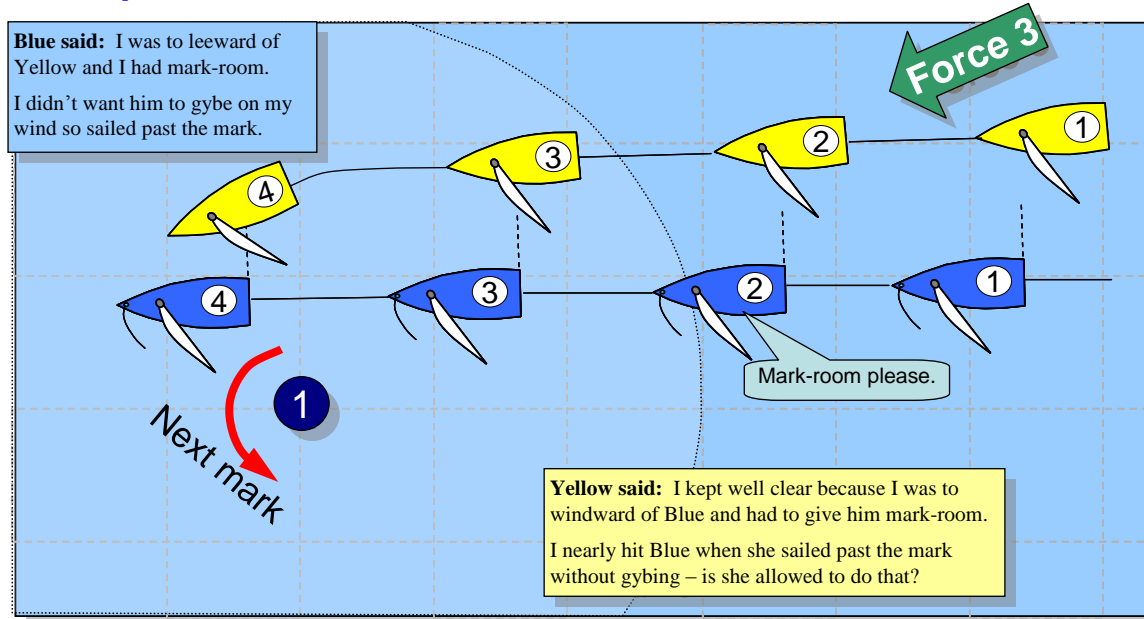


# 10 But I've got luffing rights ...

You are right-of-way boat, you have mark-room, so you must be able to sail where you want ... well it's not as easy as that if sailing to the next mark involves a gybe!

## Description



## Commentary

#	Facts & Rules	RoW
①	Yellow is to windward of Blue and overlapped so she has to keep clear ( <b>Rule 11</b> “Same tack overlapped”).	Blue
②	Blue reaches the 3-length <i>mark-zone</i> and calls for <i>mark-room</i> from Yellow ( <b>Rule 18.2b</b> “Giving mark-room”) – that makes two reasons for Yellow to be keeping clear!	Blue
③	Yellow correctly provides Blue with enough <i>room</i> to sail <u>to</u> the mark and her <u>proper-course</u> <u>at</u> the mark ( <b>Rule 18.2b</b> ).	Blue
④	Blue, now effectively sailing above her <i>proper-course</i> , sails past the point at which she needs to gybe to round the mark. As this isn't a gate-mark Blue infringes <b>Rule 18.4</b> (“Gybing”).	Yellow

## Learning-points

As Blue has both right-of-way and *mark-room* it would be normal to expect her to have more rights in the *zone* than the fairly restrictive “room to sail to the mark and proper course at the mark” conferred by Rule 18.2b.

However as the course to the next mark entails a gybe Rule 18.4 is clear that she must sail her *proper-course* and hence gybe as soon as possible.

There is twist here if the leeward boat is an asymmetric whose *proper course* might well be to continue without gybing – no-one said the rules were simple!

NB: Those who sail away from Ripon need to be aware that Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate (ie 2-marks to sail between rather than a single leeward mark).

## 10 But I've got luffing rights ...

### Facts-Found

Blue and Yellow were broad-reaching to a port-hand gybe-mark. Yellow was overlapped about a length to windward of Blue. Blue sailed to the mark and carried on past the point at which her proper-course required her to gybe.

### Quiz questions

**Q10-1) The RRS use the term “proper course” (ie the course that takes a boat to the finish fastest) but how many rules actually oblige a boat to sail her proper course? Is it:**

- A) 0 (ie no rules)
- B) 1 or 2 rules
- C) 3 or 4 rules
- D) 5 or more rules

**Q10-2) Which of the following statements about a boat's proper-course is FALSE:**

- A) A boat may sail below her proper-course when a competitor is passing to leeward.
- B) A boat has no proper-course before she starts.
- C) A boat who gained an overlap from clear-astern may sail above her proper-course.
- D) A boat's proper-course may not be the shortest distance to the finish or next mark.

**Q10-3) Which of the following statements about a mark-room is TRUE:**

- A) A boat with *mark-room* can always take as much space as she wants
- B) An outside, overlapped boat must always give an inside boat *mark-room*
- C) An outside boat breaking an overlap in the *zone* no longer has to give *mark-room*.
- D) A boat with *mark-room* is allowed to break a rule of Section A

### Quiz answers

**A10-1) A (ie 0 times)**

Bit of trick question –

Rule 17 – “... she shall not sail above her proper course unless ...”

Rule 18.4 – “... shall sail no farther from the mark than to sail her proper course ...”

Rule 23.2 – “... except when sailing her proper course a boat shall not interfere ...”

*Mark-room* – “... and then room to sail her proper course while at the mark.”

*Proper-course* – “A boat has no proper course before her starting signal.”

**A10-2) B**

- A) True – Rule 17 no longer constrains a boat from sailing below her proper-course
- B) False – *Proper-course* definition references the start signal not the act of crossing the line
- C) True – Rule 17 allows her to “promptly sail astern of the other boat”
- D) True – *Proper-course* says “finish as soon as possible” – fastest may not be shortest

**A10-3) B**

- A) False – Rule 18.4 (Gybing) and the *mark-room* definition both constrain her course
- B) False – Rule 18.2e exempts an outer-boat that cannot provide *mark-room* from so doing
- C) False – Rule 18.2c “...shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken”
- D) True – Rule 18.5 provides exoneration from breaking certain rules to a boat with *mark-room*