



# RRS 2009-'12: New Section C

*Prepared by*  
**ISAF RRC Section C Working Party**

*November 2008*



## Purpose of this Presentation

- To present new Section C as you would to an average sailor
- To highlight some particular nuances for experts & judges

### **But not:**

- To discuss what old Section C actually meant, and why it needed amending (for this, see Dick Rose paper)
- To make quasi-official rule interpretations



# Presentation Topics

1. *Introduction:* Summary of What's New
2. Aims & Principles of New Section C
3. Structure
4. When Mark-Room Rule (Rule 18) Applies
5. Rule 18: Basic Application; Mark-Room Defined
6. Other Mark-Room Rules; Tacking in the Zone; Gybing
7. Room to Pass an Obstruction (Rule 19)
8. Continuing Obstruction Rule (Rule 19.2(c))
9. Room to Tack at an Obstruction (Rule 20)
10. Exoneration
11. *Summary:* Top Take-aways for Sailors

**Note:** in diagrams, wind direction is always from top of page



## Summary of “What's New”

- **Three rules in section C** instead of two:
  - 18 for *marks*
  - 19 for *room* to pass *obstructions*
  - 20 for *room* to tack at *obstructions*
- **Rule 18 applies when either boat reaches the zone**, not when boats are “about to round”
- **3-length zone** instead of 2 for most racing
- **New definition “*mark-room*”** defines *room* approaching the *mark* as well as *room* at the *mark*
- **No zones at *obstructions*** that are not *marks*
- **No change in right of way** (well, almost none)
- **Exoneration** for breaking right-of-way rules while taking *room* or *mark-room* to which one is entitled
- **Re-organised *room* to tack** at an *obstruction* rule



# New Section C: Aims & Principles

## Aims

- Reflect how sailors sail today; minimise game changes
- Shorter & simpler to understand than current rules
- When two boats meet, clear if and how rule applies
- Discourage contact

## Principles

- No change or switch-off of basic right-of-way or Section B
- Minimise exceptions & ambiguities

*For further details on above, see Dick Rose paper*



# Structure of Section C

## Section C: At Marks & Obstructions

- Rule 18: Mark Room
- Rule 19: Room to Pass an Obstruction
- Rule 20: Room to Tack at an Obstruction



# Structure of Section C

## Section C: At Marks & Obstructions

### Preamble

- ✗ *does not apply at a starting mark when approaching line to start*
- ✗ *when R20 applies, R18 and R19 do not*

- Rule 18: Mark Room
- Rule 19: Room to Pass an Obstruction
- Rule 20: Room to Tack at an Obstruction



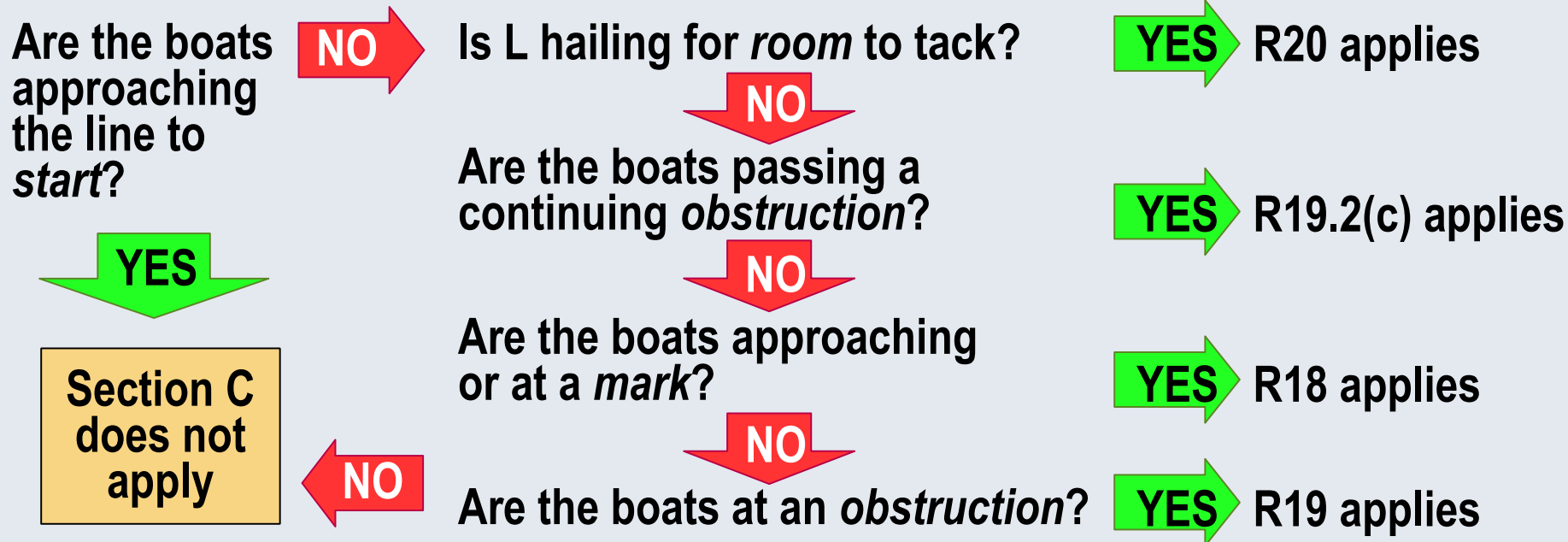
# Structure of Section C

## Section C: At Marks & Obstructions

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# Rule 18

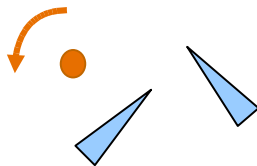
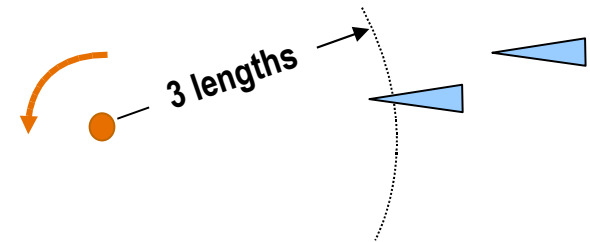
Dick Rose

# When Mark-Room Rule Applies (R18.1)

- Between boats required to leave a *mark* on the same side ...
- ... and at least one of them is in the *zone*

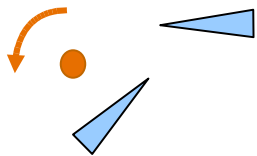
## Zone Definition

Area around a *mark* within 3 hull lengths of the boat nearer to it

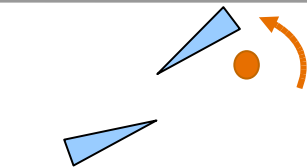


## However it does not apply

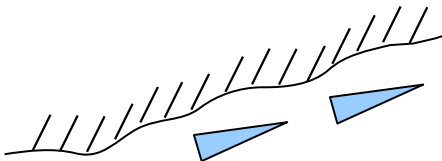
- ✗ between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward



- ✗ between boats on opposite *tacks* when *proper course* for one is to tack at the *mark*



- ✗ between a boat approaching the *mark* and a boat leaving it



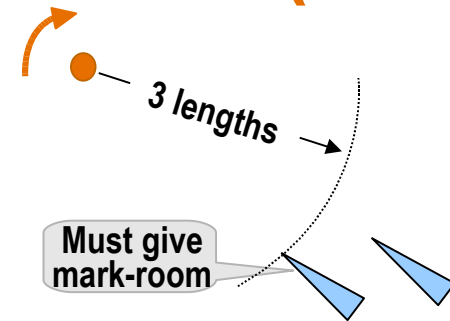
- ✗ if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction* (R19.2 applies instead)



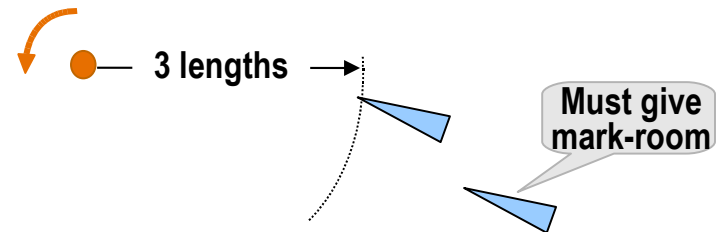
# Mark-Room: Basic Application (R18.2)

**When the first boat enters the zone:**

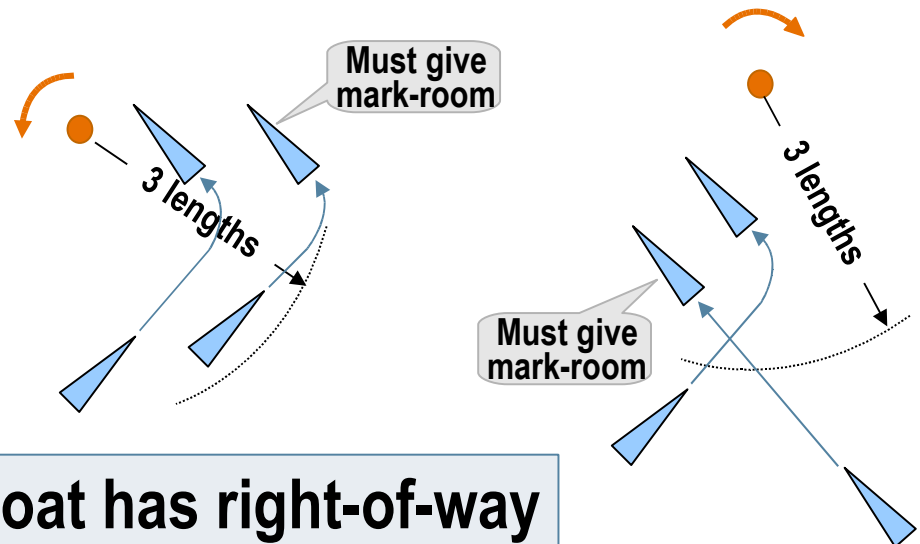
- a boat *overlapped* outside must give boat inside *mark-room* (R18.2(b))



- a boat *clear astern* must give boat *clear ahead* *mark-room* (R18.2(b))



- if neither of above, or if thereafter either boat tacks (R18.2(c)), outside boat must give inside boat *mark-room* (R18.2(a))



**Note: no change to which boat has right-of-way**

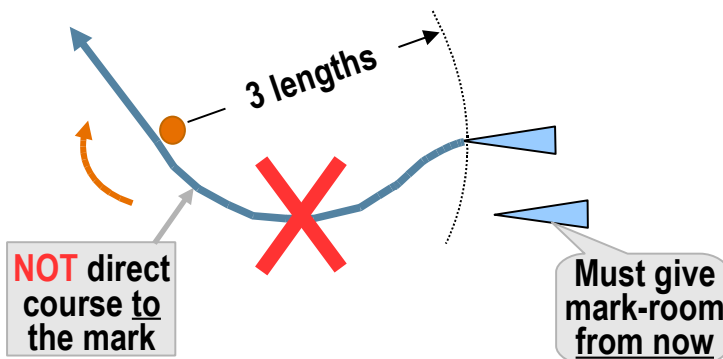
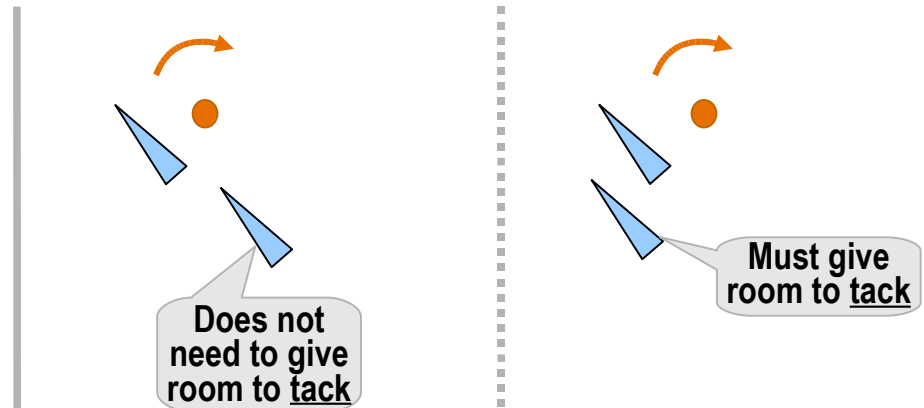
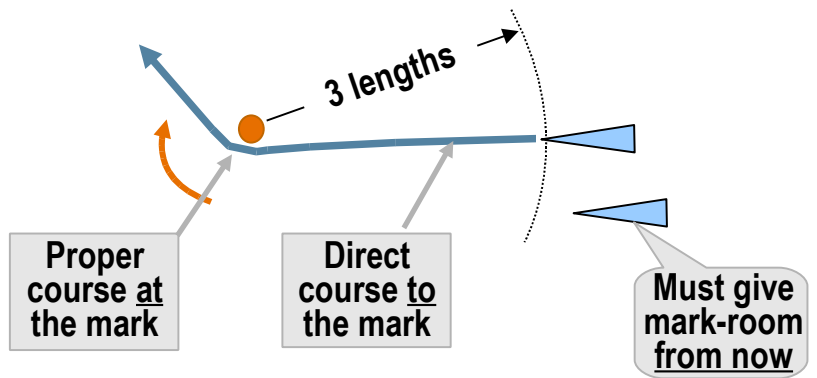


# What is Mark-Room?

## Definition: mark-room

Room for a boat to sail to the *mark*, and then *room* to sail her *proper course* while at the *mark*.

However *mark-room* does not include *room* to tack unless the boat is *overlapped to windward* and on the inside of the boat required to give *room*.

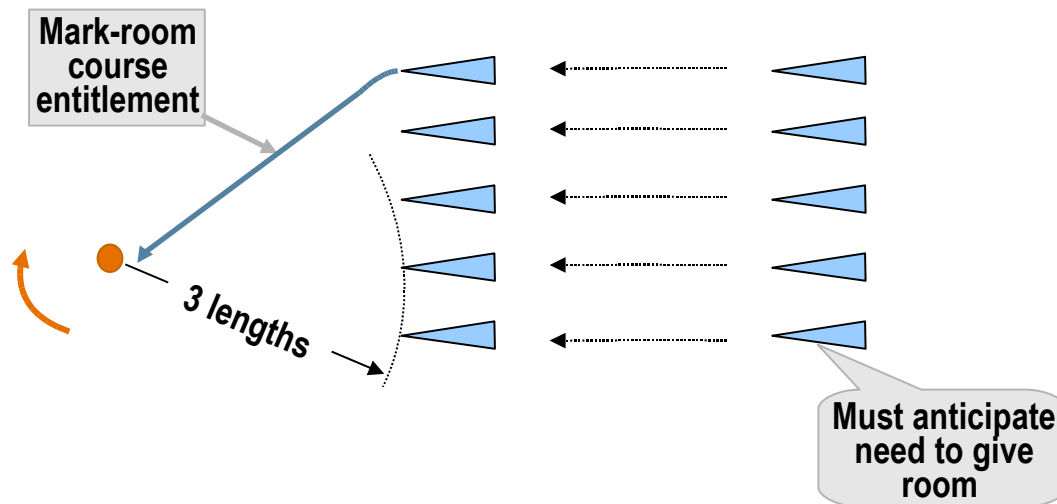


## Notes for experts

“At” is to be interpreted in its natural sense. The transition from “sail[ing] to” to “at” does not lead to significant changes in a boat's rights. For more discussion, refer to Dick Rose paper.

## Other Mark-Room Rules: 18.2(d) & (e)

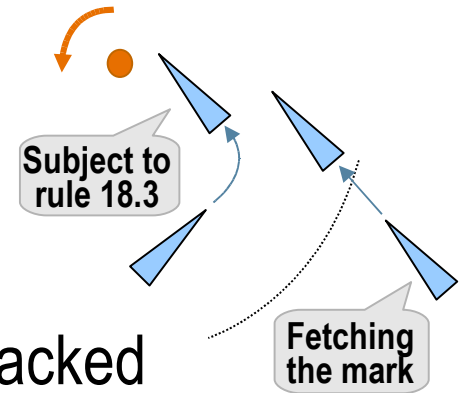
- **Onus (18.2(d)):** “If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed she did not.”
- **Anticipation (18.2(e)):** “If a boat obtained an *overlap* from *clear astern* and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.”
- 18.2(e) imposes an anticipation requirement:



# Additional Tacking in the Zone Rule (R18.3)

**Purpose: to discourage late tacks inside the zone**

- If 2 boats were approaching *mark* on opposite *tacks*, and one tacks\*\* in the *zone* when the other is *fetching* the *mark*:
- Rule 18.2 does not apply. Instead the boat that tacked
  - ✗ shall not cause the other boat to have to sail above close-hauled to avoid her
  - ✗ shall not prevent the other boat from passing the *mark* on the required side
  - ✓ shall give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her

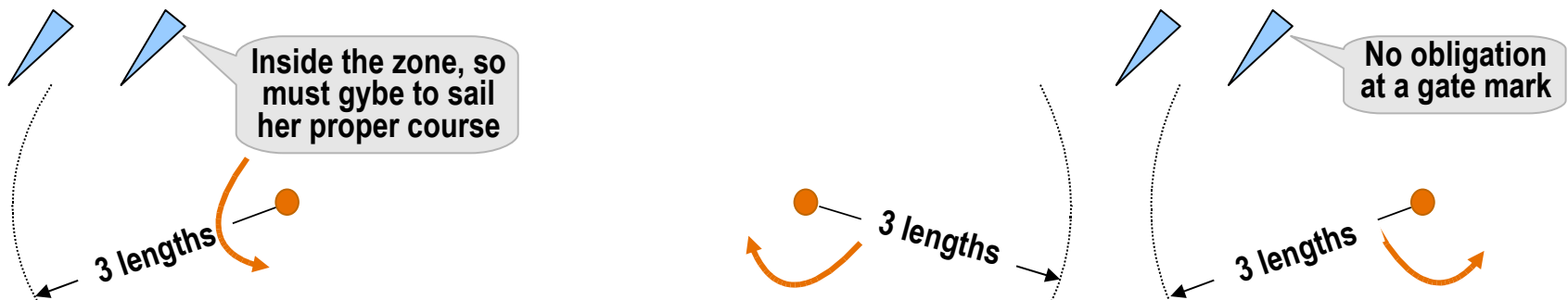


## Notes for experts:

- \*\* solves a current technical error. New rule explicitly states “is subject to rule 13 in the *zone*” in place of “tacks”
- “Fetching” is now defined

## Additional Gybing at a Mark Rule (R18.4)

- “When an inside *overlapped* right of way boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course”.
- Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate *mark*, nor at an *obstruction*



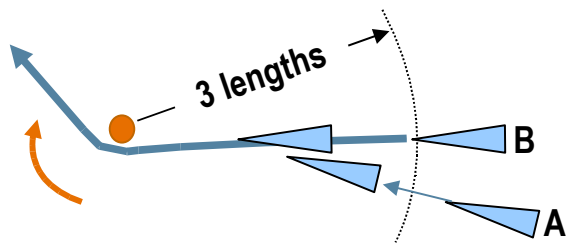
### When does R18 (requirement to give mark-room) stop applying?

- **Before the *mark*:** when the boat entitled to *mark-room* leaves the *zone* (R18.2(c))
- **After the *mark*:** when the boat entitled to *mark-room* no longer requires it (compare to when R10 stops applying)

# Exoneration under Rule 18 (R18.5)

Exoneration is available to a boat taking mark-room to which she is entitled as follows:

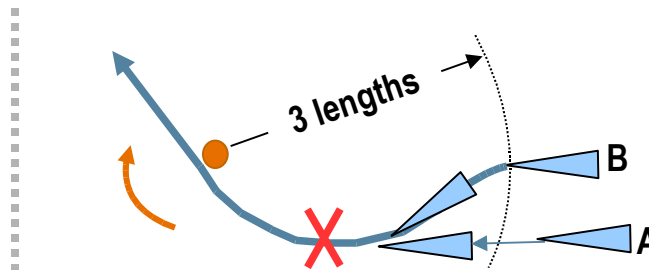
- when she is keep clear boat, if she breaks rule 10-13 as a result
- when she is right-of-way boat, if she breaks rule 15 or 16 when rounding the *mark* on her *proper course*



B must *keep clear*, A must give *mark-room*.

B is taking *mark-room* to which she is entitled.

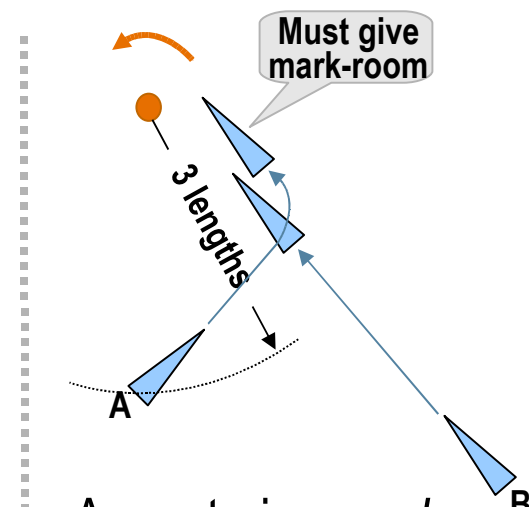
A breaks rule 18.2. B breaks rule 11 but is exonerated.



B must *keep clear*, A must give *mark-room*.

A is giving *mark-room* as required.

B is taking more room than she is entitled to, and breaks rule 11. No exoneration.



A must give *mark-room*.

If B breaks rule 15, she is exonerated.

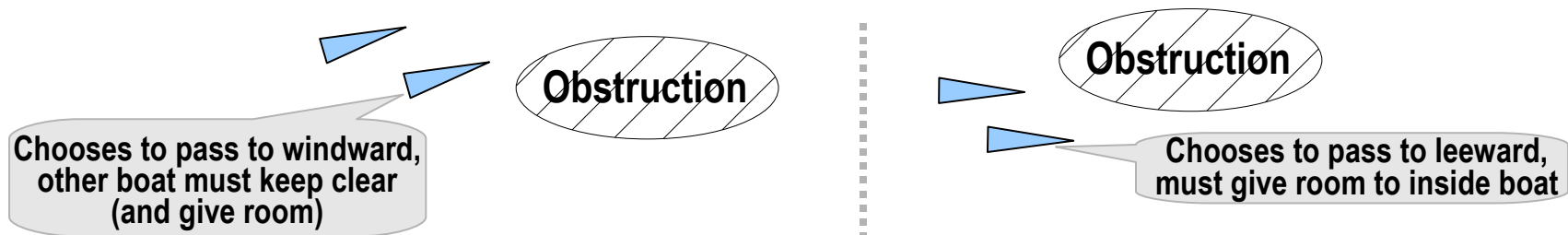


# Rules 19 & 20

Richard Thompson

## Room to Pass an Obstructions (R19)

- Right-of-way boat may choose which side to pass (R19.2(a))
- She must give any inside *overlapped* boat room (R19.2(b))



### Notes:

- R19 does not apply at a *mark*, unless *mark* is a continuing *obstruction* (e.g. an island shore), when an exception rule (R19.2(c)) also applies
- The same anticipation requirement applies as for marks

### Definitions: overlapped; clear ahead; clear astern

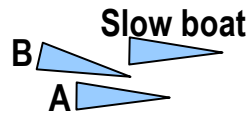
**New:** These terms always apply to boats on the same *tack*. They do not apply to boats on opposite *tacks* unless R18 applies or both boats are sailing  $>90^\circ$  from the true wind



# Room to Pass an Obstruction (R19)

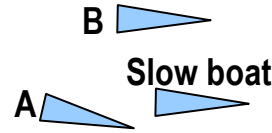
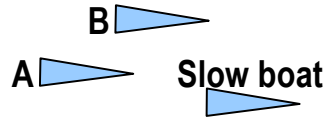
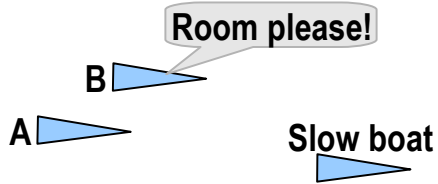
## Some More Examples

1



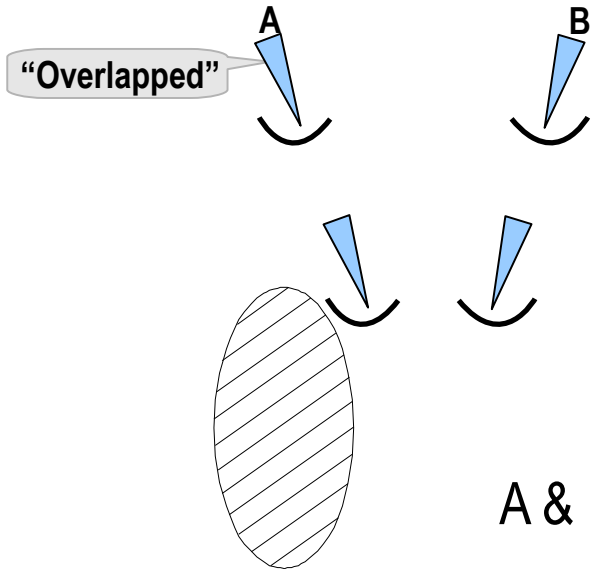
A breaks rule 19.2(b)  
No exoneration for B

2

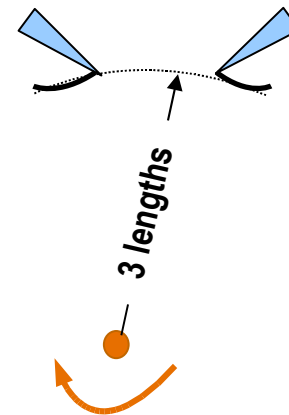


No infringement -  
B not inside boat

3



A & B are overlapped when  
on opposite *tacks*.





# Exoneration under Rules 18 & 19

## **Rule 18:**

**Exoneration** is available to a boat taking *mark-room* to which she is entitled as follows:

- when she is keep clear boat, if she breaks rule 10-13 as a result
- when she is right-of-way boat, if she breaks rule 15 or 16 when rounding the *mark* on her *proper course*

## **Rule 19:**

**Exoneration** is only available in accordance with rule 64.1(c), i.e.:

- when she has been compelled to break a rule as a consequence of another boat breaking a rule

# Exception Rule at Continuing Obstructions (R19.2(c))

If a boat that was *clear astern* and required to *keep clear* becomes *overlapped* between the other boat and a continuing *obstruction*, and there is not *room* for her to pass, she is not entitled to *room*. While *overlapped* she shall *keep clear*.

**Note for experts:** this is the only over-ride of Section A rules



When A was *clear astern*, she was required to *keep clear*. Therefore she remains required to *keep clear* and is not entitled to *room*



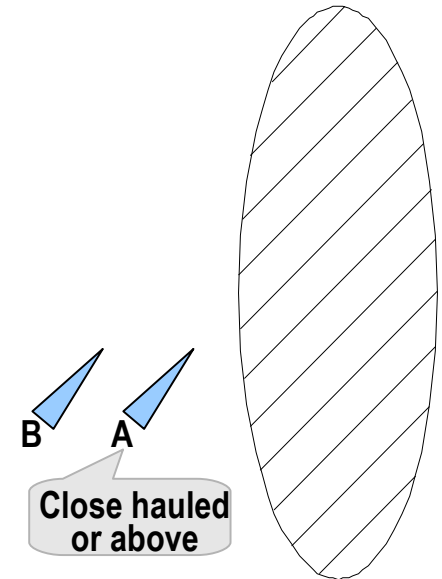
When A was *clear astern*, she was right of way boat. Therefore she is entitled to *room*, and B must *keep clear*.

## **Obstruction Definition: additional clarification:**

A vessel under way, including a boat *racing*, is never a continuing *obstruction*

# Room to Tack at an Obstructions (R20)

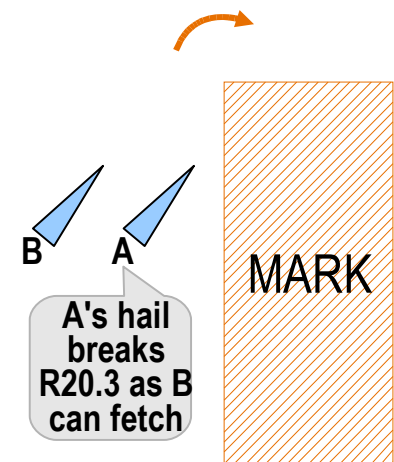
1. A hails and gives B time to respond (there may be boats to windward of B)
2. B either tacks as soon as possible, or hails "you tack" and gives *room*
3. A tacks as soon as possible (R20.1)



## **Hailing for room breaks R20.3 when:**

- Safety does not require a substantial course change by A
- The *obstruction* is a *mark* that B is fetching

**Note:** even if A's hail breaks R20.3, steps 1-3 above still apply.





# Exoneration under Rules 18, 19 & 20

**Exoneration** is available to a boat taking room or mark-room to which she is entitled as follows:

## **Rule 18:**

- when she is keep clear boat, if she breaks rule 10-13 as a result
- when she is right-of-way boat, if she breaks rule 15 or 16 when rounding the *mark* on her *proper course*

## **Rule 20:**

- when she is hailing boat, if she breaks rule 10-13, 15 or 16 by tacking after the “You tack” response (R20.2)

**Rule 19** exoneration is only as in rule 64.1(c), (i.e. only if compelled)

**Note for experts:** If a boat is exonerated, she is treated as if her action did not break a rule



# What this all Means to You, the Sailor

- Clearer time when *mark-room* rule begins to apply, clearer rules for who is right-of-way and who has to give *room*
- At *marks*, bigger *zone* means rights and responsibilities are sorted out earlier, before there's a problem
- *Mark-room* obligation applies while inside the *zone* and sailing to the *mark*, as well as when at the *mark*
- No *zones* around *obstructions* - especially important when *obstruction* is a right-of-way boat
- At an *obstruction* that is not a *mark*, if there is no *room* & an inside boat entitled to *room* can bail out, she must do so & protest, rather than forcing her way in when clearly no *room* has been given
- If someone hails for *room* to tack, you must tack even if you think the hail is invalid



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