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This week I am enclosing a copy of RRS18-Mark-Room, RRS21-Exoneration and some of the relevant definitions. Please look at the rules, relevant to the cases, that I have included over the past weeks. There will be more mark-room cases and it is important to think about what each **part** of the rule states.

### SECTION C: AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

Section C rules **do not apply** at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to start until they have passed them.

#### 18 MARK-ROOM

##### 18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a mark on the same side and at least one of them is in the zone. However, it does not apply

- (a) between boats on opposite tacks on a beat to windward,
- (b) between boats on opposite tacks when the proper course at the mark for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) between a boat approaching a mark and one leaving it, or
- (d) if the mark is a continuing obstruction, in which case rule 19 applies.

##### 18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.
- (b) If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.
- (c) When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b),
  - (1) she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins;
  - (2) if she becomes overlapped inside the boat entitled to mark-room, she shall also give that boat room to sail her proper course while they remain overlapped.
- (d) Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply when the boat entitled to mark-room has been given that mark-room, or if she passes head to wind or leaves the zone.
- (e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.
- (f) If a boat obtained an inside overlap from clear astern or by tacking to windward of the other boat and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat has been unable to give mark-room, she is not required to give it.

##### 18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat in the zone of a mark to be left to port passes head to wind from port to starboard tack and is then fetching the mark, she shall not cause a boat that has been on starboard tack since entering the zone to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give mark-room if that boat becomes overlapped inside her.

When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

##### 18.4 Gybing

When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must gybe at a mark to sail her proper course, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate mark.

### DEFINITIONS

**Mark** - An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends. An anchor line or an object attached **accidentally** to a mark is not part of it.

**Mark-Room** - Room for a boat to leave a mark on the required side. Also,

- (a) room to sail to the mark when her proper course is to sail close to it, and
- (b) room to round the mark as necessary to sail the course.

However, mark-room for a boat **does not include room to tack** unless she is overlapped inside and to windward of the boat required to give mark-room **and she would be fetching the mark** after her tack.

**Zone** The area around a mark within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone.

### SECTION D - OTHER RULES

**21 EXONERATION** When a boat is sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled, she shall be

exonerated if, in an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room,

- (a) she breaks a rule of Section A, rule 15 or rule 16, or
- (b) she is compelled to break rule 31.