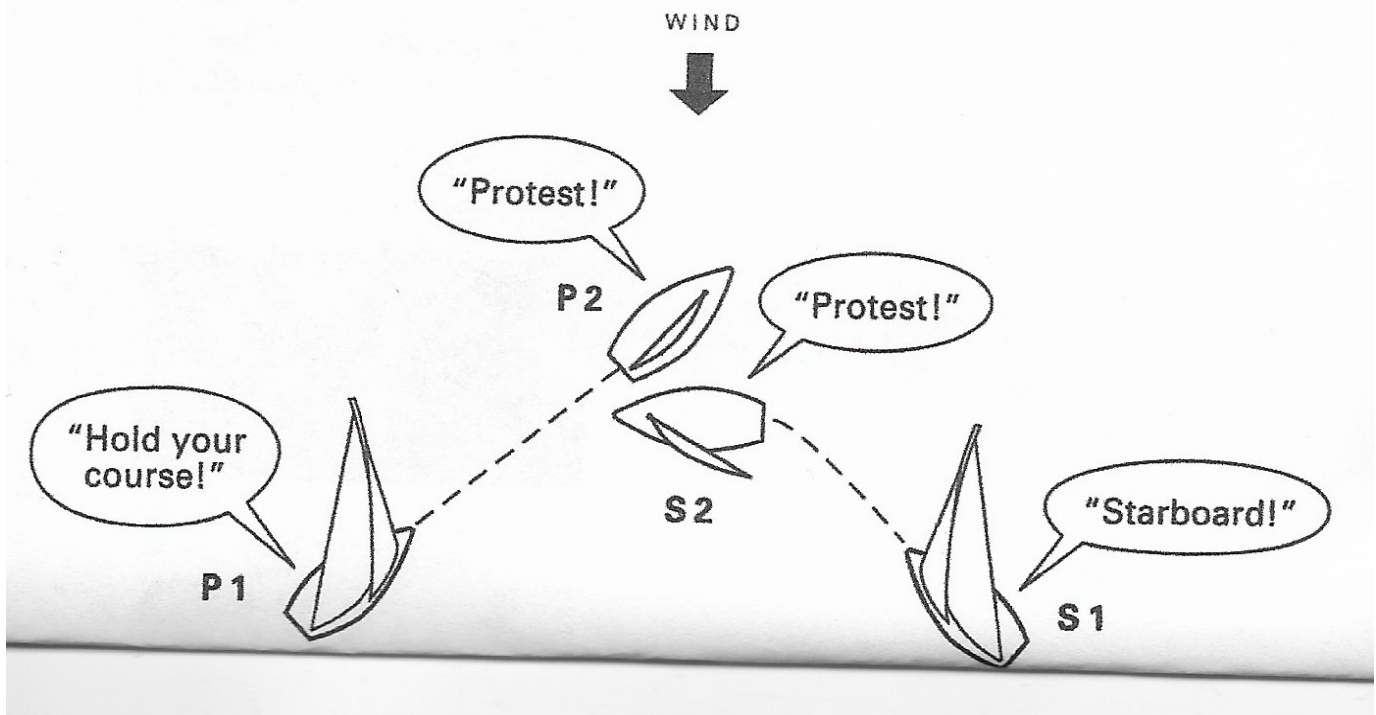


Quiz 7

Boats P (on port tack) and S (on starboard tack) are sailing up a beat on opposite tacks on a collision course. As they get closer, S hails, "Starboard!" and P hails, "Hold your course!" S then bears away and passes within a few feet of P's stern. Both boats protest. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



ANSWER

Boat P is penalized under rule 10, On Opposite Tacks. P's hail of "Hold your course" is permissible, but the rules do not recognize such a hail as binding on the other boat. S can and should take avoiding action when she needs to in order to avoid a contact. (See rule 14, Avoiding Contact, and US Sailing Appeal 27.) When S needs to change course to avoid contact with P, that is the moment P breaks rule 10 (see World Sailing Case 88).