

# Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 Changes for Radio Sailing

Greg Eaton  
NJ, IU

# Overview of Changes

- Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January '21
- Don't Panic – no massive game changes
- Two key changes for Radio Sailing ('Hailing' & 'Advantage')
- 'Exoneration' is all in one rule – now rule 43
- Some changes to general RRS (e.g. Propulsion rule permits pumping to promote foiling)
- General tidying up and improving
- Presentation is not an exhaustive list of all rule changes (<https://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Racing/RacingInformation/RacingRules/Racing-Rules-Guidance.pdf>) – see page 16 onwards

# Definition Changes

- Starting/Finishing/OCS – now only the boats *'hull'* is what matters, previously *'hull, crew or equipment'* (limited radio sailing impact?)
- New Definition *'Sail the Course'* (and associated rule 28) – essentially the old 'string test rule' but this permits a race officer to score a boat for not sailing correct course – *'NSC'*.
- *Mark Room* – *'room to round or pass the mark as necessary to sail the course without touching the mark'*
- *Obstruction*: The definition now includes *'.. and an **object, area or line** so designated by the sailing instructions are also obstructions.'*

# Amended Rule 16.2 ('Anti-Hunting')

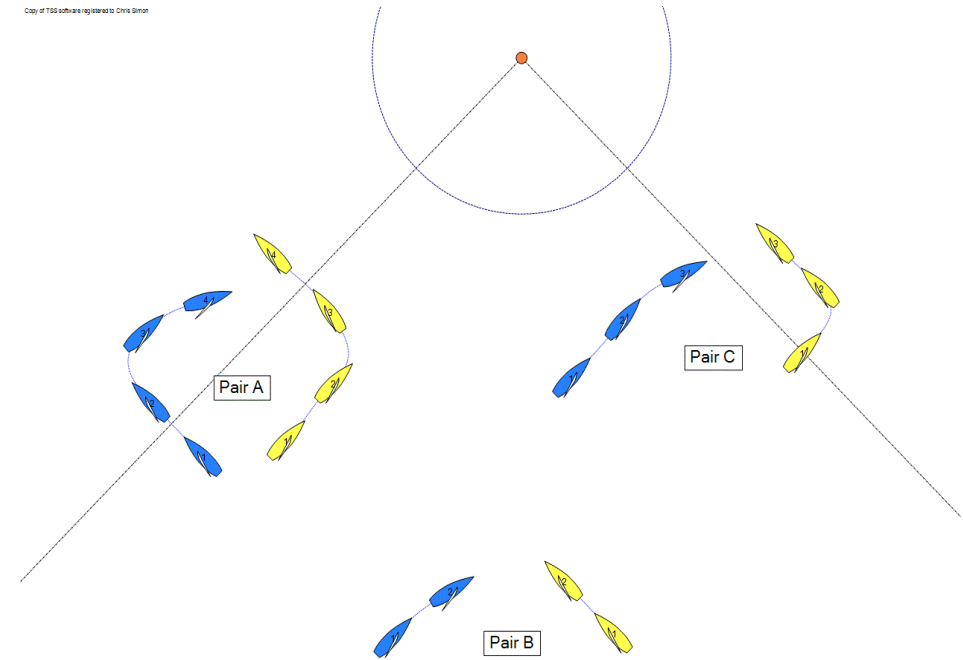
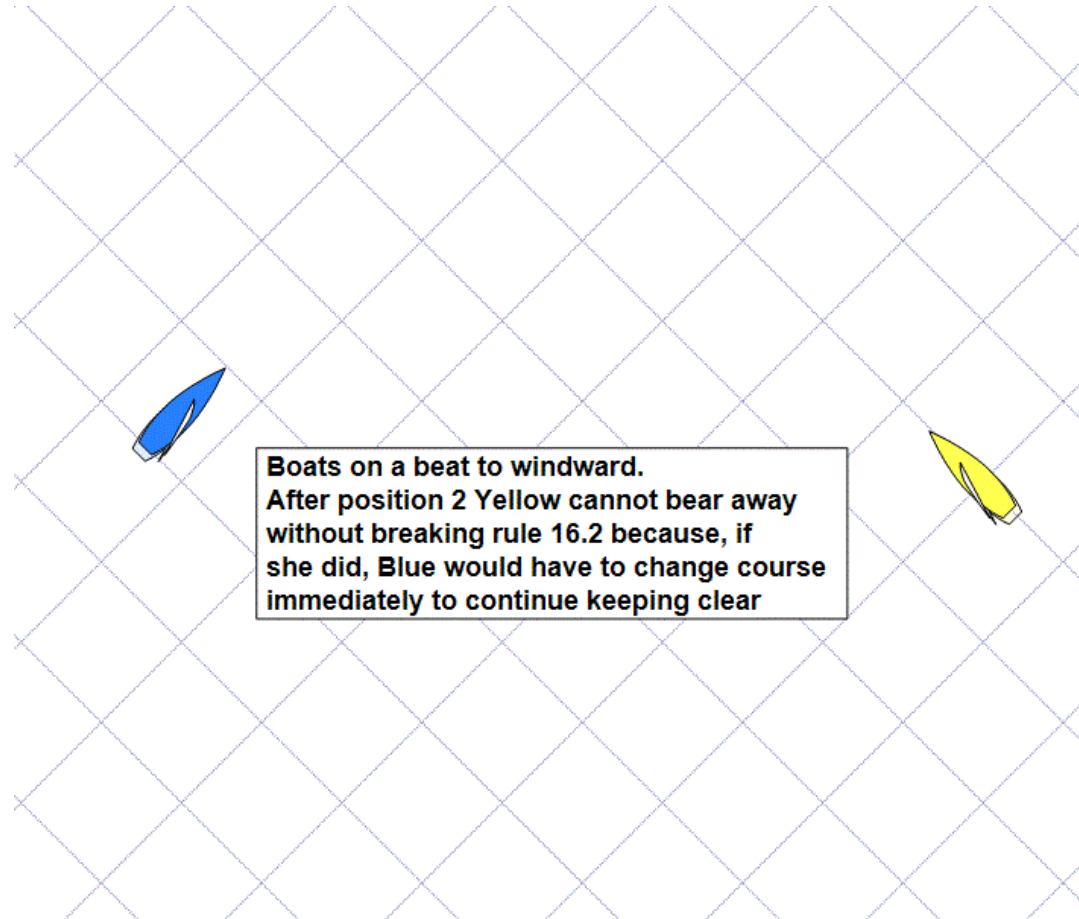
## Old 16.2

In addition, when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to **pass astern** of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *star-board-tack* boat shall not **change course** if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping*

## New Rule 16.2

In addition, on a **beat to windward** when a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to **leeward** of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not **bear away** if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.

# Rule 16.2 (2)



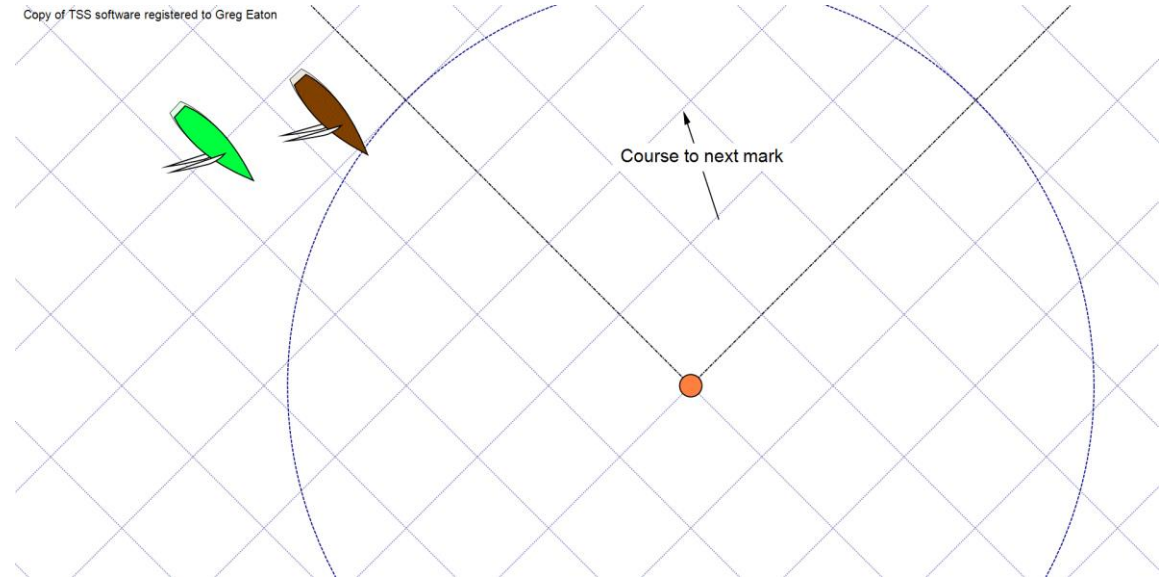
# Mark-Room & Rule 18.1

Rule 18.1, When Rule 18 applies, has a new paragraph saying:-

“Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when *mark-room* has been given”

**Mark-Room** Room for a boat to leave a *mark* on the required side. Also,

- (a) *room* to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it, and
- (b) *room* to round or pass the *mark* as necessary to *sail the course* without touching the *mark*.



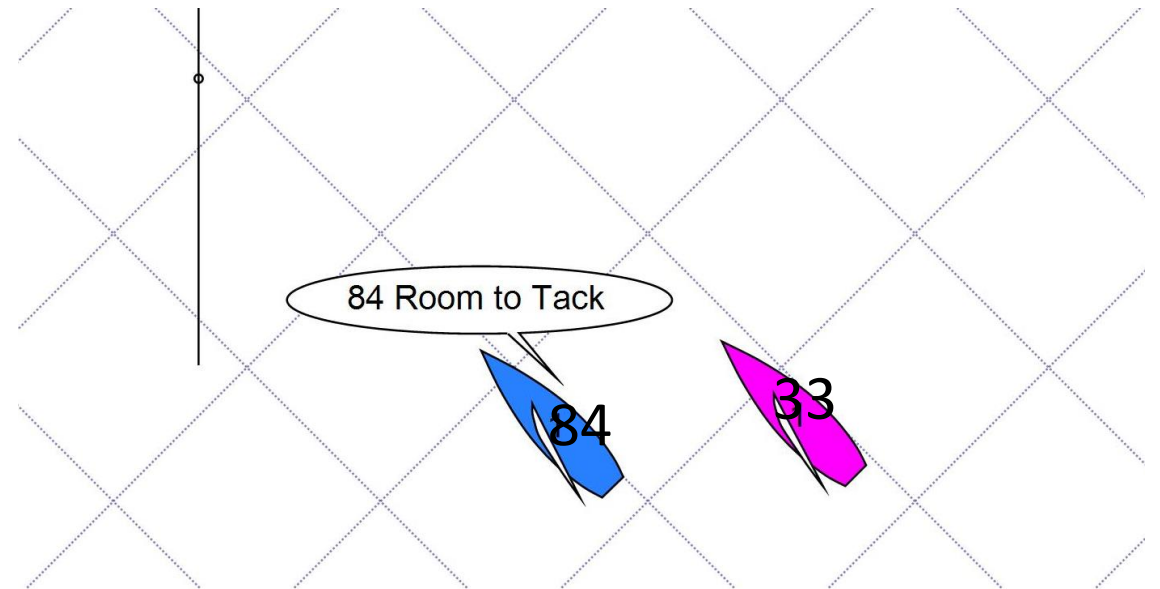
# Hailing for Room to tack

E1.3(b) modifies rule 20.1 and 20.3: -

'Hails under rules 20.1 and 20.3 shall include the words 'room' and 'tack' and the sail number of the hailing boat, in any order.'

E2.1(a) A hail shall be made **and repeated as appropriate** so that the competitors to whom the hail is directed might reasonably be expected to hear it.

Important that we use the language in the rule 'I'll need room', 'Give me room' doesn't really help – particularly unclear if several boats are all calling

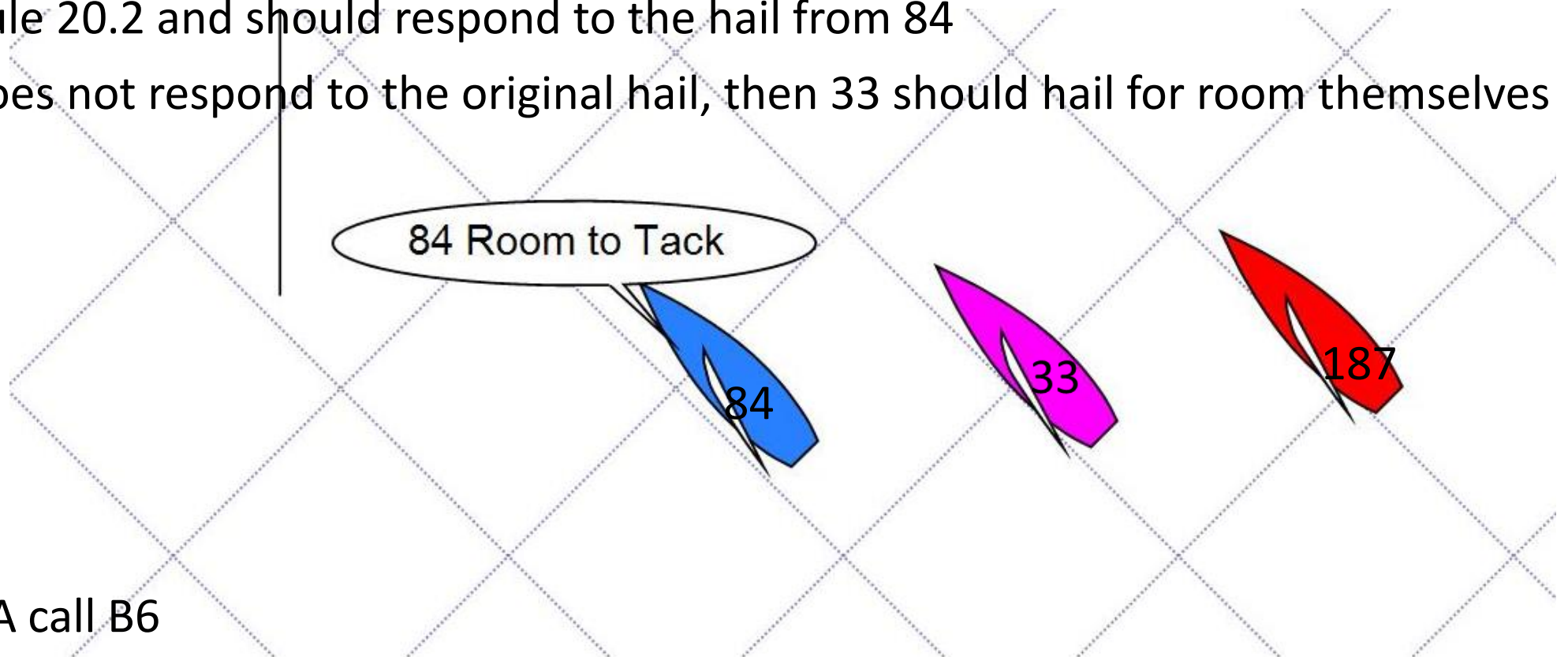


# Multi-Boat Scenario

84 makes a valid hail, both 33 and 187 will need to respond in order to give room.

Provided 84's hail is loud enough to be heard by 187, then 187 is a 'hailed' boat under rule 20.2 and should respond to the hail from 84

If 187 does not respond to the original hail, then 33 should hail for room themselves

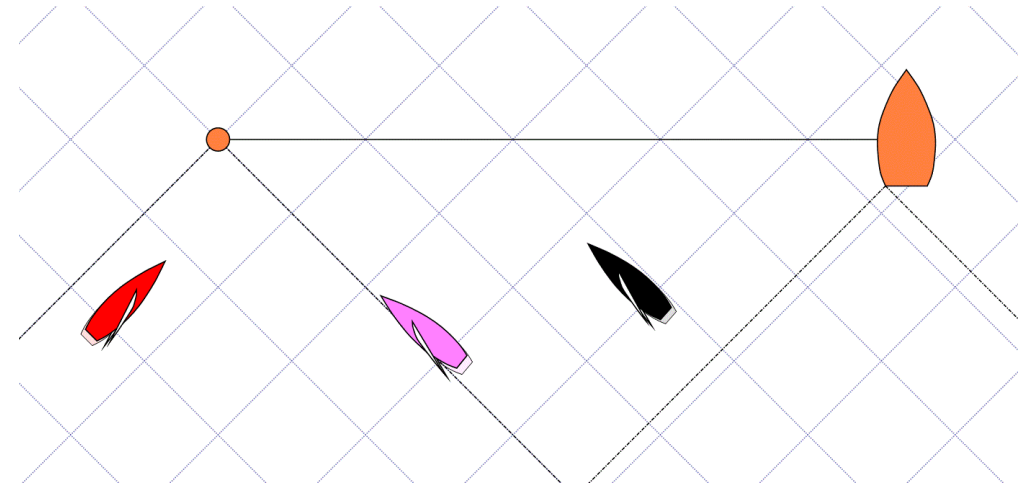


Ref. IRSA call B6



# Exoneration ('Rule 43')

- Exoneration (not defined in RRS) but is defined in Collins English Dictionary 'to [clear](#) or [absolve](#) from [blame](#) '
- Various rules previously had exoneration clauses in them e.g. rule 21- being forced to touch a mark. Now all in rule 43, but no effective changes
- 43.1 (a) **When as a consequence of breaking a rule a boat has compelled another boat to break a rule, the other boat is exonerated for her breach.**
- No Exoneration for OCS or Not Sailing Course – forced wrong side mark and you still have to back and re-round



Red breaks Port/Starboard (rule 10).

Pink avoids contact with red (rule 14) and breaks rule 10 in regard to black.

However Pink is exonerated under rule 43 for being forced to break rule 10 by red's breach of rule 10 themselves.

# Gaining an 'advantage'

## Old Rule E4.3(b)

Rule 44.1 is changed to:

A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2, or rule 31, in an incident while *racing*.

(a) when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31;

(b) if the boat gained a **significant** advantage in the heat or race by her breach despite taking a penalty, her penalty shall be an additional One-Turn Penalty

## New Rule E4.3(b)

Rule 44.1 is changed to:

A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2, or rule 31, in an incident while *racing*.

(a) when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31;

(b) If the boat gained an **advantage** in the heat or race by her breach despite taking a penalty, her penalty shall be additional **One-Turn Penalties until her advantage is lost**

**Port tack Pete at the Windward mark, might be doing multiple turns!**

# More Appendix E

- E3.9 – Disabled Competitors – New sentence ‘A boat or the competitor controlling her that receives any such assistance, including help from a *support person*, does not break rule 41’
- E4.2 – Outside Help – Revised wording in E4.2(c) , allows RC to help a disabled boat

‘Rule 41 is changed to: A boat or the competitor controlling her shall not receive help from any outside source, except...

(c) when the boat is *disabled* or in danger, help from the race committee;

# Friendly Reminders

E4.3 (c) if the boat caused serious damage, or as a result of breaking a rule of Part 2 she caused another boat to become *disabled* and retire, her penalty shall be to retire.

- We should try harder to avoid collisions

***Keep Clear*** A boat *keeps clear* of a right-of-way boat

(a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,

(b) when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.

- Greater Separation when approaching the line to start

# Taking a Penalty

44.2 After getting well clear of other boats

as soon after the incident as possible,

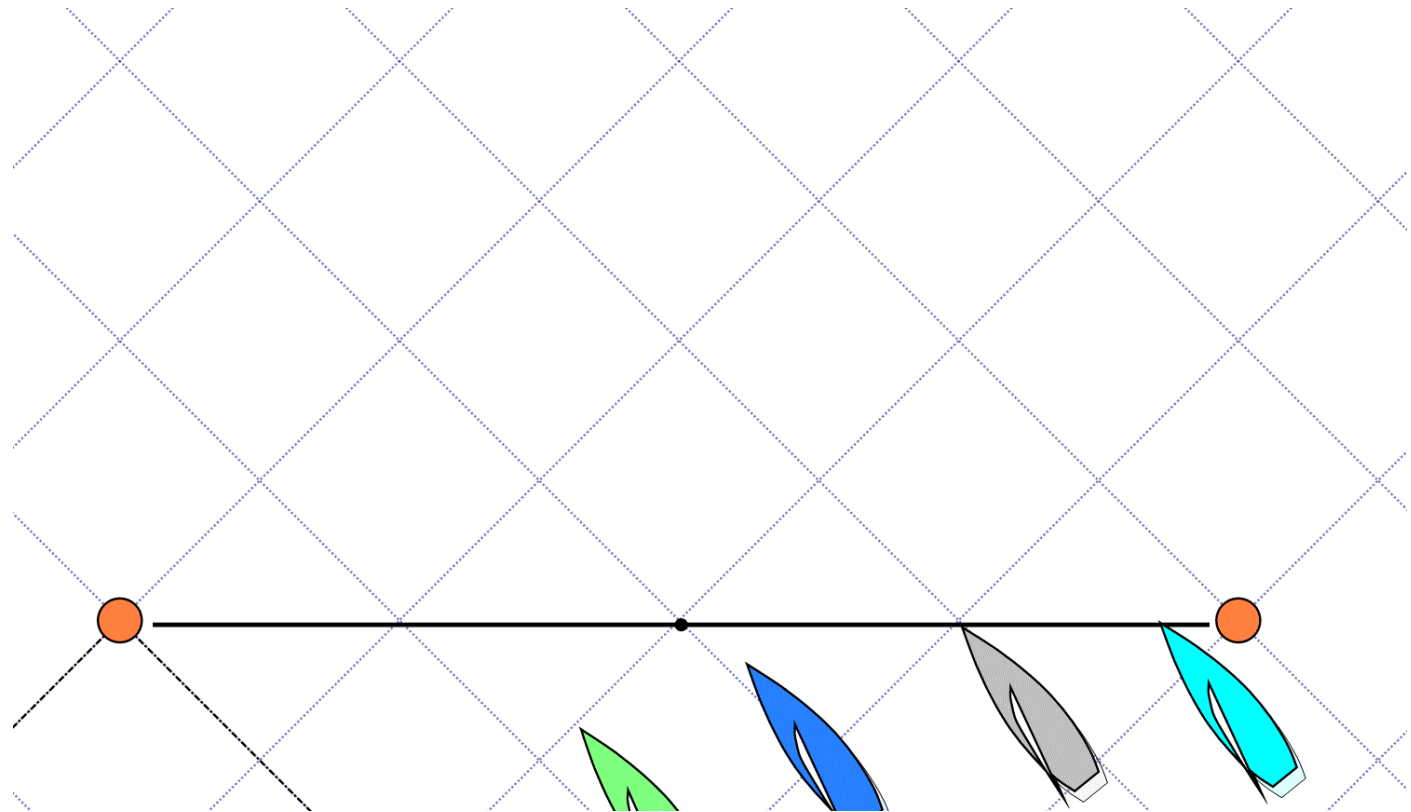
a boat takes a One-Turn or Two-Turns Penalty by promptly making the required number of turns in the same direction, each turn including one tack and one gybe

# Taking a Penalty – Creating Space!

It's not good enough just to continue to sail and wait for a space

You need to actively 'work' to create space e.g. Slowing down, Sailing away from the race course, not rounding the mark etc.

Basically whatever it takes to 'get well clear' and 'promptly' making your turns



# Summary

- 18.1 Mark Room 'turns off' when given
- <Sail Number> 'Room to tack'
- Breaking a rule and gaining an advantage