

RAPID RESPONSE MATCH RACING CALL 2021.001

Rule 10, On Opposite Tacks

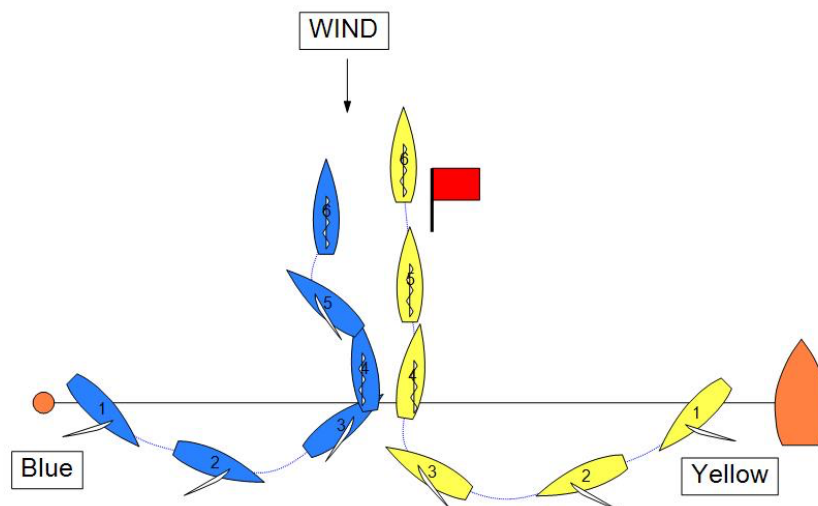
Rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped

Rule 14, Avoiding Contact

Rule 16.1, Changing Course

Rule 43.1, Exoneration

Question 1



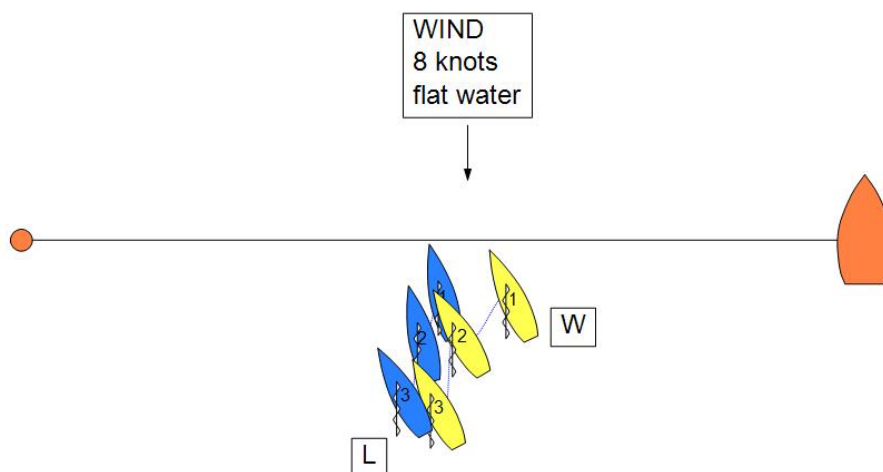
Yellow (on starboard tack) and Blue (on port tack) are approaching each other in the prestart. At pos. 2, Yellow begins luffing and Blue immediately responds by also luffing, and is always changing course as quickly as she can until she reaches pos. 5. At pos. 3, if Yellow holds her compass course, she will hit Blue amidships. However, Yellow continues changing course, and at pos. 4, Blue is keeping clear of Yellow. Yellow displays flag Y. What should the call be?

Answer 1

Display the green and white flag.

At pos. 2 when Yellow first changed her course, Blue was keeping clear. When Yellow changed course, her obligation was to give Blue room to keep clear under rule 16.1. By continually changing course to pos. 4, Yellow complied with her ongoing obligation to give Blue room. Blue was sailing within the room to which she was entitled under rule 16.1, and is therefore exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for her breach of rule 10.

Question 2



Shortly after the Dial Up, Blue (L) is the right-of-way boat, and Yellow (W) loses her bow and begins sliding towards Blue. At pos. 3, Blue bears away and her stern immediately makes contact with the port side of Yellow. There is no damage or injury. Both boats display Y flags. What should the call be?

Answer 2

Penalize Yellow.

When Blue changed course, she made immediate contact with Yellow (pos. 3). Therefore, based on the definition Keep Clear, Yellow was not keeping clear of Blue and broke rule 11.

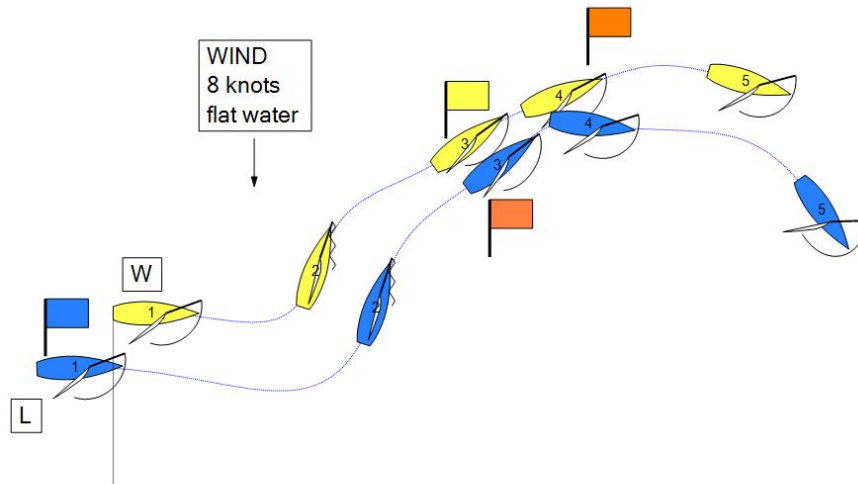
Rule 16.1 is a limitation on the right-of-way boat to allow a keep-clear boat to continue to fulfil its requirement to keep clear when the right-of-way boat changes course. Rule 16.1 can only be broken when a keep-clear boat is keeping clear before the right-of-way boat begins to change course. .

In regards to the contact, rule 14 is not a rule that a boat can protest under by displaying flag Y (see rule C6.1(a)).

Regarding any protest committee hearing:

Rule 14 required Blue to avoid contact if reasonably possible from the moment it was clear that Yellow was not going to keep clear. In this situation, due to Yellow's proximity, it was not reasonably possible for Blue to avoid contact when it was clear Yellow was not going to keep clear. Therefore Blue did not break rule 14. Yellow could have avoided the contact and broke rule 14 but will receive no penalty because there was no damage or injury.

Question 3



Blue (L) and Yellow (W) are sailing on a reach on port tack shortly after rounding the windward mark, with Blue clear astern and carrying a penalty. Both boats have spinnakers set and full. The wind is eight knots and the water is flat.

Blue establishes a leeward overlap on Yellow and gives Yellow room to keep clear, which Yellow does (pos. 1).

Blue then slowly luffs and gives Yellow room to keep clear, which Yellow does (pos. 1-2).

When the boats are on a course between a tight reach and close-hauled, Yellow's spinnaker is no longer able to fill. At that time the boats are approximately one boat width apart and on near parallel courses (pos. 2).

Blue gives Yellow room and time to drop her spinnaker, but Yellow does not lower her spinnaker for at least 10 seconds (pos. 2).

Yellow then lowers her spinnaker and it makes contact with the port shroud of Blue. Blue displays flag Y and the umpires penalize Yellow for breaking rule 11. This offsets Blue's penalty (pos. 3).

With Yellow's spinnaker still in contact with Blue's rigging, Blue bears away sharply. In the process of bearing away, Blue's stern makes contact with the starboard side of Yellow, with no damage or injury.

Yellow displays flag Y. What should the call be?

Answer 3

Display the green and white flag.

Yellow was properly penalized for breaking rule 11 as she was not keeping clear.

Rule 16.1 is a limitation on Blue to allow Yellow to continue to fulfil its requirement to keep clear when Blue changes course. Rule 16.1 can only be broken when Yellow is keeping clear before Blue changed course. In this case, Yellow was not keeping clear prior to Blue changing course; therefore, Blue did not break rule 16.1. See Answer 2.

In regards to the contact, rule 14 is not a rule that a boat can protest under by displaying flag Y (see rule C6.1(a)).

Regarding any protest committee hearing:

In this incident there were two instances of contact. The first was when Yellow's spinnaker made contact with Blue's rigging. Yellow could have avoided that contact, so she breaks rule 14. It was not reasonably possible for Blue to avoid that contact, so Blue did not break rule 14.

The second instance of contact was when Blue bore away and swung her stern into the side of Yellow. If it were decided that it was reasonably possible for Blue to have avoided that contact, Blue broke rule 14. If it were decided that Yellow could not have avoided that contact, she did not break rule 14.

In both instances of contact, if there is no damage or injury as a result of the contact, neither boat will receive a penalty for breaking rule 14.

It is important to note that the standard sailing instruction regarding handling of boats states: '...the following are prohibited: *Sailing the boat in a manner that it is reasonable to predict that significant further damage would result.*' Blue may break this SI (if it applies) if the protest committee concludes that Blue's change of course resulted in more damage than what the contact would otherwise have created had Blue not borne away in the manner she did.