Answer to Scenario 3 – Proper Course #1

Boat A's protest is disallowed. While on starboard tack, A and B are not overlapped; therefore, the proper course limitation in rule 17, On the Same Tack; Proper Course, does not apply. Rule 12, On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped, requires B (the boat clear astern) to keep clear of A (the boat clear ahead), which she does. In this situation, no other rule limits where B can sail relative to A.

In order to make B gybe, A needs to have rule 17 apply, which she can accomplish by bearing away between positions 1 and 2, thereby causing the boats to become overlapped. She needs to continue to keep clear, however, as the windward boat under rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped.

(From Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes, Quiz 21. Used with permission.)