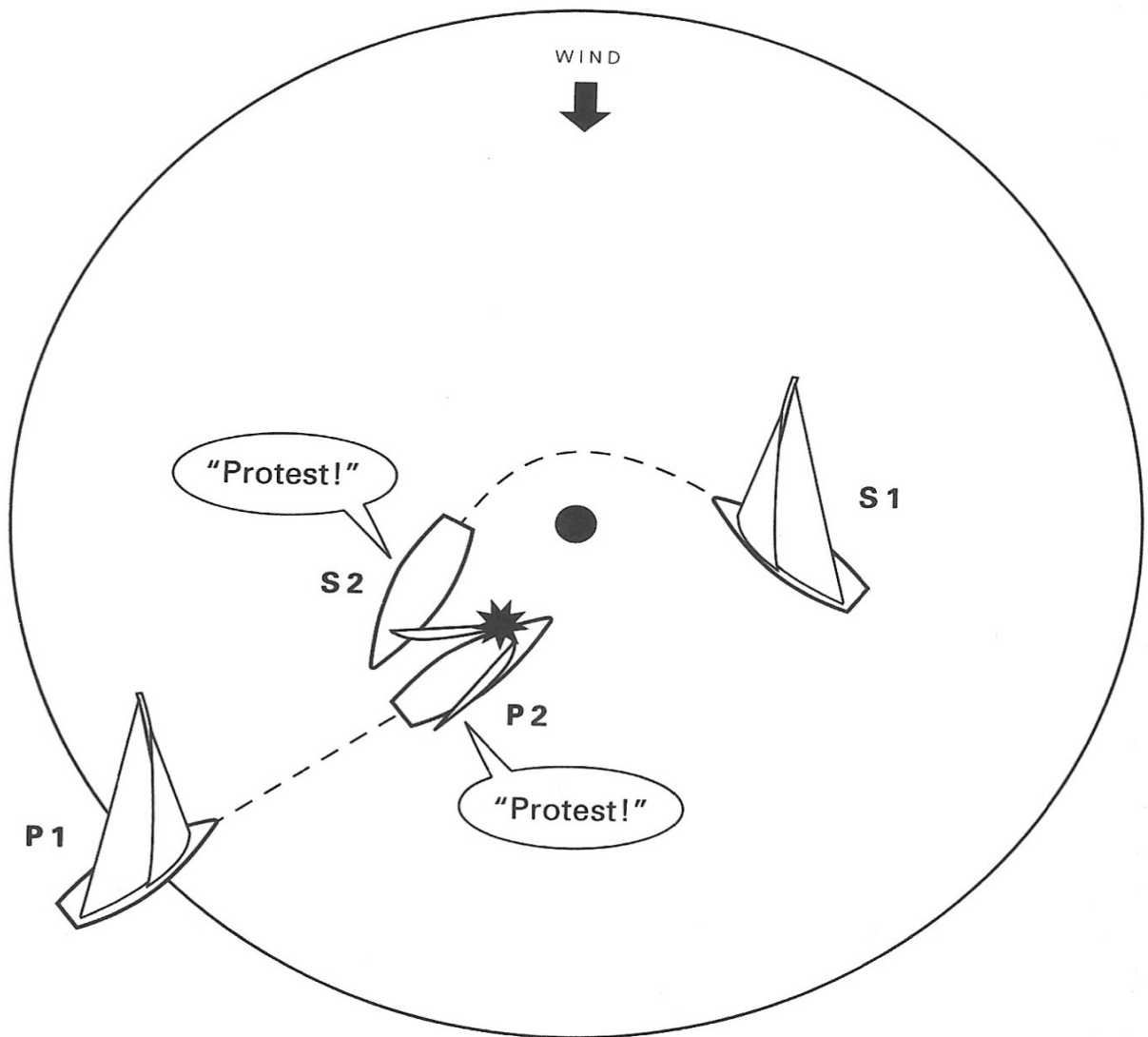


# Quiz 33

Boat S is rounding the windward mark on starboard tack onto a run. As she is rounding the mark, Boat P is approaching the mark on port tack. Boat S bears away around the mark, and as her transom leaves the mark astern, her boom touches the port shroud of P. There is no damage or injury. Both boats protest. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



### ANSWER TO QUIZ 33

Boat S is penalized. Boat S is “leaving” the mark and Boat P is “approaching” the mark; therefore rule 18, Mark-Room, does not apply between them (see rule 18.1(c)). S is the right-of-way boat under rule 10, On Opposite Tacks. But as she is changing course, she is required to give P room to keep clear by rule 16.1, Changing Course, which she fails to do. As rule 18 does not apply, S is not entitled to mark-room. Therefore P does not need to anticipate that S will bear away around the mark, and S is not exonerated for breaking rule 16.1 by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration.

Both boats are required by rule 14, Avoiding Contact, to avoid contact if reasonably possible. S clearly breaks rule 14; but as she is the right-of-way boat at the time, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(c), Exoneration, because the contact does not cause damage or injury. By the time it is clear to P that S is not going to give her room to keep clear under rule 16.1, it is not reasonably possible for her to avoid the contact; therefore she does not break rule 14.

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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.*