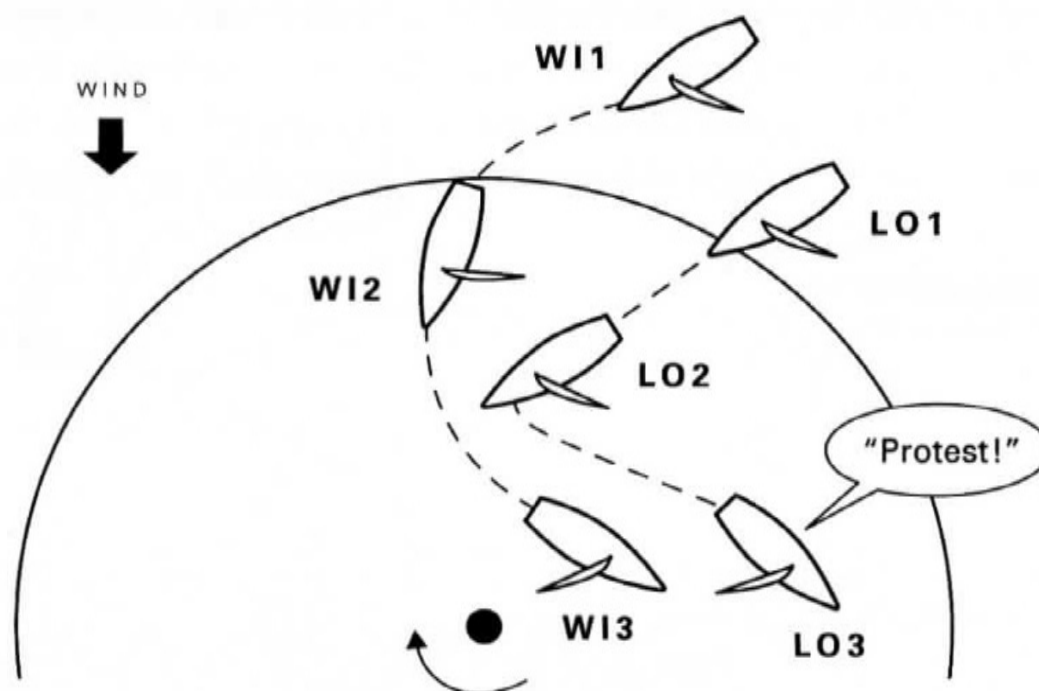


## Quiz 35

Boats WI and LO, two overlapped starboard-tack boats, are approaching a leeward mark to be left to starboard. Both boats are above the starboard layline such that both will need to gybe twice to round the mark. LO reaches the zone first and continues to sail straight while WI bears away towards LO. LO bears away and gybes to avoid contact with WI and protests. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



### ANSWER

LO's protest is disallowed. WI is required to keep clear of LO under rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped. However, when LO reaches the zone the boats are overlapped, and she (as the outside boat) is required to give WI (the inside boat) mark-room under rule 18.2(b), Giving Mark-Room. It does not matter which boat reaches the zone first. Mark-room includes room for WI to sail to the mark (see the definition Mark-Room), which she is doing when she is bearing away towards the mark. By bearing away and gybing, LO is giving WI mark-room as required. WI breaks rule 11, but because she is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b), 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.*