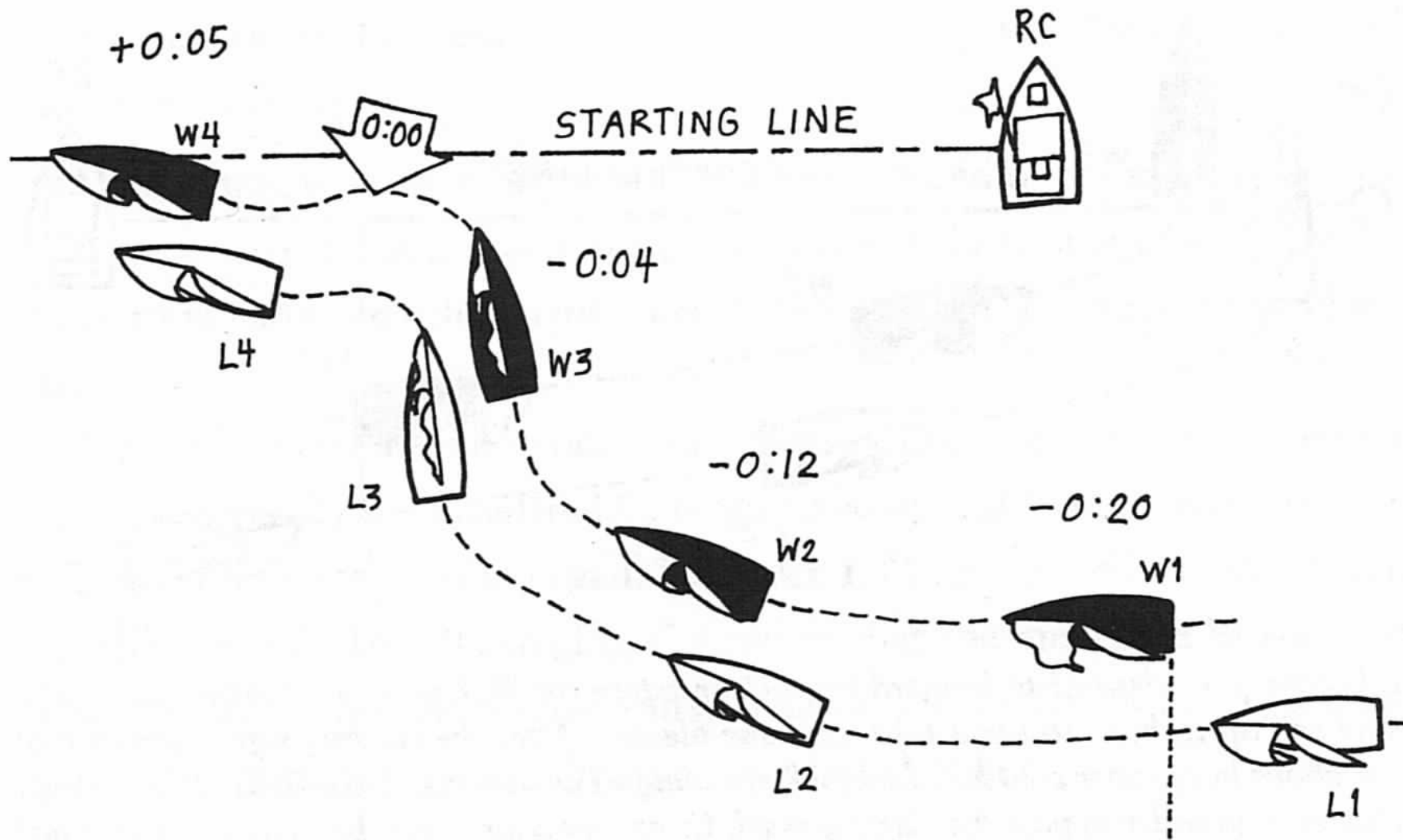


Rule 17.1

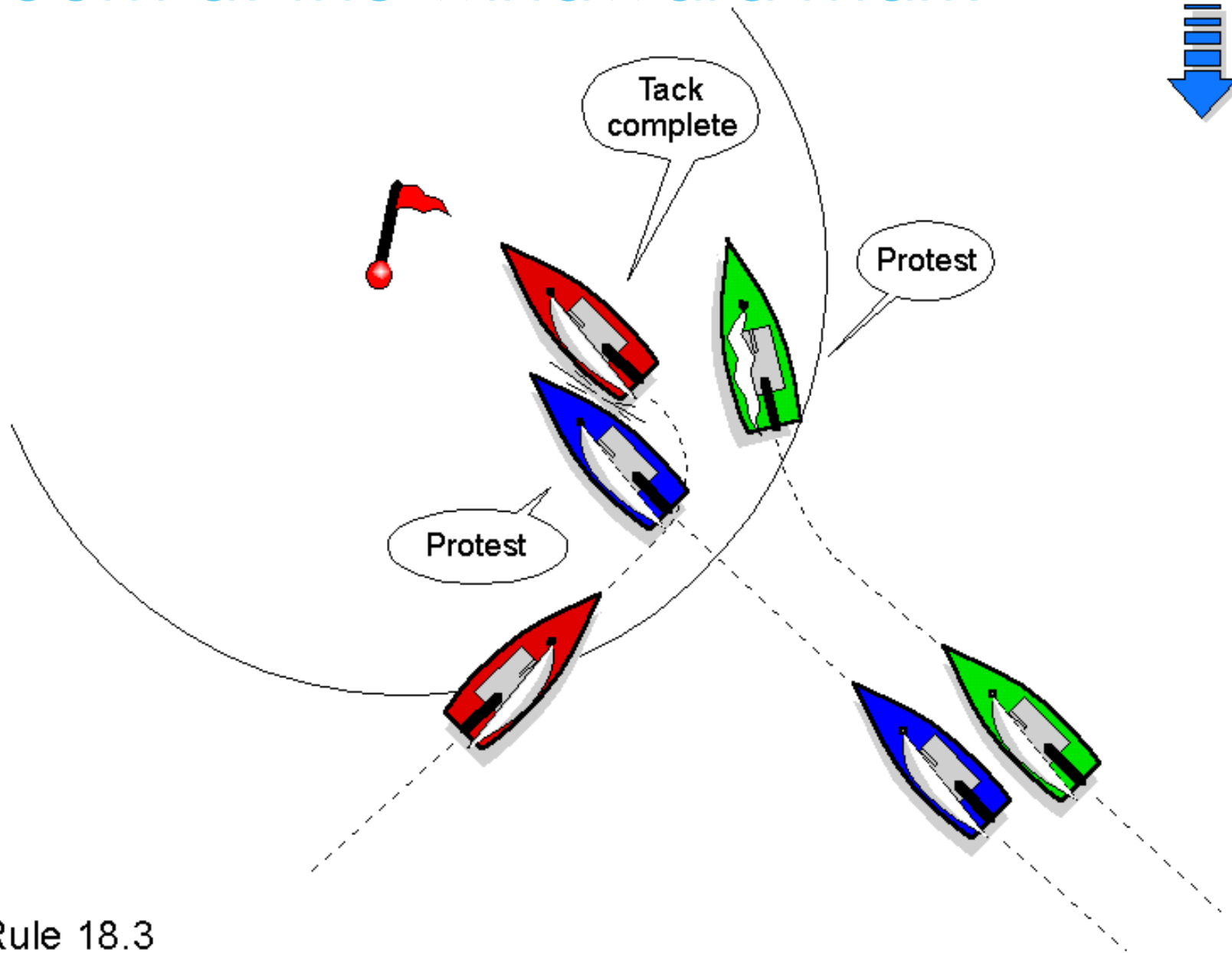
Proper Course before/after the start



Proper Course before/after the start



Room at the windward mark



Rule 18.3

Rules people often get wrong



When do the Rules Apply?

- ▶ At the Warning Signal (5 minutes)?
- ▶ At the Prep Signal (4 minutes) ?
- ▶ At the one minute?
- ▶ At the start?
- ▶ Some other time?



Before the start



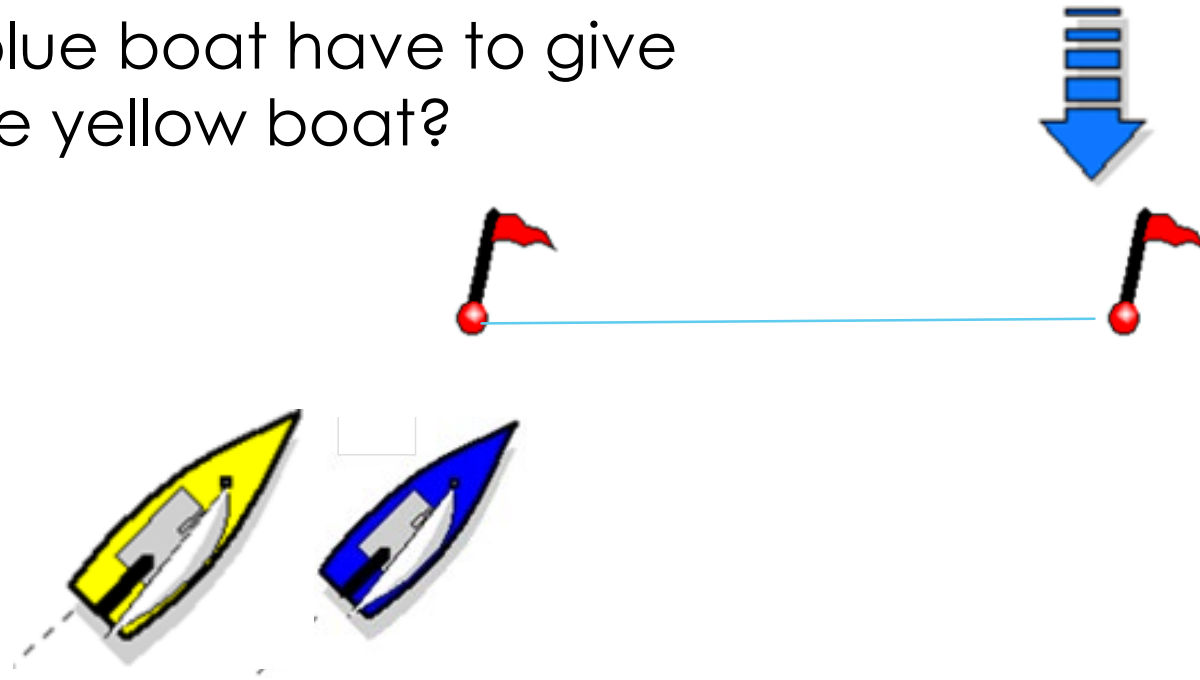
10 minutes before the start, who has right of way and why?





Room at the finish line?

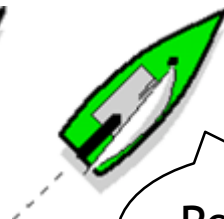
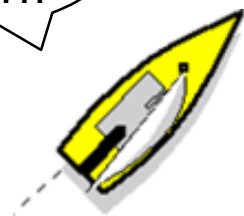
Does the blue boat have to give room to the yellow boat?



What rules apply here?



Room to pass astern

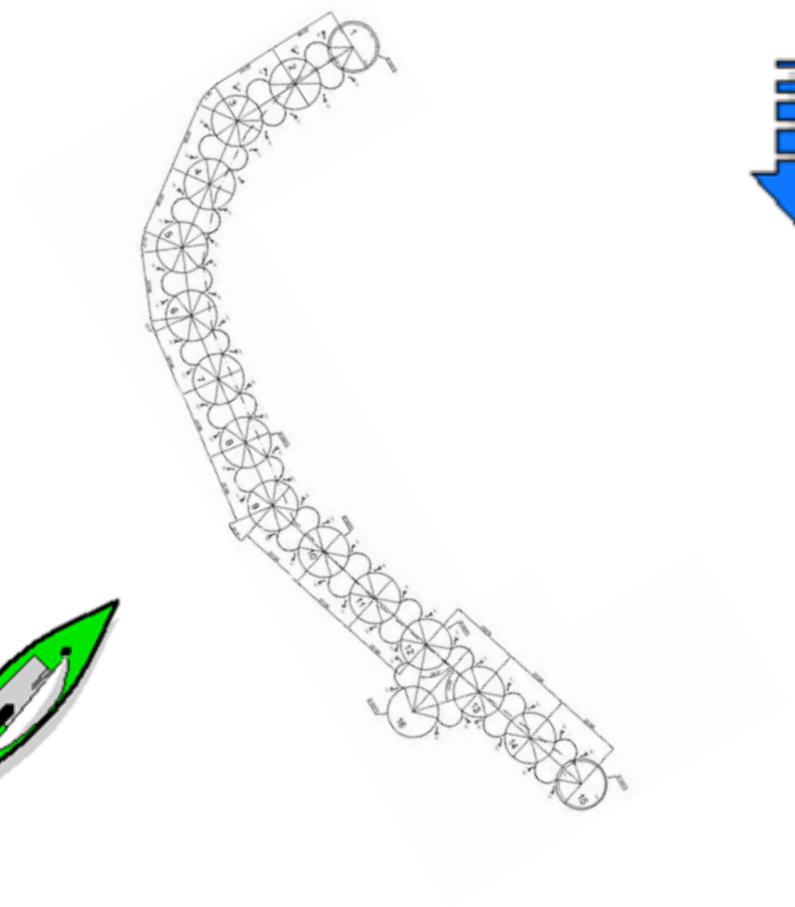


Room to tack

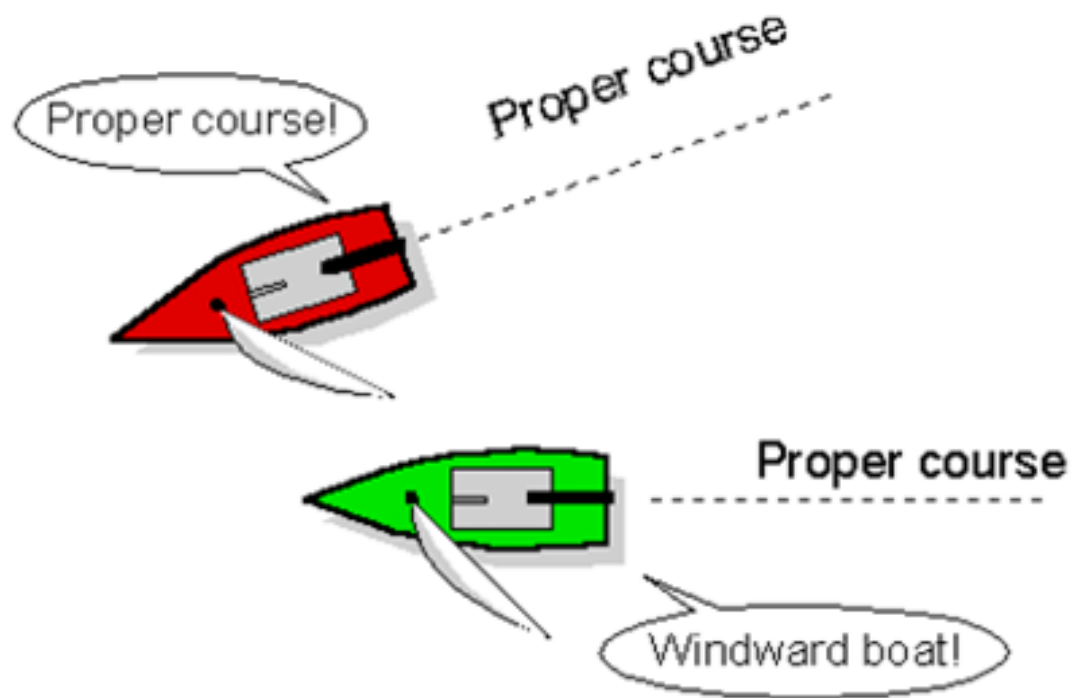




What rules apply here?



On same tack, proper course



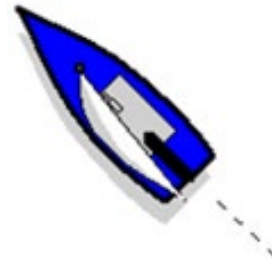


Hold your course

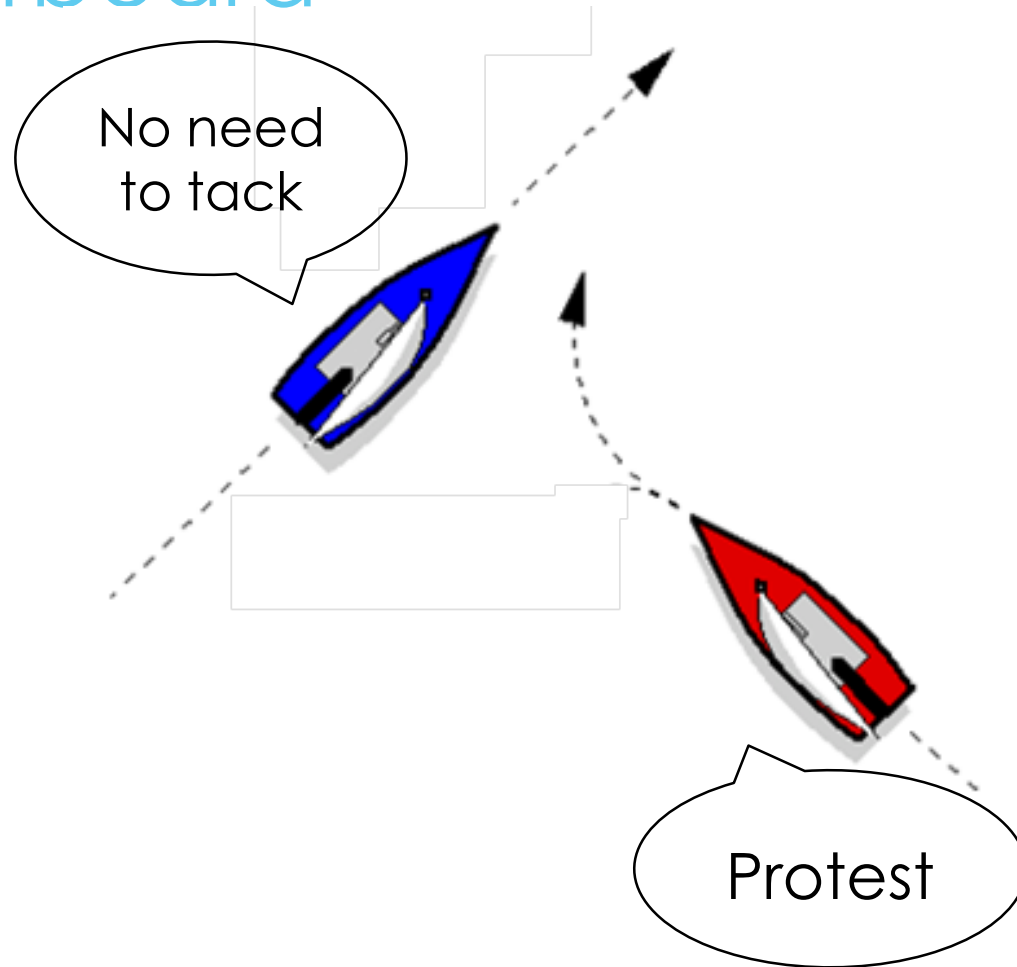
Is blue allowed to alter course?



Hold
your
course



Port/starboard



Other Rules

- How does a Shorten course work?
- Black flag is flying and the race is postponed. Can you race?
- If the Y flag is flying, when do you have to wear your life jacket?

Questions?