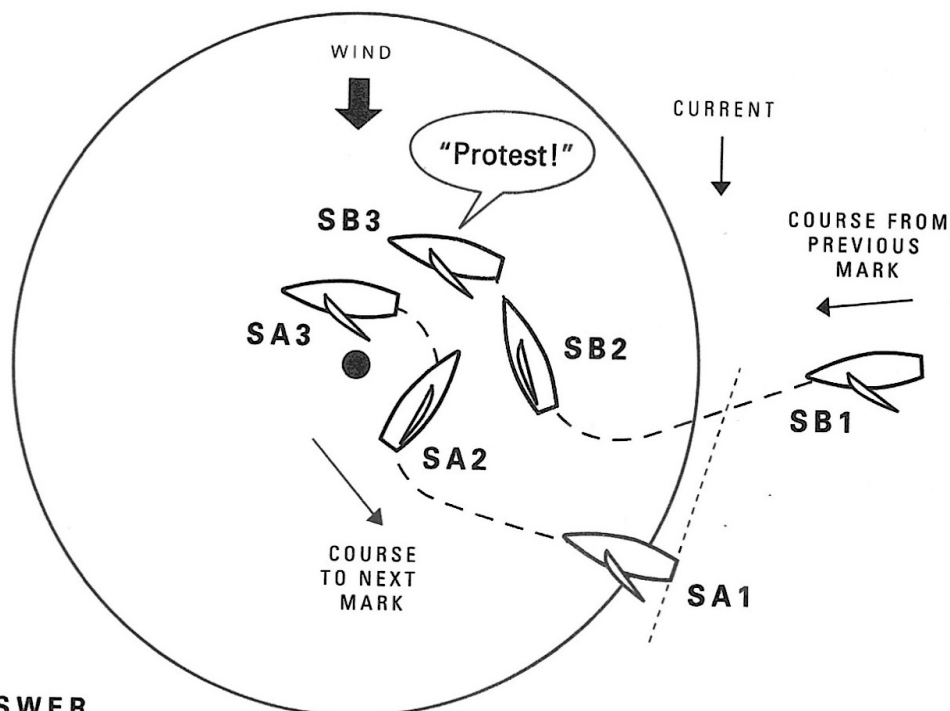


Quiz 31

Boats SA and SB are reaching on starboard tack to a gybe mark to be left to port. SA reaches the zone clear ahead, but due to the current SA cannot fetch the mark. She tacks onto port tack, then tacks around the mark. While SA is on port tack, SB has to change course to avoid hitting her, and protests. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



ANSWER

Boat SA is penalized for breaking rule 10, On Opposite Tacks. When SA reaches the zone clear ahead, she is entitled to mark-room from SB under rule 18.2(b), Giving Mark-Room, but mark-room does not include room for SA to tack because she is not overlapped inside and to windward of SB (see the definition Mark-Room). When SA passes head to wind, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply (see rule 18.2(d)). Because the boats are on opposite tacks and the proper course for one (SA) but not both of them is to tack, rule 18 does not apply (see rule 18.1(b), When Rule 18 Applies). Rule 10 is the rule that applies, and SA (on port tack) fails to keep clear.

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.