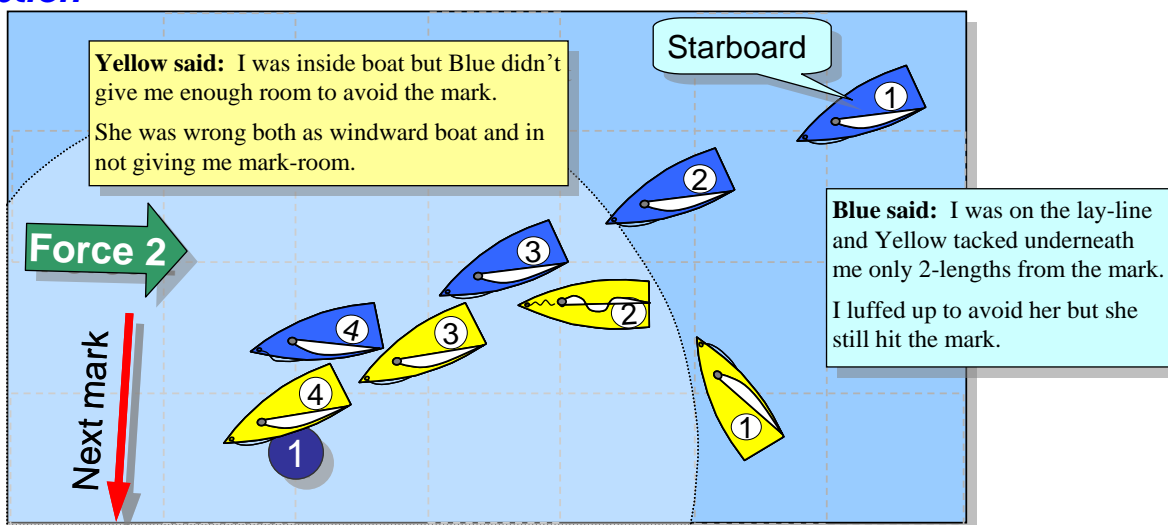


06 Fools rush in

It is often said “take the mark away” when considering the rules at a windward mark. That is not true when one boat has tacked inside the zone.

Description



Commentary

#	Facts & Rules	RoW
①	As Blue and Yellow approach the mark on opposite tacks Blue, on starboard, has right-of-way (Rule 10 “On opposite tacks”). Even though she is under no obligation Blue sensibly hails ‘starboard’.	Blue
②	Yellow chooses to tack rather than duck behind Blue. During her tack Yellow must keep clear (Rule 13 “While tacking”).	Blue
③	Once Yellow has reached a close-hauled course on starboard she has completed her tack and becomes leeward boat thus gaining right of way (Rule 11 “on same tack, overlapped”). With this right also comes the responsibility to give Blue room to keep clear Rule 15 “Acquiring right of way”.	Yellow
④	Blue is able to keep clear of Yellow by luffing (which confirms that she was given sufficient room by Yellow). However as Blue was on the lay-line to the mark this takes her above her close-hauled course. At this point it is clear that Yellow has broken Rule 18.3a “Tacking when approaching a mark”.	Blue

Learning-points

A boat approaching the windward mark on Port has no rights until she is close-hauled on starboard. If her tack is within the zone even these rights are lost!

If her tack is completed outside the zone then things are very different – as inside boat she can claim mark-room even if this entails her luffing head-to-wind to complete her rounding.

If you are planning a Port approach to the windward mark it is well to ensure that your tack is completed outside the zone.

06 Fools rush in

Facts-Found

Blue and Yellow are approaching the windward mark on opposite tacks. Blue is close-hauled on the lay-line and is fetching the mark. Yellow completes her tack to leeward of Blue and 2 ½ lengths from the mark. Blue is forced to luff to keep clear and Yellow hits the mark.

Quiz questions

Q06-1) Yellow breaks Rule 18.3 (2-turn penalty) and also Rule 31 (1-turn penalty). How many turns does she have to make to exonerate herself:

- A) 3-turns – both penalties added together
- B) 2-turns – just for breaking a rule from Part 2
- C) 1-turn – just for hitting the buoy
- D) Some other number of turns

Q06-2) Here are several scenarios:

- 1) Yellow completes her tack in the zone, Blue luffs above close-hauled
- 2) Yellow completes her tack in the zone with Blue overlapped to leeward
- 3) Blue establishes an overlap to leeward of Yellow as Yellow tacks outside the zone
- 4) Yellow enters the zone on Port and luffs past head to wind to shoot the mark

in which of these can Yellow claim mark-room:

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

Q06-3) When does Yellow complete her tack and hence no longer need to keep clear under Rule 13 “While tacking”:

- A) When she has passed head to wind
- B) As soon as her jib stops flapping
- C) Until she reaches a close-hauled course
- D) Until the helm and crew are in their normal positions on the new tack

Quiz answers

A06-1) B

2-turns – this is a single incident and **Rule 44.1a** says “when a boat may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31”.

A06-2) D

- 1) False – Yellow breaks Rule 18.3a “Tacking when approaching a mark”
- 2) False – Yellow must give Blue room (Rule 18.3b “Tacking when approaching a mark”)
- 3) False – Blue has mark-room under Rule 18.2 “Giving mark-room”
- 4) False – Yellow is keep-clear boat under **Rule 13** “While tacking”

A06-3) C

Rule 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”.