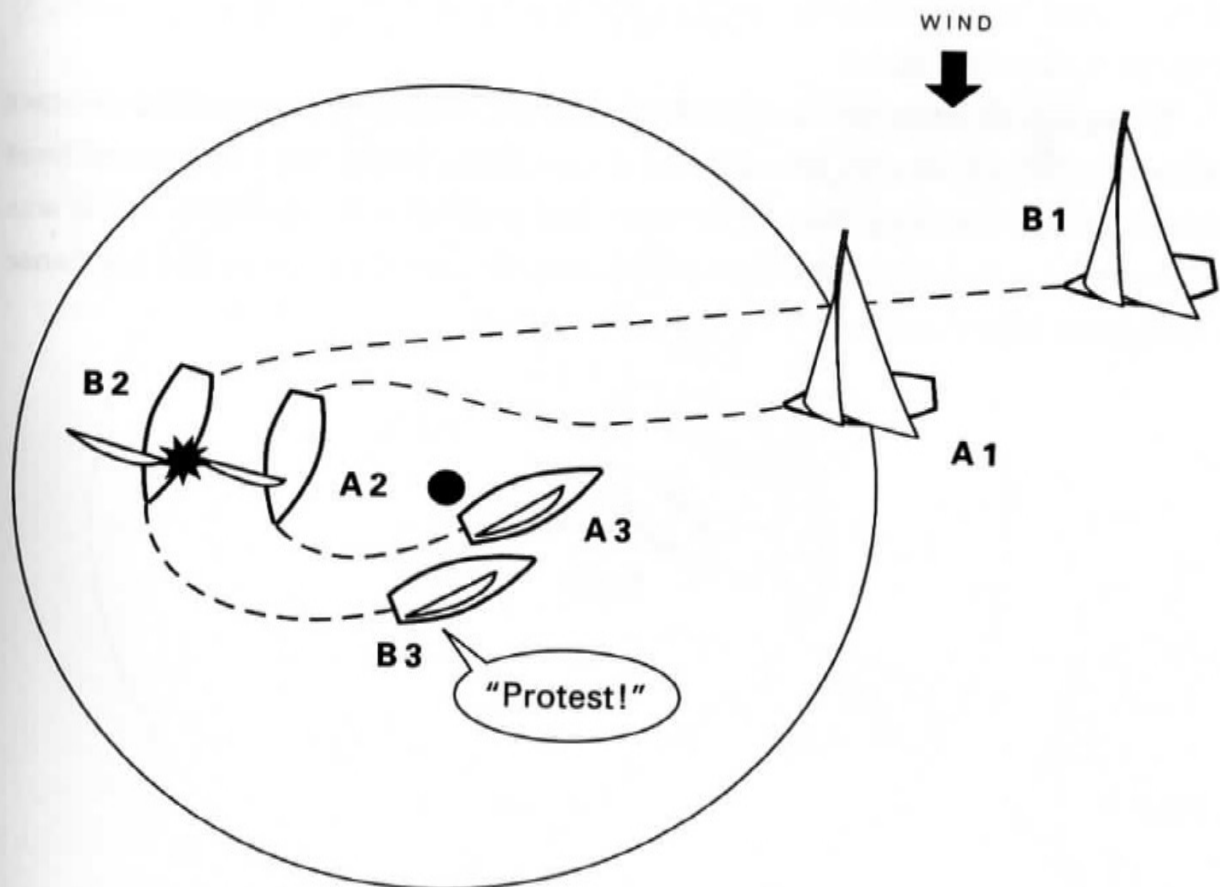


Quiz 36

Boats A and B are approaching the leeward mark broad reaching on starboard tack. When A reaches the zone, B is clear astern. Prior to gybing to round the mark, A slows down and B becomes overlapped to windward of A. A swings wide of the mark in preparation to making a tactical “swing wide-cut close” rounding; i.e., sail her proper course around the mark. When she gybes, her boom strikes B’s port shroud with no damage or injury. B protests, claiming that A took more room than she is entitled to. 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 36

Boat B is penalized under rule 18.2(b), Mark-Room: Giving Mark-Room. When A reaches the zone (see the definition Zone), B is clear astern of her at that time, and is therefore required by rule 18.2(b) to give A mark-room. When B becomes overlapped with A she must continue to give A mark-room (see rule 18.2(c)(1)). Because A's proper course will bring her close to the mark, mark-room includes room to sail "to" the mark. Therefore mark-room includes room to gybe when she gybes in order to sail to the mark (see the definition Mark-Room).

When the boats become overlapped, rule 18.4, Mark-Room: Gybing, requires A to not sail farther from the mark before gybing than needed to sail her proper course; A does not do so.

Though both boats break rule 14, Avoiding Contact, by not avoiding contact when it was reasonably possible to do so, both boats are exonerated (not penalized) for breaking rule 14 because A is entitled to mark-room and B was the right-of-way boat at the time of the contact, and the contact did not cause damage or injury (see rule 43.1(c), Exoneration).

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