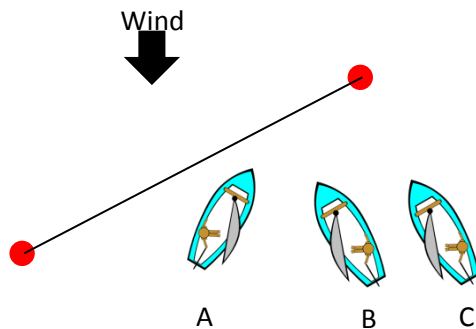


The Racing Rules of Sailing

Understanding who has right of way in different situations when racing is perhaps the most important aspect of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) that you need to know. A good understanding will help to keep you out of the protest room, and help you to spot any other yacht that is racing 'dirty'.

Start Line

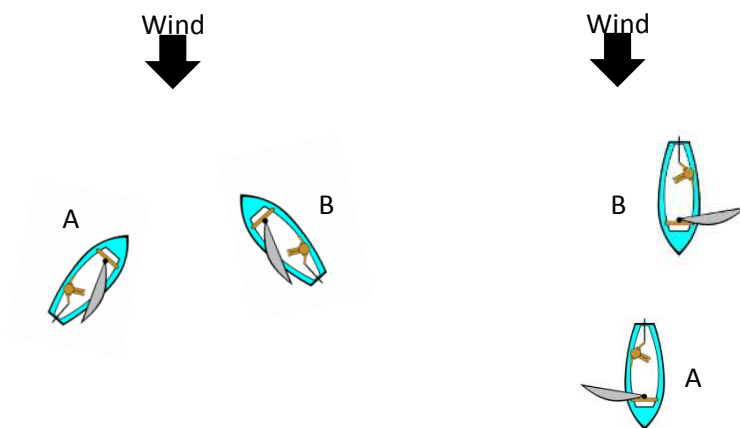
There is no mark room on the start line, windward must keep clear and port must give way to starboard



A is on port tack and must keep clear of B and C
C is to windward of B so must keep clear B should hold its course

On opposite tacks

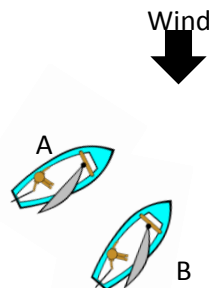
When boats are on opposite tacks, the port-tack boat keeps clear of the starboard-tack boat, even if the starboard tack boat is also the windward boat.



In both cases A must keep clear of B

On the same tack, overlapped

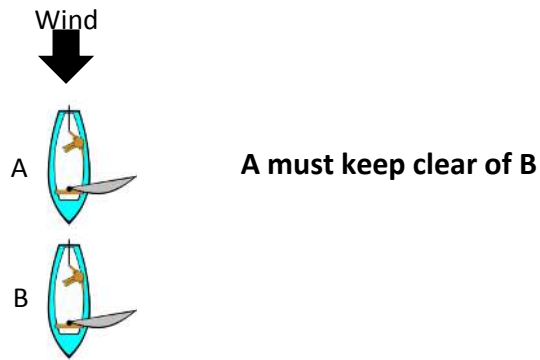
When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat must keep clear of a leeward boat.



A must keep clear of B

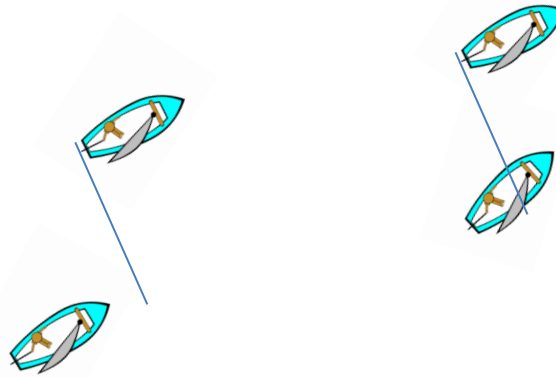
On the same tack, not overlapped

When boats are on the same tack and not overlapped, a boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.



Same tack proper course

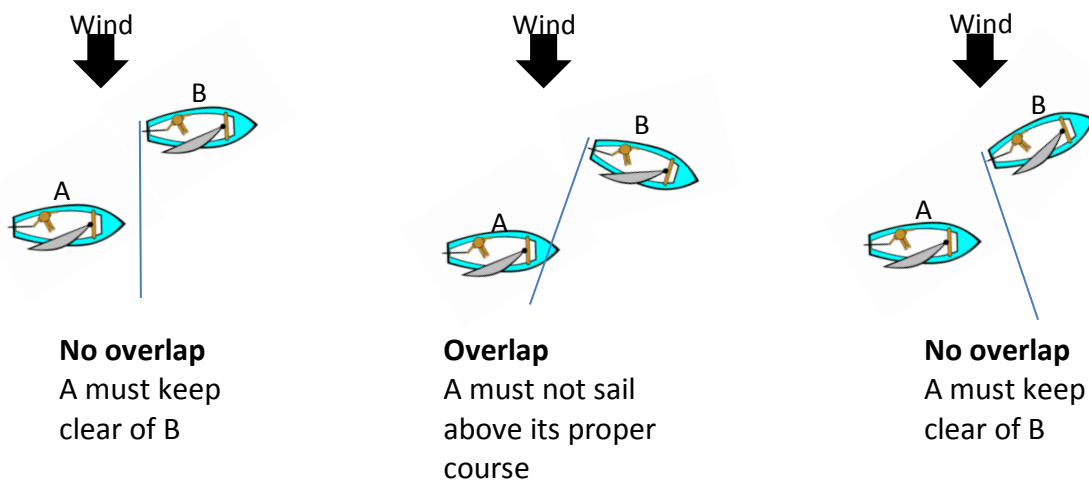
If a boat becomes overlapped for clear astern to leeward, then they must not sail above their proper course



What is an overlap?

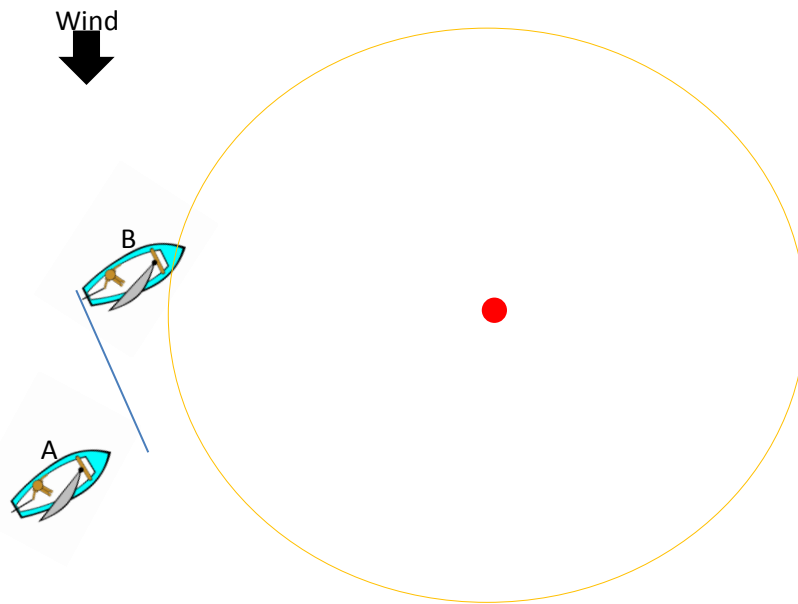
It is important to understand the concept of overlap because it will determine what action boats must take not just when tacking, but also when rounding marks and passing an obstruction.

An overlap is when one boat is not clear astern of another.

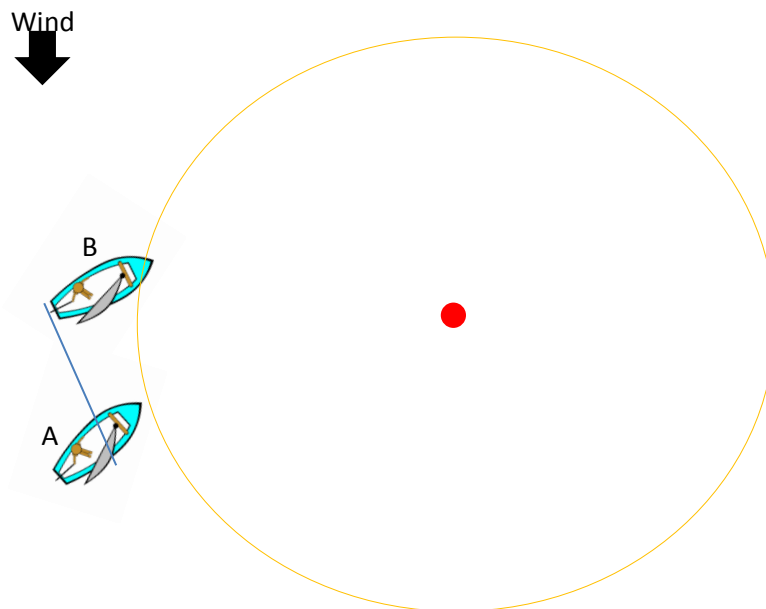


Mark rounding

Room to round a mark must be given to a boat if there is an overlap 3 boat length's from the mark.



Boat B does not have to give boat A room at the mark



Boat B must give boat A room at the mark