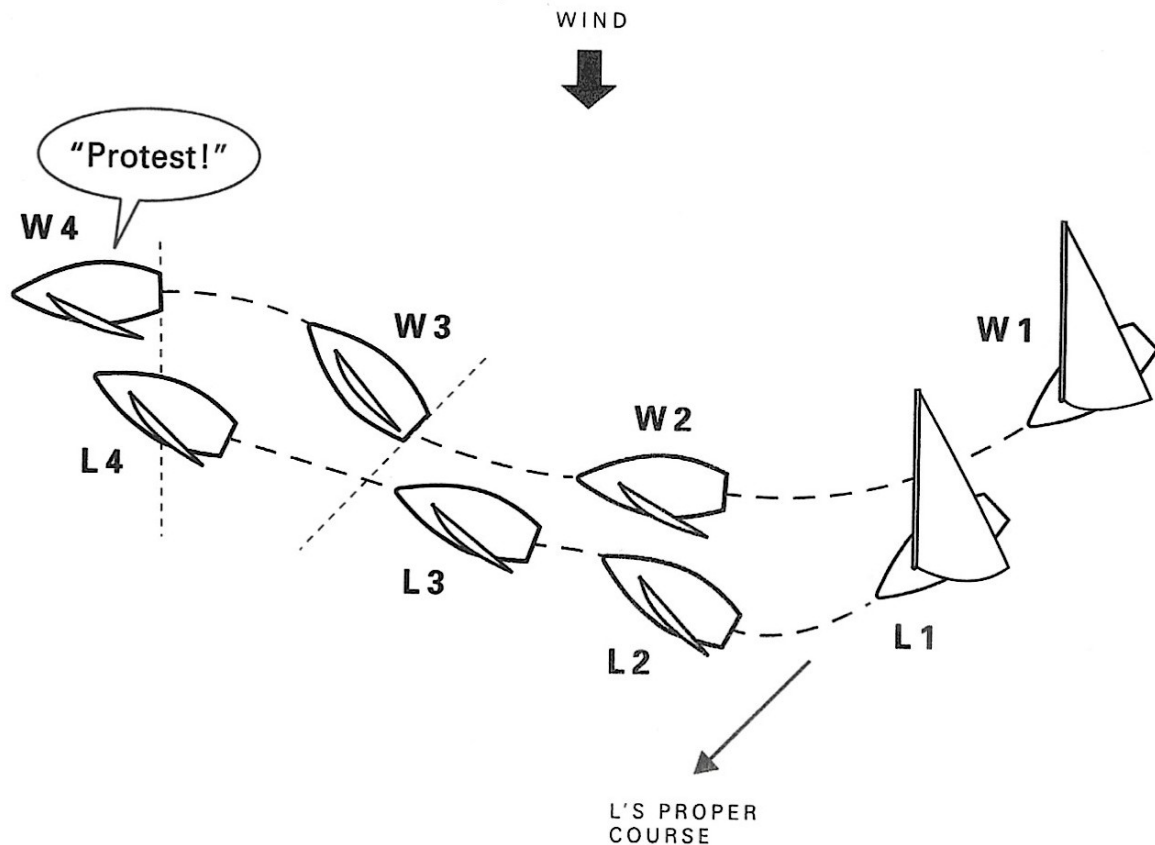


Quiz 23

Two overlapped boats, W and L, are broad reaching on starboard tack within two lengths of each other. W has caught up with L from clear astern and is attempting to pass her to windward. L begins to slowly luff above her proper course and W keeps clear. When W is within a couple feet of pulling clear ahead, W luffs sharply, clearly breaks the overlap and bears away, causing the boats to become overlapped once again. L continues to sail above her proper course in an effort to delay W from passing her. W keeps clear and protests L. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



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. Permission to reprint this quiz for non-commercial use is granted by the author.

ANSWER TO QUIZ 23

L is penalized under rule 17, On the Same Tack; Proper Course. At positions 1 and 2, W is keeping clear under rules 12, On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped, and 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped, respectively. When L luffs from position 1 to 2, rule 16.1, Changing Course, requires her to give W room to keep clear, which she does. At position 3, when W luffs and breaks the overlap, L becomes clear astern of W (see the definition Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap).

When W bears away, L becomes overlapped to leeward of W. As the windward boat, W is required to keep clear by rule 11. And because L acquired the right of way by W's actions, L does not need to give W room to keep clear (see rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way). But rule 17 states: "If a boat clear astern becomes overlapped within two of her hull lengths to leeward of a boat on the same tack, she shall not sail above her proper course...". The fact that it is W's actions that cause the overlap to be broken and then re-established is immaterial. By sailing above her proper course after she becomes overlapped to leeward of W, L breaks rule 17.