

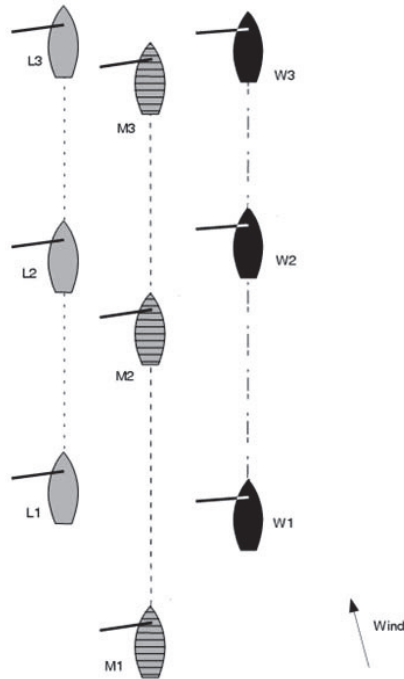
CASE 29

Definitions, Obstruction

Rule 19.2(b), Room to Pass an Obstruction: Giving Room at an Obstruction

Rule 19.2(c), Room to Pass an Obstruction: Giving Room at an Obstruction

A leeward boat is an obstruction to an overlapped windward boat and a third boat clear astern. The boat clear astern may sail between the two overlapped boats and be entitled to room from the windward boat to pass between her and the leeward boat, provided that the windward boat has been able to give that room from the time the overlap began.



Facts

When running on a downwind leg, W became overlapped with L when almost two hull lengths to windward of her. Subsequently, M sailed into the space between L and W. All three boats held their courses with no narrowing of space between L and W and no contact. W protested M for taking room to which she was not entitled, citing rules 19.2(b) and 19.2(c). The protest was dismissed on the grounds that W had given room to M as required by rule 19.2(b). W appealed.

Decision

Rule 11 required W to keep clear of L throughout the incident. While M was clear astern of L, rule 12 required her to keep clear of L, and after she became overlapped with L rule 11 required her to keep clear of L. As the diagram shows, both M and W met these requirements.

Because both W and M were required to keep clear of L throughout the incident, L was an obstruction to W and M during that time (see the penultimate sentence of the definition Obstruction). However, because L was a boat under way, L was not a continuing obstruction to them (see the last sentence of the definition Obstruction). When M became overlapped with W, rule 19.2(b) began to apply between them. It required W to give M room between her and the obstruction, unless she was unable to do so from the time the overlap began. As the facts clearly show, W was able to give M that room when the overlap began and continued to do so at all times until the boats finished. Therefore, W complied with rule 19.2(b). Rule 19.2(c) did not apply because the obstruction, L, was not a continuing obstruction. M broke no rule; therefore W's appeal is dismissed.

USA 1974/163

CASE 30

Definitions, Keep Clear

Rule 14, Avoiding Contact

Rule 19, Room to Pass an Obstruction

Rule 64.1(a), Decisions: Penalties and Exoneration

A boat clear astern that is required to keep clear but collides with the boat clear ahead breaks the right-of-way rule that was applicable before the collision occurred. A boat that loses right of way by unintentionally changing tack is nevertheless required to keep clear.

Facts

Boats A and B were running on starboard tack close to the shore against a strong ebb tide in a Force 3 breeze. At position 1, A was not more than half a hull length clear ahead of B. B blanketed A, causing A to slow and, at position 2, to gybe unintentionally. This was immediately followed by a collision, although without damage or injury, and B protested A under rule 10. The facts were agreed, and both boats were disqualified: B under rule