

## Explanation 1 Finish Line “Mark Room” (March 2025)

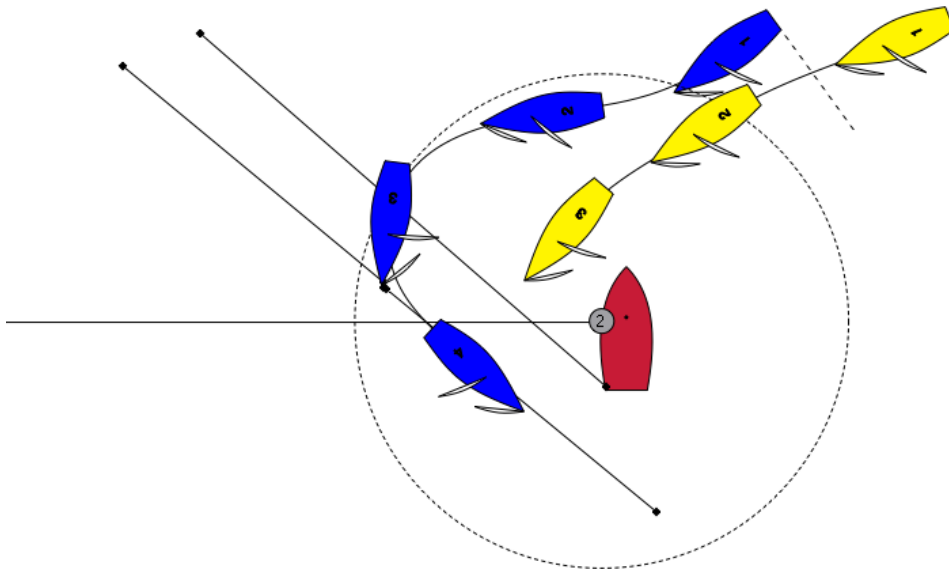
*The scenario illustrated below often occurs when Blue initially sails away from the line to engage another opponent, then either gybes back or bears away hard to prevent Yellow from finishing between Blue and the RCV.*

### Case 1

Blue enters the zone of the Committee Vessel clear ahead of Yellow.  
Blue sails high (maybe to luff an opponent). At position 3 Yellow establishes an overlap from astern.

### Question 1

What are the limitations (if any) on Blue when she gybes on to port.



Answer 1: When Yellow becomes overlapped on Yellow, 18.2 (a) 2 applies and states:

“When the first of two boats reaches the zone...if the boats are not overlapped the boat that has not reached the zone at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*”

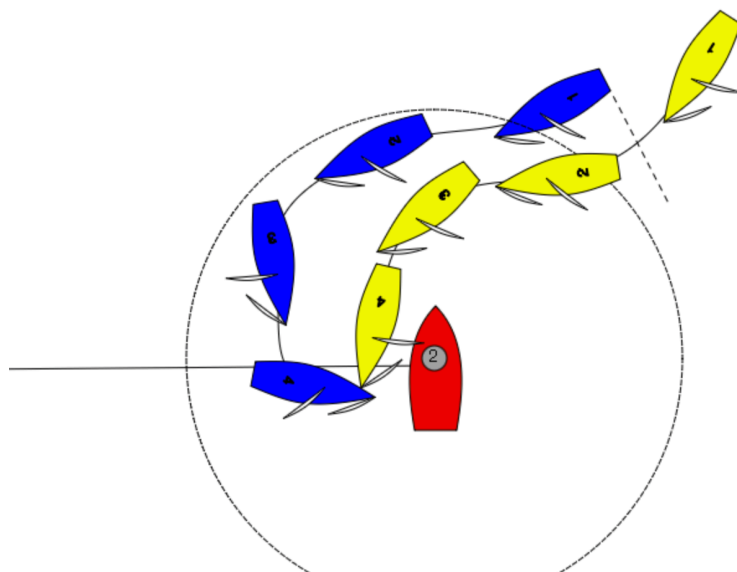
*Mark-Room* includes *Room* for a boat to sail to the mark when her *proper course* is to sail close to it.

The angled lines are gybe lines. These lines show the proper course a boat would sail at any particular point to finish as quickly as possible. By gybing at position 3 Blue's proper course is to sail the lower gybe line. In doing this she has left space for Yellow to finish inside her.

Note: It is never a proper course for Blue to point above the port quarter of the committee boat. Additionally in boats sailing without spinnakers the proper course is generally dead down wind.

So: If the umpires agree that Blue is not sailing within the *mark room* to which she is entitled rule 18 no longer applies and in which case rule 10 applies.

And Blue will be penalised.



Similarly if Blue bears away hard, and does not gybe, and is aiming above the port quarter of the CV again rule 18 no longer applies, and instead Blue is likely to be penalised for breaking rule 11.

(Sorry the programme Boats can not show a keelboat sailing by the lee).