

Team Racing

Rule change for Starboard Rounding of Windward Mark

In the 2017-2020 rules RRS 18.3 has been deleted for starboard roundings. Also, Team Racing Call E8 has been withdrawn for review. This changes the game at the windward mark of our usual NZ team racing course. The following is an interpretation of the changes but I am prepared to discuss this with any sailors, umpires, coaches or team managers and review what I have stated below. It is important that before the nationals, sailors and umpires have the same interpretation.

A yellow boat approaches the windward mark on starboard. Mark to be rounded starboard. A blue boat is fetching the mark on port. At that time rule 18 does not apply, see 18.1(a). Yellow tacks passing head to wind in the zone and complying with rule 13. (She no longer has to comply with the more onerous 18.3 so Yellow has not infringed if, having complied with RRS 13, she forces Blue to sail above close-hauled.) Generally, apply the rules as you would for any boat tacking on the beat near another boat.

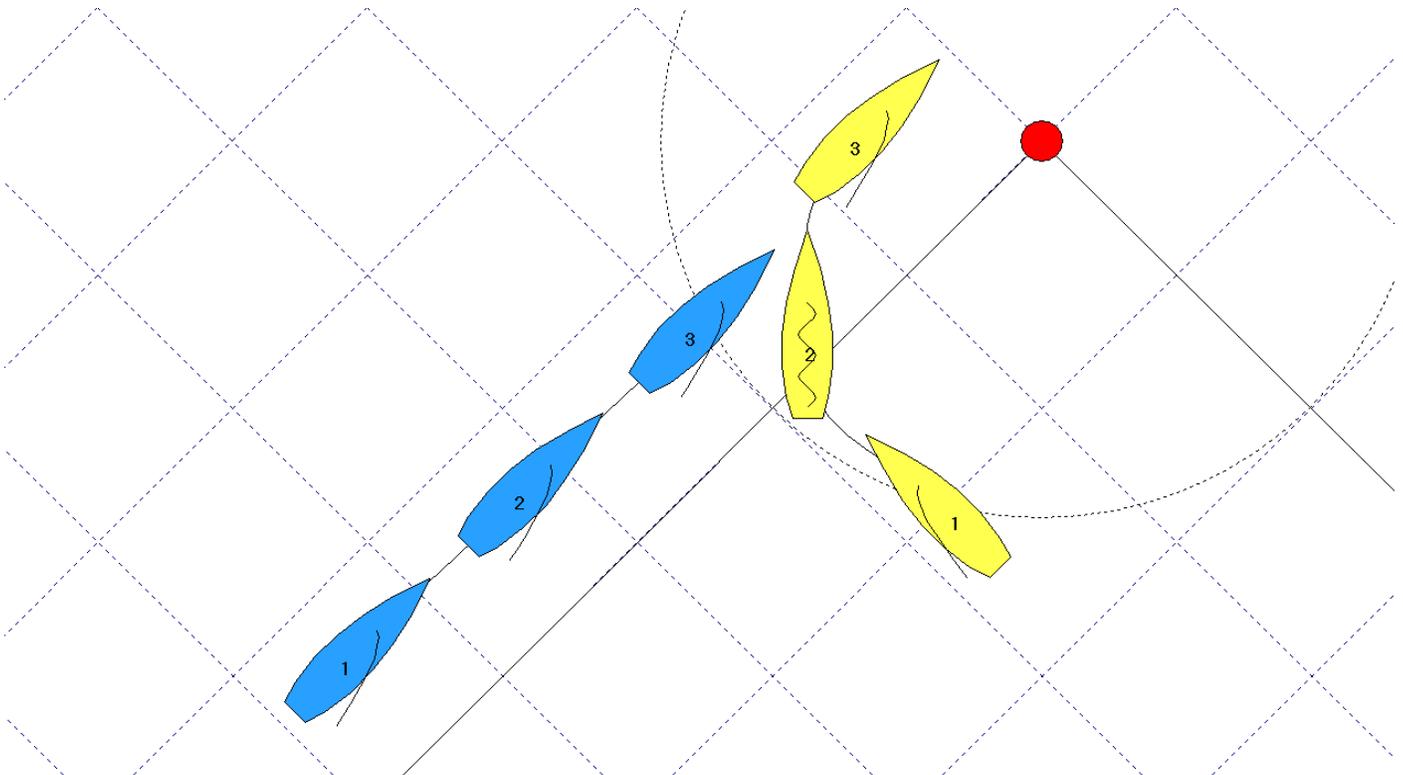
After Yellow's tack she is either:

1. Clear ahead of Blue.
2. Clear astern of Blue.
3. Overlapped to leeward of Blue.
4. Overlapped to windward of Blue.

Although the exact position relative to Blue when Yellow passes head to wind may be critical.

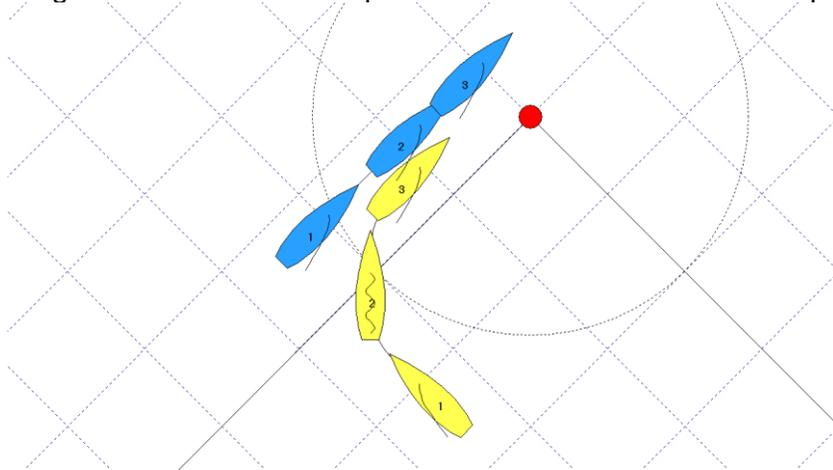
If 1. Clear ahead.

Up to position 2 Yellow is on starboard tack and Blue must keep clear. From position 2 to position 3 yellow is tacking and must keep clear of Blue. If Blue remains astern of Yellow or gains a windward overlap, RRS 17 will not apply between Yellow & Blue, so Yellow may sail above her proper course. (No change.) If Blue gains an inside overlap she is entitled to mark room, see 18.2(a). However, that is subject to rule 18.2(f) so when the overlap is established Yellow must be able to give mark-room. (This is a change. Under 18.3 mark-room was an absolute right for Blue and if Yellow could not give mark-room she had infringed.)

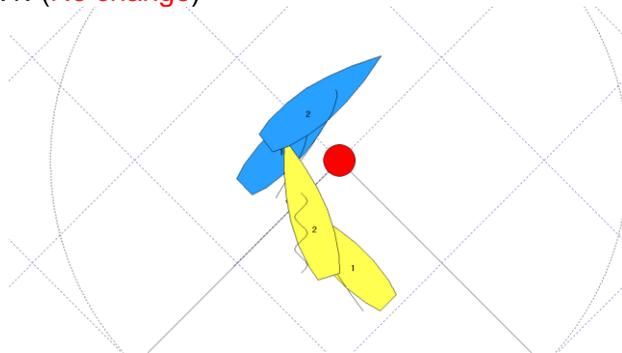


If 2. Clear astern.

When Yellow passes through head to wind at position 2 she is clear astern of Blue, therefore, if Blue slows and Yellow gains an inside overlap she is not entitled to mark room, see last part of D1.1(b) changing 18.2(b). If Yellow gains a windward overlap Blue is entitled to sail above her proper course. (No change.)

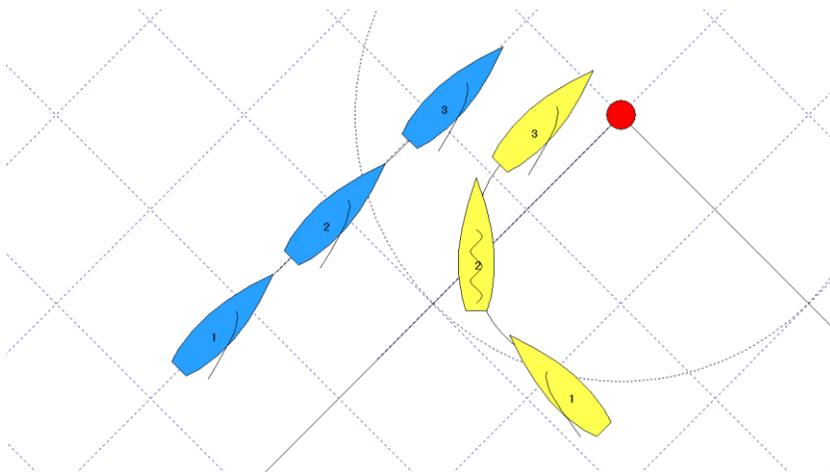


In the diagram below at position 1, Yellow has right-of-way and Blue is keeping clear. RRS 18 does not apply because they are on opposite tacks. If Yellow luffs to round the mark she must give Blue an opportunity to keep clear under RRS 16.1. In this case, at position 2, Yellow is still right-of-way boat but she has infringed RRS16.1. (No change)



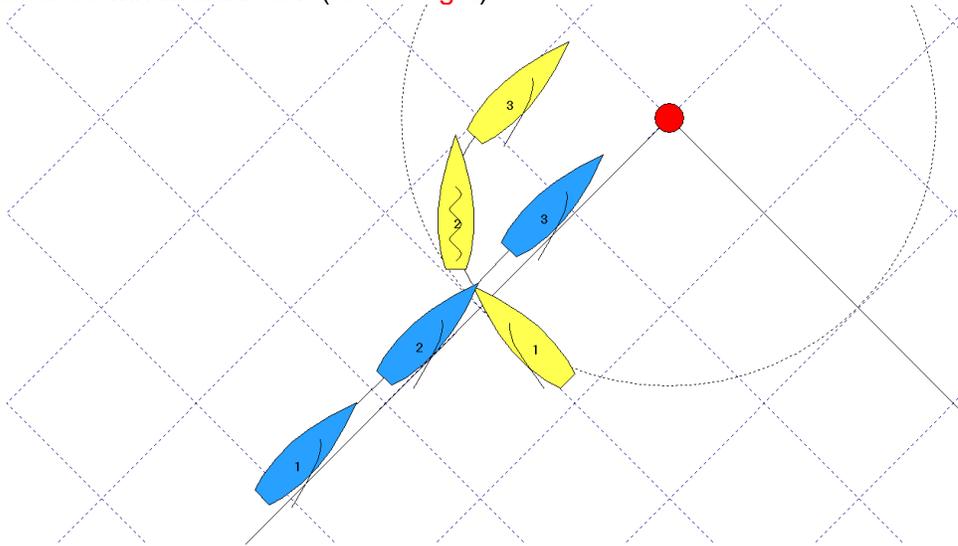
If 3. Overlapped to leeward.

RRS 18 does not apply at position 1 and Blue must keep clear. (RRS 10) Yellow luffs and when she passes through head to wind at position 2 she becomes give way boat under RRS 13. RRS 18 also applies from position 2. Yellow, as inside overlapped boat, is entitled to mark room. RRS 17 does not apply. (No change.)



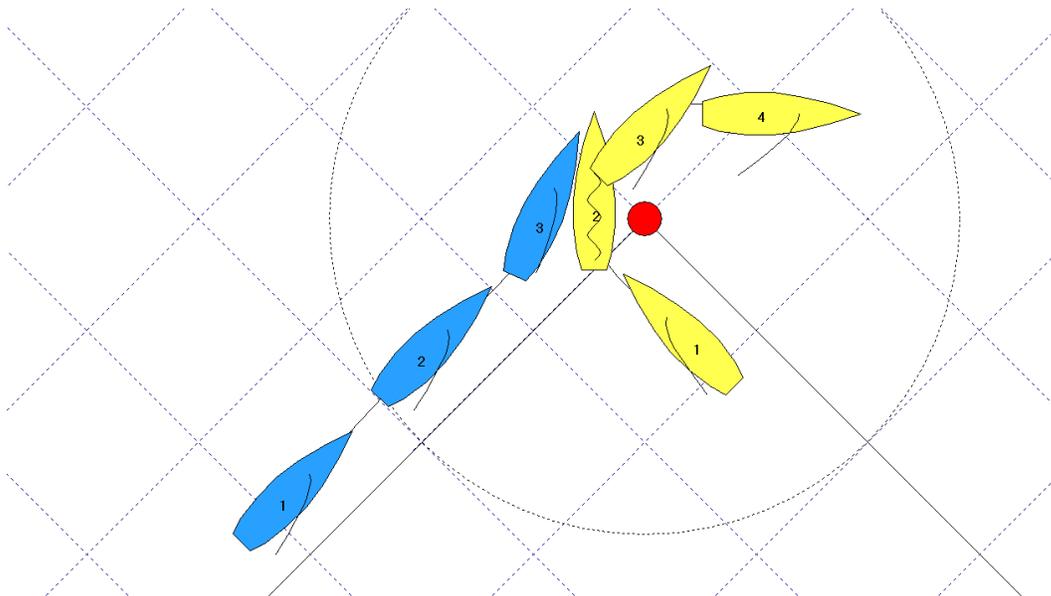
If 4. Overlapped to windward.

Blue has mark room as inside overlapped boat under RRS 18.2(a). Yellow must give her mark room and also keep clear as windward boat. (No change.)



The following may be contentious. If Yellow tacks right on the mark, only taking the room she requires to round the mark, my interpretation is as follows:-

When Yellow passes head-to-wind at position 2, RRS 18 starts to apply. (The last sentence of the definition of *mark-room* does not apply because RRS 18 does not apply until **after** she passes head-to-wind.) If Yellow forces Blue to alter course before she is close-hauled on port she infringes 13. However, if she is only taking the mark room to which she is entitled she is exonerated under rule RRS 21 because RRS 13 is a rule of RRS Part 2. Section A. If she takes more room than necessary she would not be exonerated. (This is a major change because at position 3 Yellow would have infringed RRS 18.3 under the previous rules and she could not be exonerated for this infringement under RRS 21)



If anyone has alternative interpretations I would be pleased to discuss them. But in the near future we must come to a consensus so that everyone is on the same page for the nationals, if not for various regionals.

Jim Park, 15th March, 2017.