

Answer to Scenario 3 – Proper Course

W is penalized under [rule 11](#), on the Same Tack, Overlapped.

W's proper course was to sail close to the mark, and the course change necessary to sail the course after passing the mark was to round up to a close-hauled course. Therefore, [rule 18.2\(b\)](#) required L to give W room to sail to the mark and room to round it onto a close-hauled course, leaving it on the required side. Between positions 1 and 2, L gave W room to sail to the mark and between positions 2 and 3 room to round the mark onto a close-hauled course. Therefore, L did not break rule 18.2(b).

About halfway between positions 2 and 3, W had been given the space she needed to sail to and around the mark onto a close-hauled course, leaving it on the required side. She therefore had been given mark-room by L, and at that moment rule 18.2(b) ceased to apply (see [rule 18.2\(d\)](#)).

Throughout the incident W was required by rule 11 to keep clear of L. W sailed a hull length away from the mark on a course below close-hauled, and shortly before the contact at position 3, W broke rule 11 by failing to keep clear.

When L luffed between positions 2 and 3, L was required by [rule 16.1](#) to give W room to keep clear. L luffed approximately 30 degrees while moving forward two hull lengths. Even with a boom-end mainsheet rig, a boat sailed in a seamanlike way can turn through 30 degrees and trim her mainsail appropriately while moving forward two hull lengths. Therefore, L gave W room to keep clear and did not break rule 16.1.

W is not exonerated under rule 21(a) for breaking rule 11 because, when she did so, she was no longer entitled to mark-room from L, and she was sailing to leeward of, not within, the room to which she was entitled under rule 16.1.

L could have avoided contact with W, and so L broke [rule 14](#). She is exonerated for doing so because she was the right of way boat and the contact resulted in neither damage nor injury (see rule 14(b)).

It was possible for W to have avoided the contact, and therefore W also broke rule 14. However, because W was entitled to room under rule 16.1 and the contact resulted in neither damage nor injury, she too is exonerated for breaking rule 14.

(From World Sailing Casebook, Case 25)