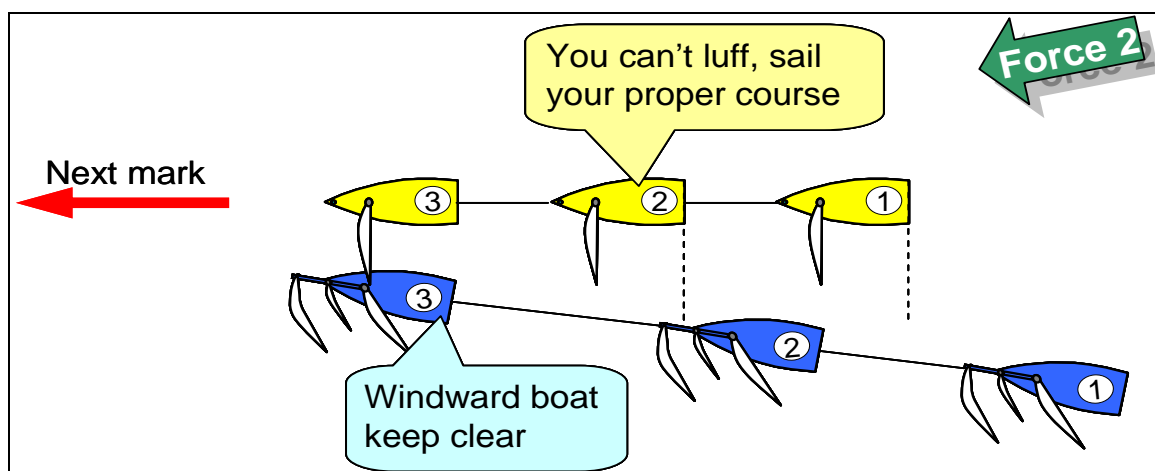


My proper course isn't your proper course

A common situation at RSC when asymmetrics, which gybe to maximise speed downwind, meet other boats that sail fastest dead down-wind.

Description



Yellow said: I was sailing my Laser straight to the next mark and the RS200 tried to luff me. He is not allowed to sail above his proper course so I didn't respond. He sailed into my boom.

Blue said: I was sailing my proper course to keep my spinnaker flying and the Laser to windward would not keep clear of me. I think I should protest.

Commentary

?	Facts & Rules	RoW
①	Both boats are converging on the same tack but because Blue is completely behind Yellow she is required to keep clear of Yellow under Rule 12 "On the same tack, not overlapped".	Yellow
②	Blue gains an overlap to leeward when her bowsprit is level with Yellow's rudder. This immediately gives Blue right of way under Rule 11 "On the same tack, overlapped". Blue must allow Yellow to keep clear (Rule 15 "Acquiring right of way") – if she were too near Yellow she would break this rule. Blue is not sailing above her proper course which is closer to the wind than that of Yellow so she doesn't break Rule 17 "On the same tack, proper course"	Blue
③	Blue still has right-of-way under Rule 11 and so Yellow should avoid Blue by altering course – to windward in this case.	Blue

Learning-points

Be aware that the proper-course for different classes may not be the same and plan ahead accordingly – it is faster for both boats to avoid situations like this; Yellow could have luffed earlier and Blue could have luffed astern of Yellow. Also consider that both boats broke **Rule 14** "Avoiding Contact".

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Facts-Found

Yellow and Blue were sailing downwind on converging courses. Blue gained a leeward overlap from astern of Yellow and within 2-lengths. Neither boat altered course during the whole incident. Yellow's boom hit Blue's windward shroud.

Quiz questions

Q01-1) At Position 1 which boat must keep clear:

- A) Blue because she is going faster
- B) Blue because she is overtaking boat
- C) Yellow because she is windward boat
- D) Blue because she is clear astern

Q01-2) When does Blue's overlap at Position 2 get established:

- A) When the front of Blue's hull is level with the back of Yellow's hull
- B) When Blue's bow is level with Yellow's bow
- C) When the front of Blue's pole is level with Yellow's rudder
- D) When Blue's bow is level with Yellow's rudder

Q01-3) The following statements can be made about this incident:

- 1) Blue breaks Rule 17 "On the same tack, proper course"
- 2) Yellow breaks Rule 11 "On the same tack, overlapped"
- 3) Blue would be disqualified under Rule 14 "Avoiding contact"
- 4) Under Rule 15 "Acquiring right of way" Blue must give Yellow room

which of these are TRUE:

- A) 1 and 3
- B) 2 and 4
- C) All of the above
- D) None of the above

Quiz answers

A01-1) D

At Position 1 no part of Blue's hull and equipment has reached a line abeam of the after-most part of Yellow. Blue therefore is clear astern is keep-clear boat under **Rule 12** "On the same tack, not overlapped".

A01-2) C

An *overlap* occurs between 2-boats when a line abeam of the aft-most point on one boat passes through the hull and equipment of the other boat. In this instance that occurs when the front-end of Blue's pole reaches Yellow's rudder.

A01-3) B

- 1) False – Blue is sailing her proper course (ie to fill her spinnaker)
- 2) True – As windward boat Yellow must keep-clear
- 3) False – Blue breaks Rule 14 but no damage or injury resulted
- 4) True – Blue must allow Yellow room to luff and avoid her