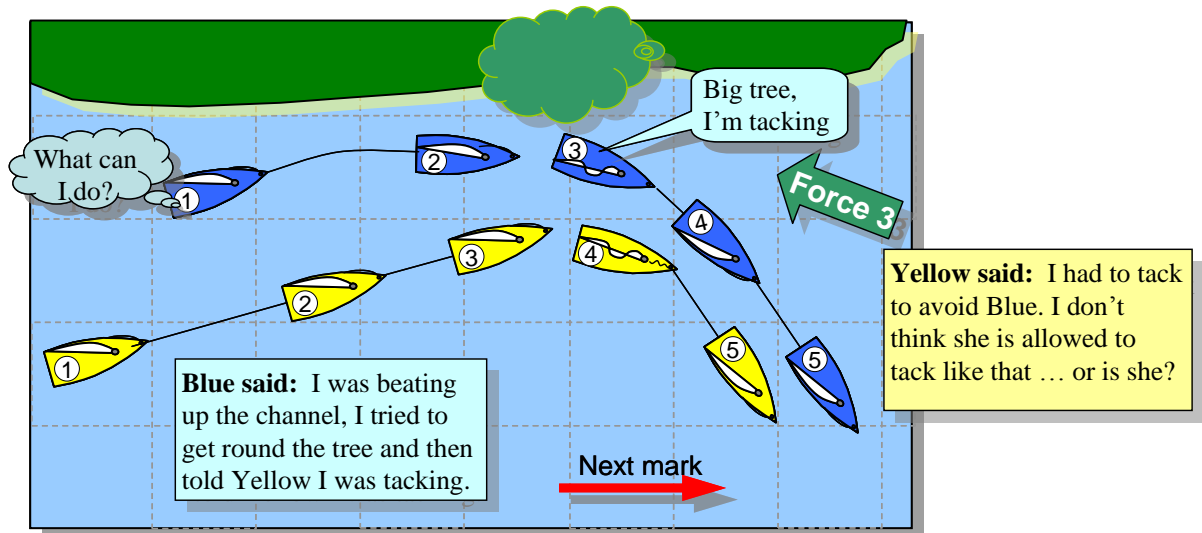


04 Mind the tree

The confined waters of the channel at RSC generate difficult situations. There is no need for confusion as these are clarified by the racing rules.

Description



Commentary

#	Facts & Rules	RoW
①	As Yellow and Blue head towards the bank Yellow is clear astern so must keep clear Rule 12 "Same tack, not overlapped"	Blue
②	Blue is worried about the proximity of the bank and knows that if she tacks she must avoid Yellow both during (Rule 13 "While tacking") and after her tack (Rule 10 "On opposite tacks"). She tries to luff instead to keep her rights (ie Rule 12 "Same tack, not overlapped" and Rule 11 "Same tack overlapped").	Blue
③	Blue could ask for room to tack (Rule 20 "Room to tack at an obstruction") but hailing and tacking simultaneously doesn't give Yellow time to respond (Rule 20.1a "Hailing and Responding")	Yellow
④	In response to her obligation under Rule 14 (Avoiding Contact) Yellow crash-tacks and must keep clear of Blue (Rule 13 "While tacking").	Blue
⑤	Once both boats have completed their tacks Blue is windward boat and so must keep clear (Rule 11 "Same tack overlapped").	Yellow

Learning-points

The rules allow Blue to ask Yellow for room to tack to avoid an *obstruction* (ie the bank and tree) even if she is tacking onto Port in front of a Starboard boat. However here she is in the wrong because she fails in her responsibility to give Blue time to respond to such a request to tack.

Blue should have asked for room at ②. Yellow could then have immediately tacked or told Blue to tack and given her room (eg by going behind Yellow or tacking underneath her).

04 Mind the tree



Facts-Found

Yellow and Blue are on Starboard 2-3 lengths from an obstruction with Yellow 1-length ahead and 1-length to leeward. Yellow luffs but cannot pass the obstruction. She hails Blue and tacks at the same time. Before Yellow has completed her tack onto Port Blue is less than ½ a boat length from Yellow and tacks to avoid a collision.

Quiz questions

Q04-1) Which statement is a correct answer to the suggestion that “Yellow can see the tree, she should have anticipated Blue needing to tack”:

- A) It’s Yellow’s obligation as “reasonably possible” action (ie Rule 14 “Avoiding Contact”)
- B) If Blue tacks she’ll be on Port and so Yellow (Starboard) doesn’t have to tack
- C) As windward boat Yellow must always keep clear of Blue anyway
- D) Yellow doesn’t have to do anything until Blue asks for room

Q04-2) Rule 61 mandates a hail of ‘Protest’ – what is the only other mandated hail:

- A) ‘You tack’ response under Rule 20.1a “Hailing and responding”
- B) ‘Starboard’ boat under Rule 10 “On Opposite tacks”
- C) ‘Mark room’ when approaching a buoy under Rule 18.2 “Giving mark-room”
- D) ‘Windward boat keep clear’ under Rule 11 “Same tack overlapped”

Q04-3) Here are several statements Rule 20 “Room to tack at an obstruction”:

- 1) It only applies to boats that are close-hauled or above on the same tack
- 2) It only applies if boats are within 3-lengths of the obstruction
- 3) It does not apply if the obstruction can be avoided by a minor change of course
- 4) Once she has hailed the rules in Part A do not apply to the tacking boat

which of these are TRUE:

- A) 1, 2, and 3
- B) 1, 3 and 4
- C) 2, 3, and 4
- D) 1, 2, and 4

Quiz answers

A04-1) D

Under **Rule 20.1** “Hailing and responding” Yellow must respond to a hail from Blue but until that point she only has to keep clear of Blue.

A04-2) A

Under Rule 20.1a “the hailed boat shall respond either by tacking as soon as possible, or by immediately replying ‘You tack’ and then giving the hailing boat room to tack and avoid her”.

A04-3) B

- 1) True – Rule 20.1 “a boat sailing close-hauled or above may hail for room to tack and avoid another boat on the same tack.”
- 2) False – There is no distance limitation for obstructions though Rule 20.3 “substantial course change” implies they have to be close.
- 3) True – Rule 20.3 “A boat shall not hail unless safety requires her to make a substantial course change to avoid the obstruction.”
- 4) True – Rule 20.2 “When a boat is taking room to which she is entitled under rule 20.1(b), she shall be exonerated if she breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16.”