

Numerous people ask “what is a beat to windward?”. Competitors come into the Protest room and advise that “the starboard boat was reaching for the windward mark and therefore they were not close hauled and therefore they were not on a beat to windward”! **Case 132** has been revised and updated (3/12/2018) for everyone asking this question. 4 situations – all starboard boats are “on a beat to windward”!

CASE 132

Rule 18.1(a), Mark-Room: When Rule 18 Applies

Interpretation of the phrase ‘on a beat to windward’.

Question

Rule 18.1(a) states that rule 18 does not apply between boats on opposite tacks on a beat to windward.

For the purpose of rule 18.1(a), when are boats ‘on a beat to windward’?

Answer

For the purpose of rule 18.1(a), which is only needed in multi-boat situations when at least one boat is in the zone, two boats on opposite tacks are considered to be ‘on a beat to windward’

(1) when the proper course for each of them is close-hauled or above, or

(2) when one or both of them have overstood the close-hauled layline to the mark and are sailing below close-hauled.

Consider the following four situations, each involving boats on opposite tacks in the zone of a mark to be left to port. The mark could be a windward mark, a finishing mark at the port end of a finishing line, a windward gate mark, or a limit mark that is not a rounding mark. In each of these situations, the boats shown are ‘on opposite tacks on a beat to windward’ and, therefore, rule 18 does not apply to them.

