

SANDRINGHAM YACHT CLUB

RACING RULES NIGHT

You will be presented with 10 scenarios depicting common situations in club racing at SYC. The scenarios each involve a dispute between two boats about how the rules apply.

You can assume that there is a valid protest which you, as the protest committee, must decide.

Your decision could be that no rule was broken, in which case neither boat would be penalised or to find that one or more rules were broken and penalise one or both boats. Tick the applicable box to indicate who you would penalise and write the rule number if you know it.

Scenario

Rules broken

- 1. Start – Boat End.** Yellow tries to pass between Blue and the committee boat. There is contact with Blue which breaks one of Yellow's guardrail stanchions.
Mark room does not apply at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water so Yellow was taking room to which she was not entitled. Yellow also broke rule 14 as she could have avoided contact by 'bailing out' when it became clear that there was not room for her to go in there. Blue also broke rule 14 for not avoiding contact because she could have borne away when it became clear that Yellow was not keeping clear – or not able to do so.
Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both
- 2. Tacking.** Yellow hails that she is tacking and immediately begins to tack. Blue immediately alters course to avoid Yellow and passes astern of her.
When Yellow completed her tack, i.e., when she reached a close hauled course, she acquired right of way. She was then required by rule 15 to initially give the other boat room to keep clear but did not do so as Blue had to alter course to avoid her before the tack was completed.
Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both
- 3. Beat - close cross.** Yellow hails 'starboard!' and Blue hails back 'hold your course!'. Yellow believes that Blue will not cross clear ahead and bears away to avoid her.
If Yellow altered course to avoid contact with Blue because of a 'reasonable apprehension' of collision, Case 50 requires a protest committee to rule in favour of the right of way boat.
Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both
- 4. Obstruction.** Yellow hails Blue for room to tack to avoid Green but Blue hails back that she could just as easily pass astern of Green. Yellow hails again but there is no response.
Green is defined as an obstruction to both Blue and Yellow and, under rule 19.2, the right of way boat may choose to pass an obstruction on either side. When a hail for room to tack to avoid Green, Rule 20 required Blue to either tack as soon as possible or hail 'you tack' and then giving Yellow room to tack and avoid her. Blue did neither and broke rule 20. If Blue was a much more experienced sailor than Yellow, Blue may also have broken rule 2 for unsportsmanlike behaviour.
Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both
- 5. Windward mark – stb rounding.** Yellow hails 'starboard' and Blue ducks her. Blue luffs inside Yellow to lay the mark. Blue prevents Yellow from completing her tack.
When Blue ducks Yellow, they are still on opposite tacks. When Yellow begins to tack, she is required by rule 13 to keep clear of Blue and cannot complete her tack until Blue gives her the room to do so by bearing away round the mark. As soon as Yellow completes her tack by reaching a close hauled course, she is the windward boat and required by rule 11 to keep clear of Blue. No rule is broken.

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Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both

- 6. Windward mark – port rounding.** Approaching the mark, Blue tacks on to starboard and Yellow luffs to avoid her. There is no contact.

Blue passes head to wind within the zone and is then subject to rule 18.3. As Blue then caused Yellow to have to sail above close hauled to avoid her, Blue broke rule 18.3

Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both

- 7. Run v Beat.** Blue is sailing downwind and on a converging course with Yellow sailing upwind. Yellow alters course to avoid Blue.

Both boats are on the same tack but overlapped – i.e., neither is ‘clear astern’ of the other – and so, the windward boat, Blue, did not keep clear as required by rule 11.

Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both

- 8. Leeward mark – starboard rounding.** Approaching the mark, Yellow hails ‘starboard’ and Blue then alters course to pass astern of Yellow.

Yellow’s hail of ‘starboard’ was incorrect as Blue had entered the zone and was the inside overlapped boat entitled to mark room. Yellow did not give Blue mark room as required by rule 18.2(b)

Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both

- 9. Leeward mark – port Rounding.** Approaching the mark, Yellow hails that she will need room. Blue alters course and hails ‘no overlap’. Yellow again hails for room and Blue hails ‘no room’.

The overlap was broken when Blue bore away but then re-established when Blue altered towards the mark – there being doubt about whether it was broken and/or re-established in time. Where there is reasonable doubt, rule 18.2(e) states that it shall be presumed that it was not broken in time.

Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both

- 10. Reach.** On the last leg Blue overtakes Yellow to windward and Yellow luffs. Blue then bears away to leeward of Yellow. Blue then luffs and Yellow responds. Blue then bears away to the finish.

Blue luffs to pass to windward of Yellow and Yellow luffs to defend. There is no ‘proper course’ limitation on Yellow and, provided she gives Blue room to keep clear, no rule is broken.

A short time later Blue gains an overlap to leeward and from clear astern of Yellow. Blue is then constrained by rule 17 not to sail above her proper course and breaks that rule when she does so.

Penalise: Neither Blue Yellow Both