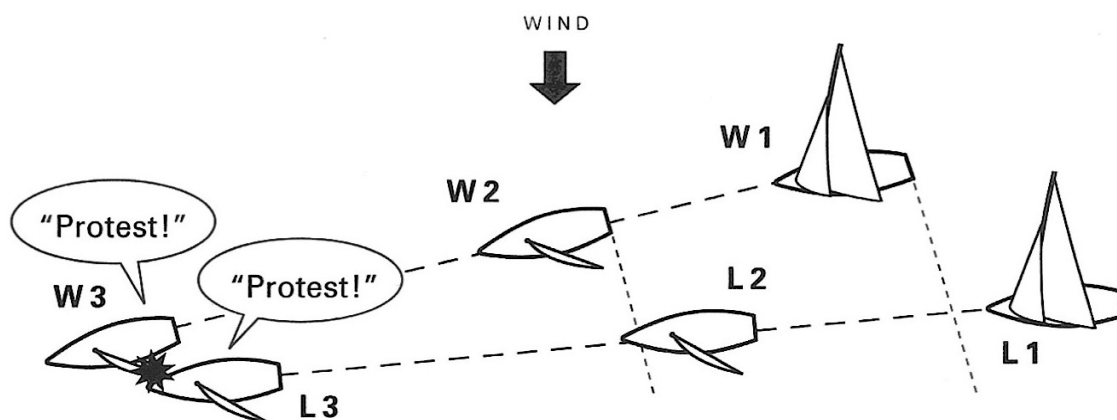


## Quiz 22

Boats W (a windward boat) and L (a leeward boat) are reaching towards the gybe mark on converging courses. L becomes overlapped with W from clear astern within two of her lengths of W. They are both sailing proper courses and are on a collision course. As they near each other, W hails, “You came from clear astern and I’m on my proper course.” L replies, “I’m on my proper course.” W’s boom then touches L with no damage or injury and both protest. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



### ANSWER

Boat W is penalized under rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped, for failing to keep clear of a leeward boat, and rule 14, Avoiding Contact, for failing to avoid contact when it was reasonably possible to do so. When L first becomes overlapped with W, she is required to give W room to keep clear by rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way, which she does. Because L overlaps W from clear astern within two of her hull lengths, rule 17, On the Same Tack; Proper Course, requires L not to sail above her (L’s) proper course. L is sailing on her proper course (not above it) and W fails to keep clear.

L could have avoided making contact with W, but didn’t; therefore she breaks rule 14. But a right-of-way boat is exonerated (freed from penalty) for breaking rule 14 when the contact does not cause damage or injury (see rule 43.1(c), Exoneration).

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*Answers to Dave Perry’s 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes are based on The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021–2024. For a comprehensive explanation of the rules, read Dave Perry’s Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2024, which is available from US Sailing: 1 (800) 877-2451 or [ussailing.org](http://ussailing.org). Permission to reprint this quiz for non-commercial use is granted by the author.*