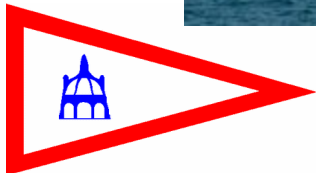


# Introduction to the Racing Rules



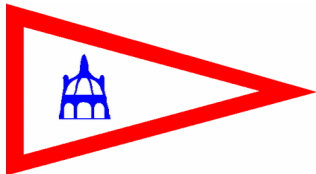
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Racing Club**

**Chris Powell**

# Racing Rules

- How many Rules do I need to know?
- What about the rest of the Rules?
- Mark rounding
- Starting

This talk gives you my view of a selection of the Racing Rules. As always it is the skipper's responsibility to read, understand and apply the Racing Rules and the IRPCS for themselves.



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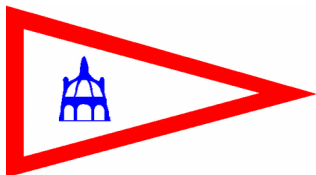
# Racing Rules

## How many rules do I need to know?

Four Right of Way rules:

- 10. Port and starboard
- 11. Same tack, overlapped: windward boat / leeward boat
- 12. Same tack, **not** overlapped: clear astern / clear ahead
- 13. While tacking

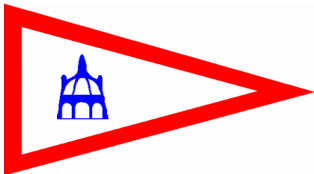
“A boat has right of way over another boat when the other boat is required to keep clear of her. However, some rules in Sections B, C and D limit the actions of a right-of-way boat.”



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# Racing Rules: Rule 10

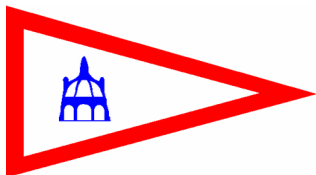
10. When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.



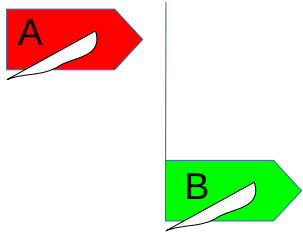
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# Racing Rules: Rules 11 and 12

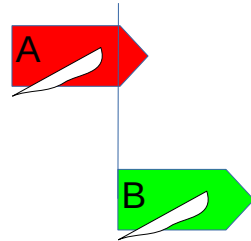
- 11. When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.
- 12. When boats are on the same tack and **not** overlapped, a boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.
- The Rules say that two boats are overlapped when neither is clear astern (or when a boat between them overlaps both)



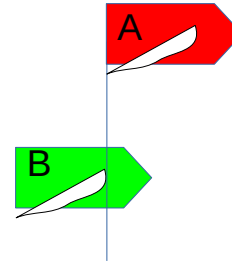
# Racing Rules: Rules 11 and 12



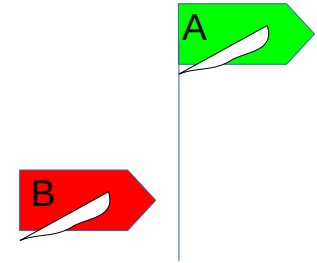
Not overlapped:  
Rule 12



Overlapped:  
Rule 11

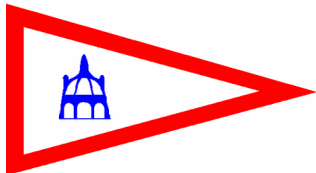


Overlapped:  
Rule 11



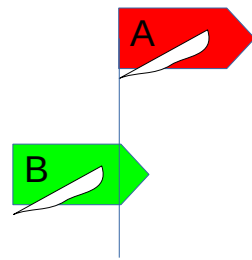
Not overlapped:  
Rule 12

As a rule of thumb, just look along the transom line from the leading yacht.

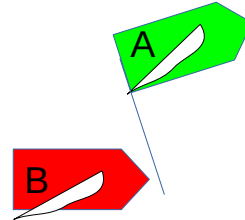


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# Racing Rules: Rules 11 and 12

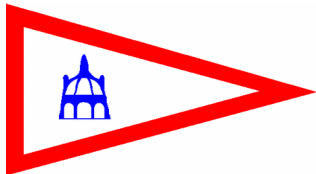


Overlapped:  
Rule 11



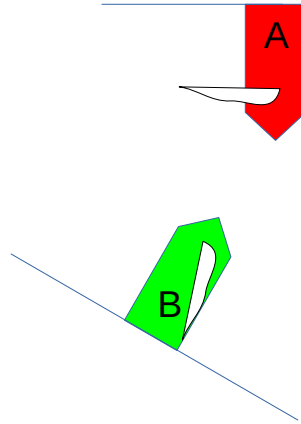
Not  
overlapped:  
Rule 12

A small manoeuvre can break an overlap and change the keep clear obligation.

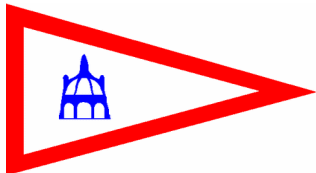


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# Racing Rules: Rules 11 and 12



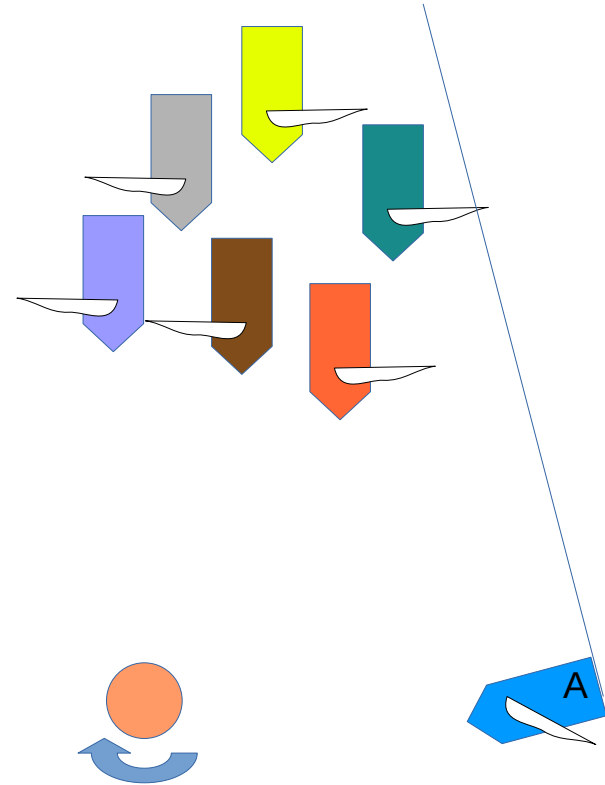
Both are on port tack and neither yacht is clear astern. They are overlapped. A must keep clear under Rule 11 (windward boat).



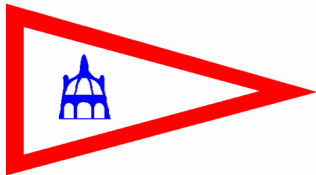
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# Racing Rules: Rules 11 and 12



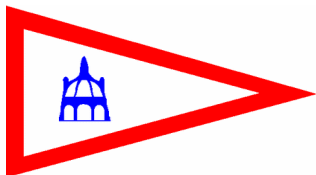
Is A overlapped with anyone?  
Yes, everyone!



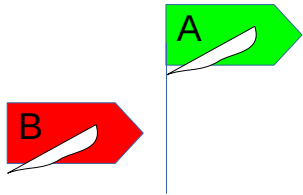
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# Rules 11 and 12: Proper Course

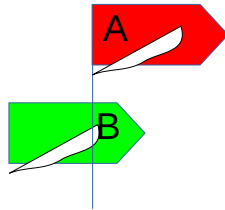
- Definition: A course a boat would choose in order to sail the course and finish as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no proper course before her starting signal.
- “Sail your proper course” – no rule requires you to do this
- “Don’t sail below your proper course” – no longer a rule
- “Don’t sail above your proper course” – Rule 17
- Rule 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..



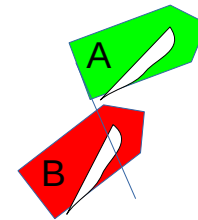
# Rules 11 and 12: Proper Course



1. B is clear astern (Rule 12), but faster



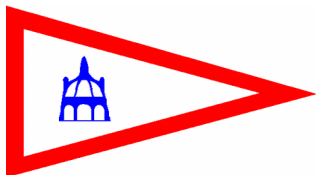
2. B gets an overlap to leeward (Rule 11)



Don't sail above your proper course!

3. B luffs. B is in the wrong – she is not allowed to sail above her proper course during the overlap, because she came from clear astern (Rule 17). This is an example of the actions of the right-of-way boat being limited.

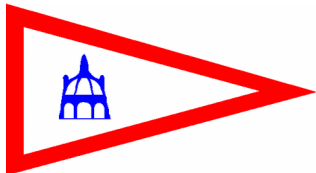
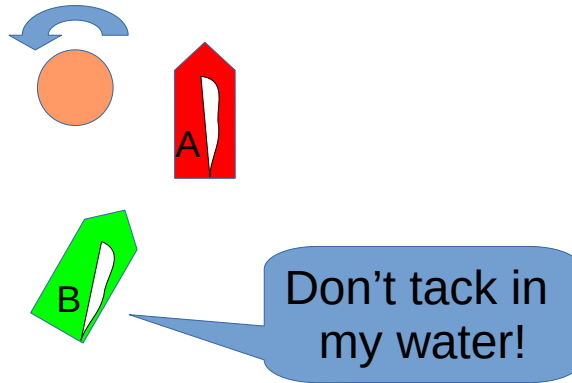
What else could B have done?



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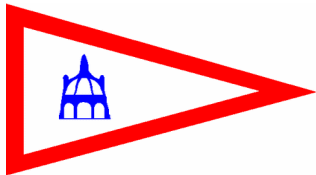
# Racing Rules: Rule 13

13. 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.



# Racing Rules

- How many Rules do I need to know?
- **What about the rest of the Rules?**
- Mark rounding
- Starting

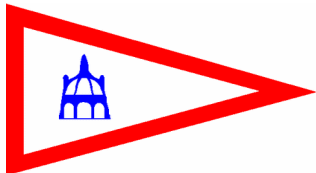


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# Racing Rules

## What about the rest of the Rules?

- Obligations – 5 types
- Keep clear – 10 to 13, 19.2 (c), 21.1, 21.2, 21.3
- Give room – 15, 16, 18, 19, 20
- Proper course – 17, 18.4
- If possible – 14, 22, 23.1, 23.2
- Other – 18.3
- UNLESS exonerated - 43



# Racing Rules: 14, 15, 16

## 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*.

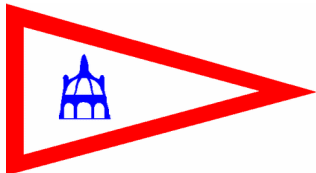
## 15. ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

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

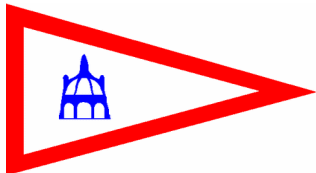
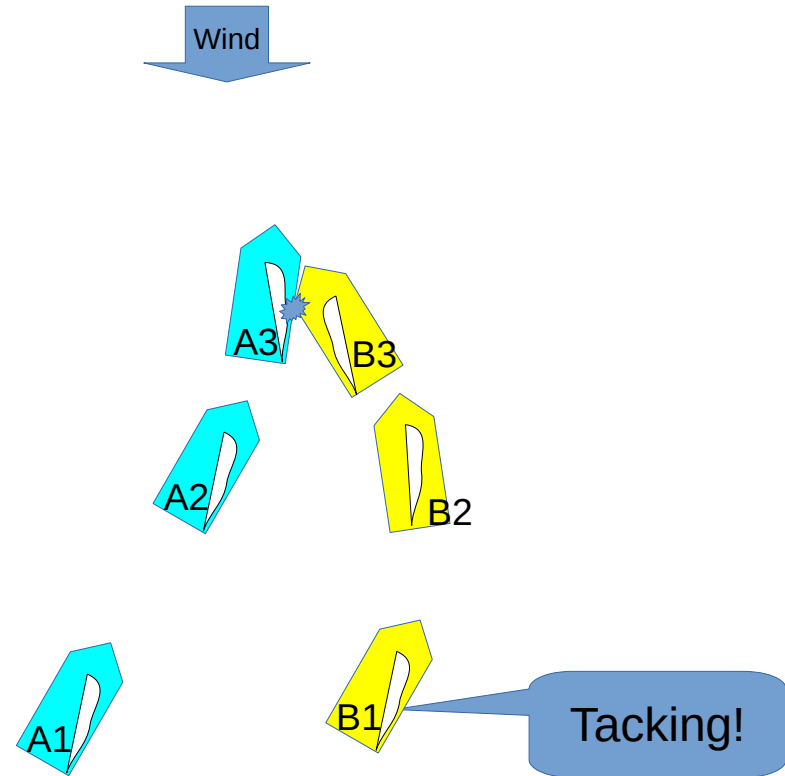
**16.1** When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

**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*.



# Racing Rules: Rules 14 and 15

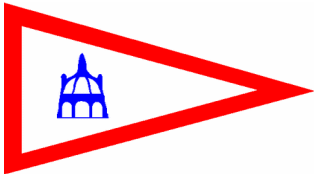
- At B1, B's hail of "Tacking!" is not a recognised call. It does not count as giving room to A under Rule 15.
- At B2, B is subject to Rule 13 and is therefore the "keep clear" yacht. As right-of-way boat, A need not act to avoid contact at this point (Rule 14).
- At B3, B acquires right-of-way under Rule 10 *just* before contact. B does not "initially give the other boat room to keep clear" and therefore breaks Rule 15.
- At A3/B3, A breaks Rule 10, but would be exonerated under Rule 43.1 (a), because B compelled A by breaking Rule 15.





# Racing Rules

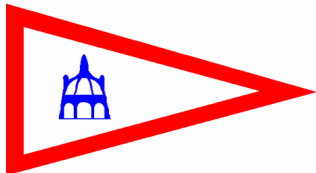
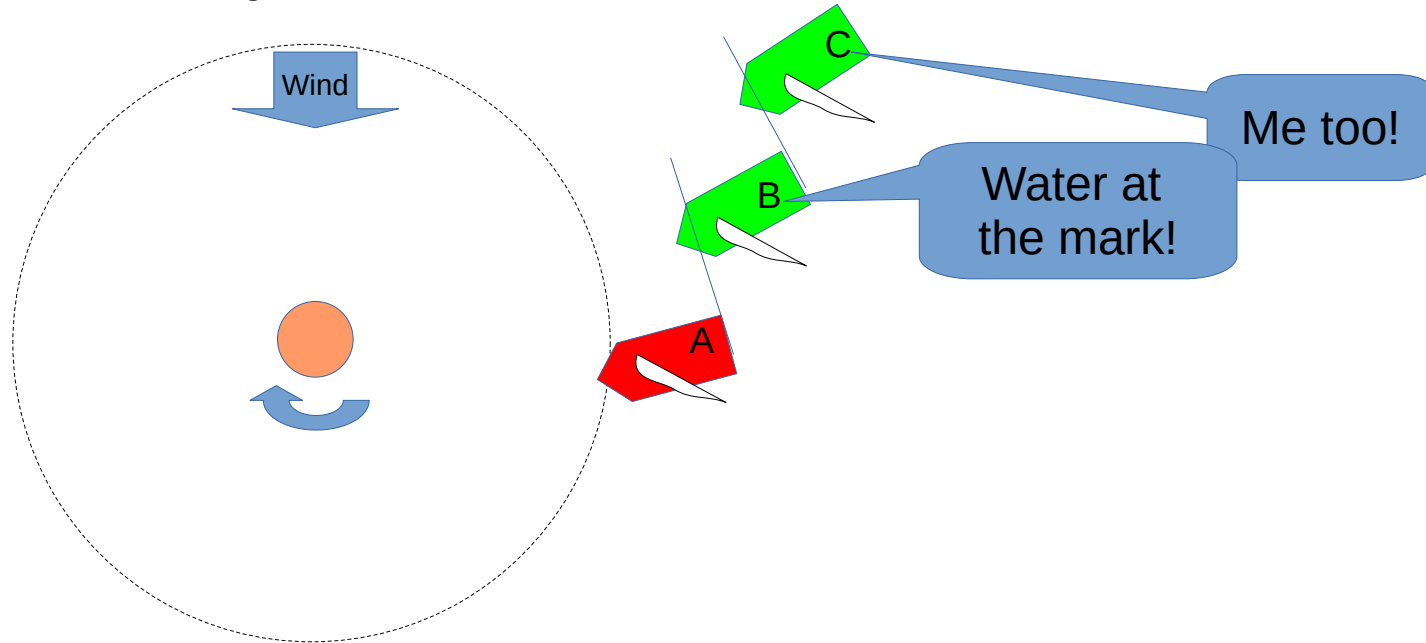
- How many Rules do I need to know?
- What about the rest of the Rules?
- **Mark rounding**
- Starting



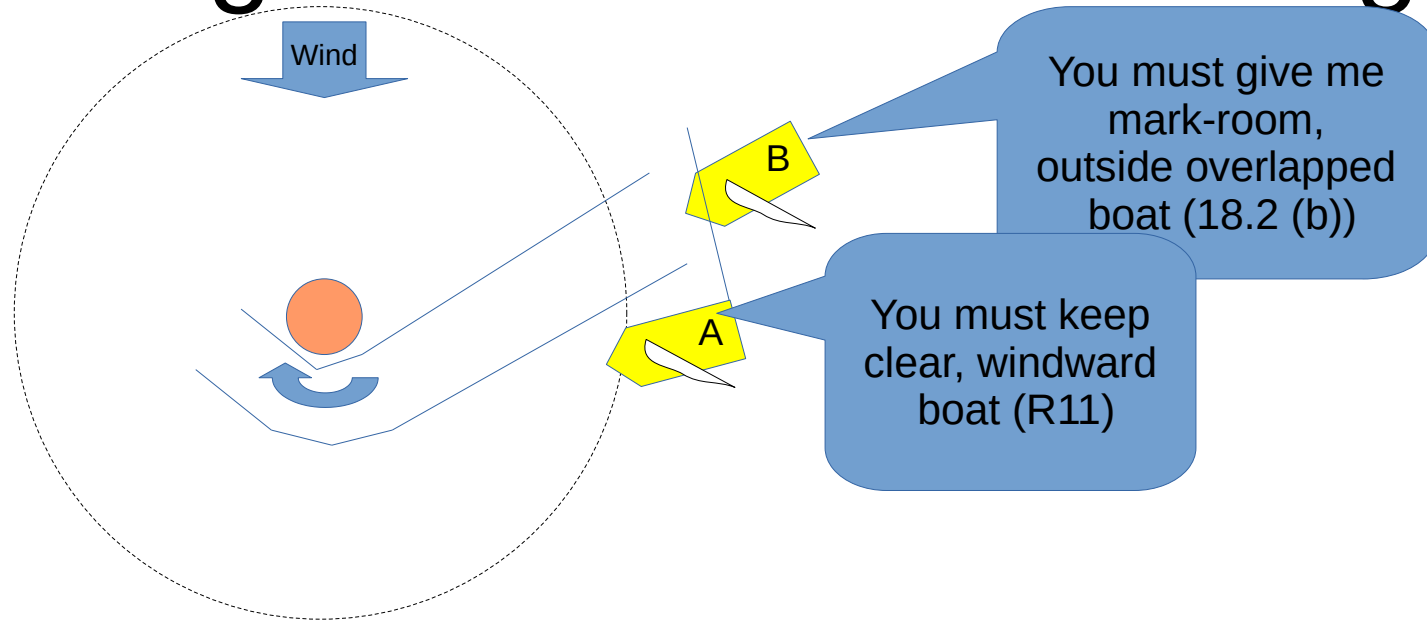
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# Racing Rules: Mark rounding

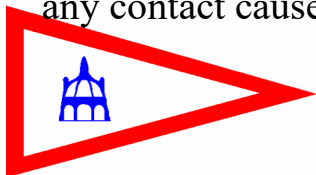
- “18.2(b): If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.”



# Racing Rules: Mark rounding

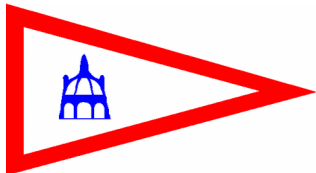
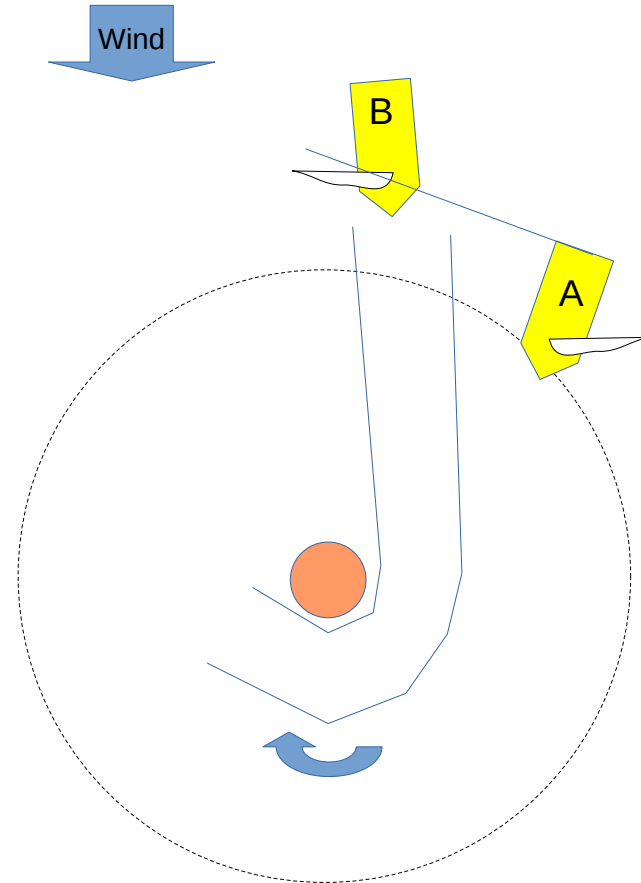


- “43.1 (b): When a boat is sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled and, as a consequence of an incident with a boat required to give her that *room* or *mark-room*, she breaks a rule of Section A of Part 2 [*i.e.* Rules 10-13], rule 15, 16, or 31, she is exonerated for her breach.”
- Therefore yacht B would be exonerated if she caused an incident by failing to keep clear under Rule 11 (as long as any contact causes no damage or injury – see 43.1(c)).



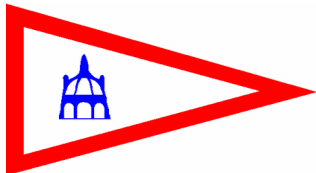
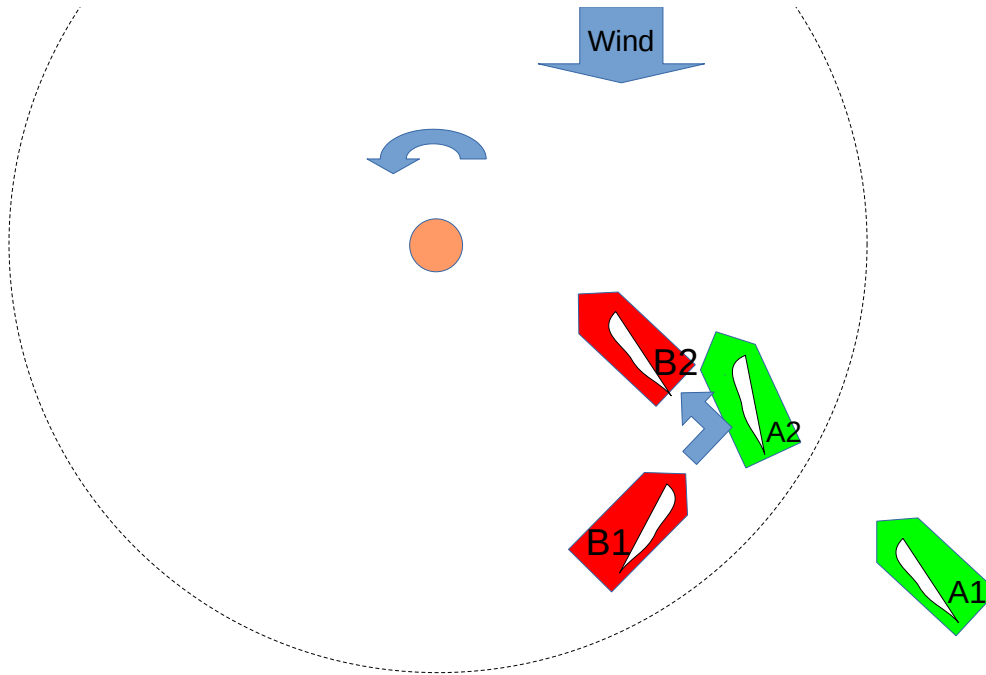
# Racing Rules: Mark rounding quiz

- Are A and B overlapped?
- Yes, yachts on opposite tacks can be overlapped when both are sailing downwind.
- Which yacht has right-of-way?
- A is the right-of-way boat (Rule 10)
- Which yacht has to give Mark-room?
- A must give Mark-room to B (Rule 18.2(b)).
- Does B have other obligations?
- Yes B must sail no further from the mark than needed to sail her proper course until she gybes (Rule 18.4).
- What if there's a no damage incident because B doesn't keep clear under Rule 10?
- B would be exonerated (Rule 43.1(b) and (c))



# Racing Rules: Mark rounding Rule 18.3

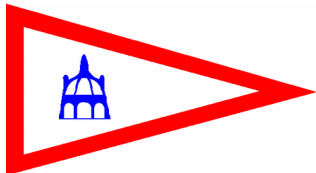
B tacks in the zone. This does not give her an entitlement to mark-room, and B must not cause A to luff above close-hauled (Rule 18.3). B is in the wrong.



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# Racing Rules

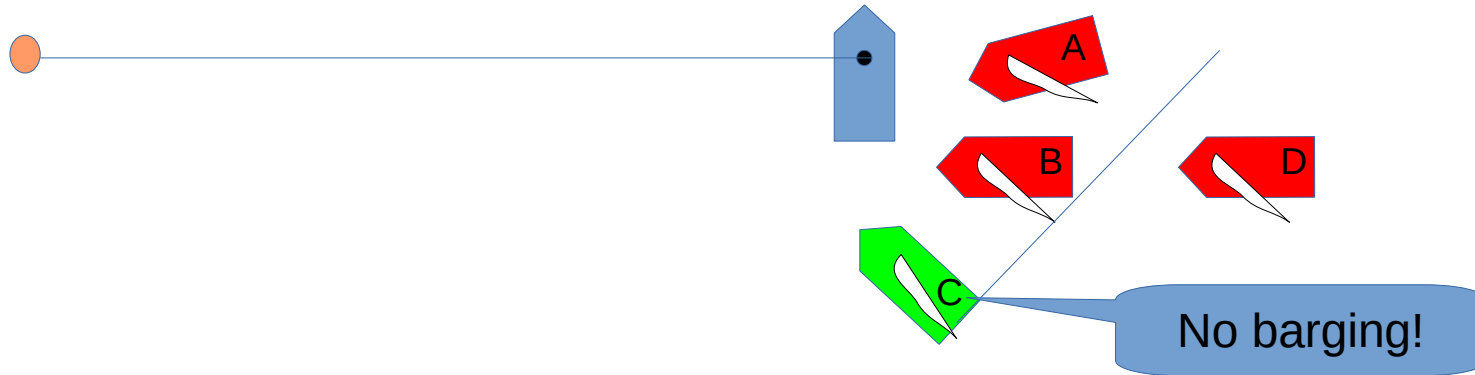
- How many Rules do I need to know?
- What about the rest of the Rules?
- Mark rounding
- **Starting**



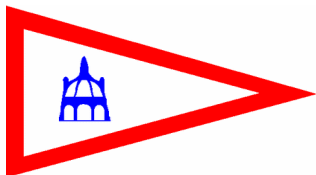
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# Racing Rules: Starting

“Section C rules [includes Rule 18 Mark-room] 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.”

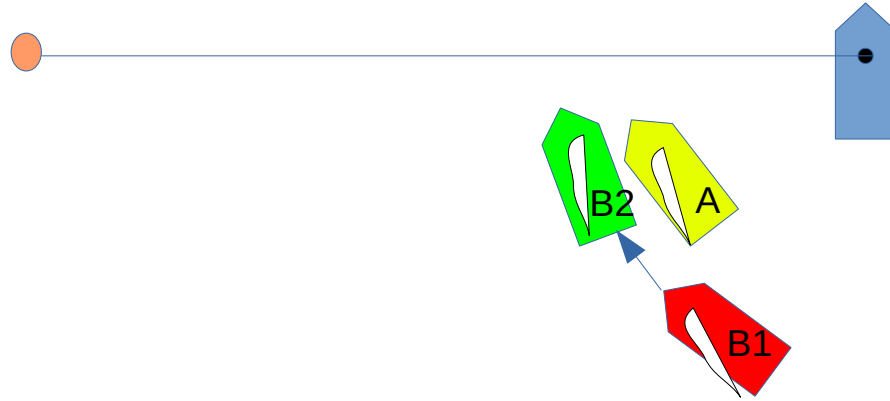


- A and B are overlapped with C and must keep clear as windward yachts (Rule 11).
- A and B are not entitled to mark-room as the inside overlapped yachts, because Rule 18 does not apply at a starting mark.
- D must keep clear of everyone as the yacht clear astern all of them (Rule 12)

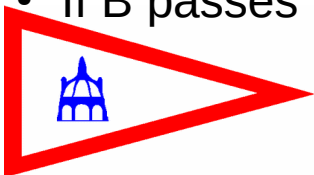


# Racing Rules: Starting

“A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.”



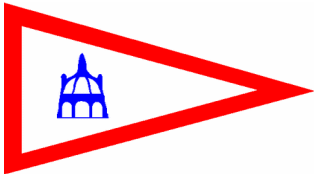
- At B1, yacht B is clear astern and must keep clear (Rule 12).
- At B2, yacht B has established an overlap to leeward. A must keep clear (Rule 11), although she must be given room to keep clear (Rules 15 and 16.1).
- Rule 17 does not prevent B from sailing above her proper course, because she has no proper course before the starting signal. Therefore she may luff head to wind.
- If B passes head to wind, B must keep clear of A (Rule 13).





# Racing Rules

Questions



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