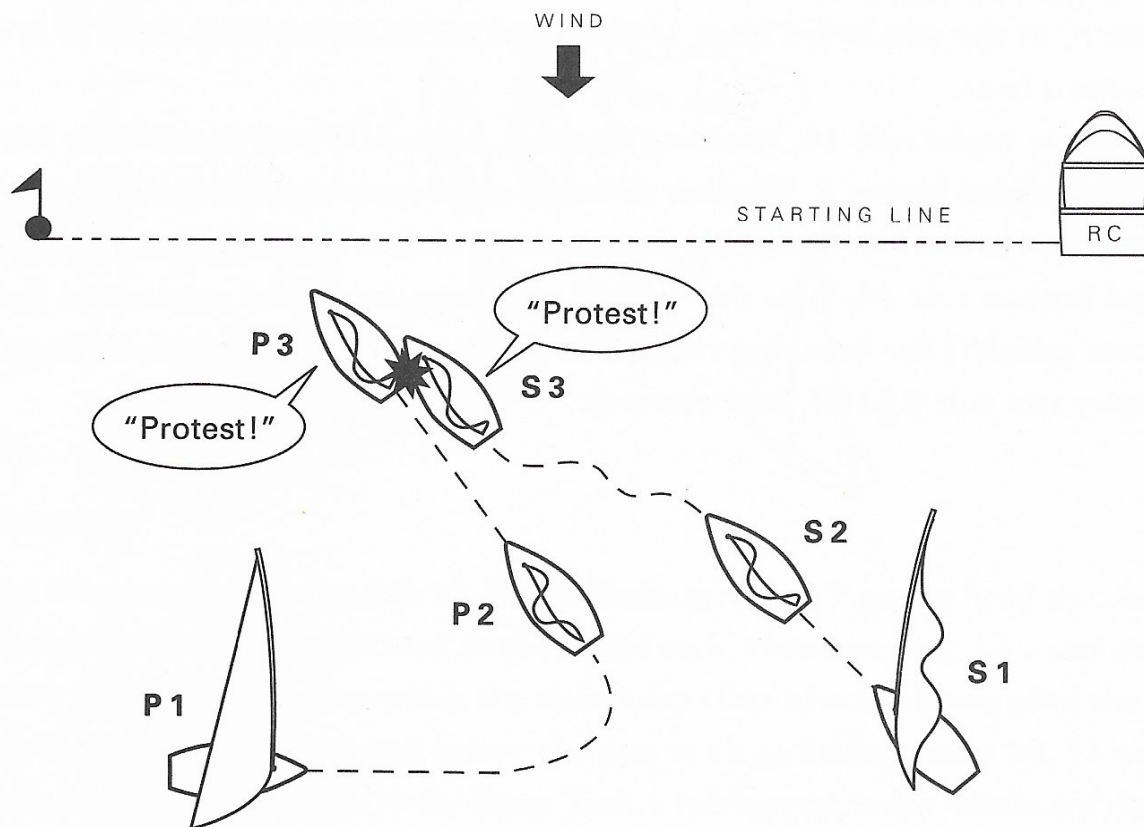


## Dave Perry's Quiz #11

# Quiz 11

With 45 seconds to go before the starting signal, Boat P (on port tack) on a beam reach is approaching Boat S (on starboard tack) who is sitting nearly wayless on a close-hauled course with her sails luffing. P proceeds to luff and then cross head to wind all in one motion, ending up to leeward of S. When on a parallel course with S, P stops her change of course, never filling her sails. S, despite having room to get steerageway on and to keep clear, chooses to make no attempt to keep clear of P and 15 seconds later drifts down and makes contact (no damage or injury) with P. Both boats protest, S claiming that P had not completed her tack because she tacked from a reach and never filled her sails. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



## ANSWER TO QUIZ 11

Boat S is penalized for breaking rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped, which says, "When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat." Once she is past head to wind, rule 13, While Tacking, requires P to keep clear of S until P is on a close-hauled course. When she has borne away to a close-hauled course (the course she will sail when close-hauled), P becomes the right-of-way boat under rule 11 regardless of her point of sail prior to the tack or whether her sails have filled or not after the tack.

When P is on a close-hauled course, rule 13 ceases to apply and she becomes the right-of-way boat under rule 11. At that point, rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way, builds in a short period of time during which P (the new right-of-way boat) must give S (the new keep-clear boat) room to keep clear. S makes no effort at all to keep clear and substantial time passes prior to the contact. Therefore S, as the windward boat, is penalized for failing to keep clear of P, the leeward boat.

S also broke rule 14, Avoiding Contact, because it was possible for her to have avoided hitting P. Whether or not P could have avoided contact when it was clear to her that S was not going to keep clear is a moot point. Even if she had broken rule 14, P, as the right-of-way boat, would be exonerated (freed from penalty) for breaking rule 14 as the contact did not cause damage or injury (see rule 43.1(c), Exoneration).