

PART 2 WHEN BOATS MEET

*The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to race, are racing, or have been racing. However, a boat not racing **shall not** be penalized for breaking one of these rules, **except** rule 14 when the incident resulted in injury or serious damage, or rule 23.1.*

When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or government right-of-way rules.

If the notice of race so states, the rules of Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way rules of the IRPCAS or by government right-of-way rules.

SECTION A RIGHT OF WAY

A boat has right of way over another boat when the other boat is required to keep clear of her. However, some rules in Sections B, C and D limit the actions of a right-of-way boat.

10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat **shall** keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.

11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat **shall** keep clear of a leeward boat.

12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same tack and not overlapped, a boat clear astern **shall** keep clear of a boat clear ahead.

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. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern **shall** keep clear.*

SECTION B GENERAL LIMITATIONS

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room or mark-room.

15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she **shall** initially give the other boat room to keep clear, **unless** she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she **shall** give the other boat room to keep clear.

16.2 In addition, on a beat to windward when a port-tack boat is keeping clear by sailing to pass to leeward of a starboard-tack boat, the starboard-tack boat shall not bear away if as a result the port-tack boat must change course immediately to continue keeping clear.

17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat clear astern becomes overlapped within two of her hull lengths to leeward of a boat on the same tack, she **shall not sail** above her proper course while they remain on the same tack and overlapped within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the overlap begins while the windward boat is required by rule 13 to keep clear.

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.

Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when mark-room has been given.

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 if the boat entitled to mark-room 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 Passing Head to Wind 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.

19 ROOM TO PASS AN OBSTRUCTION

19.1 When Rule 19 Applies

Rule 19 applies between two boats at an obstruction **except**

- (a) when the obstruction is a mark the boats are required to leave on the same side, or
 - (b) when rule 18 applies between the boats and the obstruction is another boat overlapped with each of them.
- However, at a continuing obstruction, rule 19 always applies and rule 18 does not.

19.2 Giving Room at an Obstruction

- (a) A right-of-way boat **may choose to pass** an obstruction on either side.
- (b) When boats are overlapped, the outside boat **shall** give the inside boat room between her and the obstruction, unless she has been unable to do so from the time the overlap began.
- (c) While boats are passing a continuing obstruction, if a boat that was clear astern and required to keep clear becomes overlapped between the other boat and the obstruction and, at the moment the overlap begins, there is not room for her to pass between them,
- (1) she is **not entitled to room** under rule 19.2(b), and
 - (2) while the boats remain overlapped, she **shall** keep clear and rules 10 and 11 do not apply.

20 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION

20.1 Hailing

A boat **may hail** for room to tack and avoid a boat on the same tack. However, she **shall not hail** unless

(a) she is approaching an obstruction and will soon need to make a substantial course change to avoid it safely, and

(b) she is sailing close-hauled or above.

In addition, she **shall not hail** if the obstruction is a mark and a boat that is fetching it would be required to change course as a result of the hail.

20.2 Responding

- (a) After a boat hails, she **shall** give a hailed boat time to respond.
- (b) A hailed boat **shall** respond even if the hail breaks rule 20.1.
- (c) A 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.
- (d) When a hailed boat responds, the hailing boat **shall** tack as soon as possible.
- (e) From the time a boat hails until she has tacked and avoided a hailed boat, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

20.3 Passing On a Hail to an Additional Boat

When a boat has been hailed for room to tack and she intends to respond by tacking, she **may hail** another boat on the same tack for room to tack and avoid her. She may hail even if her hail does not meet the conditions of rule 20.1. Rule 20.2 applies between her and a boat she hails.

20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails

- (a) When conditions are such that a hail may not be heard, the boat shall also make a signal that clearly indicates her need for room to tack or her response.**
- (b) The notice of race may specify an alternative communication for a boat to indicate her need for room to tack or her response, and require boats to use it.**

SECTION D OTHER RULES

When rule 21 or 22 applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.

CJH Note: RRS21 was Exoneration – all exoneration has moved to RRS43

21 STARTING ERRORS; TAKING PENALTIES; BACKING A SAIL (this was RRS22)

21.1 A boat sailing towards the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions after her starting signal to start or to comply with rule 30.1 **shall** keep clear of a boat not doing so until her hull is completely on the pre-start side.

21.2 A boat taking a penalty **shall** keep clear of one that is not.

21.3 A boat moving astern, or sideways to windward, through the water by backing a sail **shall** keep clear of one that is not.

22 CAPSIZED, ANCHORED OR AGROUND; RESCUING (this was RRS23)

If possible, a boat **shall avoid** a boat that is capsized or has not regained control after capsizing, is anchored or aground, or is trying to help a person or vessel in danger.

A boat is capsized when her masthead is in the water.

23 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT (this was RRS24)

23.1 If reasonably possible, a boat not racing **shall not** interfere with a boat that is racing.

23.2 If reasonably possible, a boat **shall not** interfere with a boat that is taking a penalty, sailing on another leg or subject to rule 21.1. However, after the starting signal this rule does not apply when the boat is sailing her proper course.

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28 SAILING THE RACE

28.1 A boat shall start, sail the course and then finish. While doing so, she may leave on either side a mark that does not begin, bound or end the leg she is sailing. After finishing she need not cross the finishing line completely.

28.2 A boat may correct any errors in sailing the course, provided she has not crossed the finishing line to finish.

31 TOUCHING A MARK

While racing, a boat **shall not** touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing.

43 EXONERATION

43.1 (a) When as a consequence of breaking a rule a boat has compelled another boat to break a rule, the other boat is exonerated for her breach.

(b) When a boat is sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled and, as a consequence of an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room she breaks a rule of Section A of Part 2, rule 15, 16, or 31, she is exonerated for her breach.

(c) A right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled, is exonerated for breaking rule 14 if the contact does not cause damage or injury.

43.2 A boat exonerated for breaking a rule need not take a penalty and shall not be penalized for breaking that rule.

44 PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

44.1 Taking a Penalty

A boat **may** take a Two-Turns Penalty when she **may** have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while racing.

She **may** take a One-Turn Penalty when she **may** have broken rule 31.

Alternatively, **the notice of race or sailing instructions** may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty, in which case **the specified penalty shall replace** the One-Turn and the Two-Turns Penalty. However,

(a) 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;

(b) if the boat caused **injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage** in the race or series by her breach **her penalty shall be to retire**.

44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties

After getting **well clear** of other boats **as soon after** the incident as possible, a boat takes a One-Turn or Two-Turns Penalty by **promptly** making the required number of turns in the same direction, each turn including one tack and one gybe. When a boat takes the penalty at or near the finishing line, her **hull shall** be completely on the course side of the line before she finishes.